

# DBE Schools Bulletin

December 2021

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

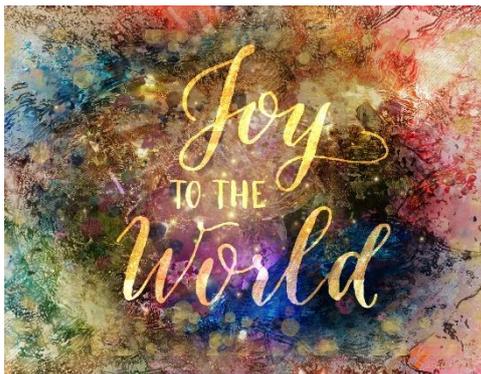
**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions

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**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I bring you good news of great joy for all the people...”**

**Luke 2:10**

## The heart of Christmas

This time of year is always a really special one in our schools as we journey through advent and prepare for Christmas with special services and nativity plays. Advent is meant to be a time of hope, faith, joy, and peace. The Advent season reminds us that God sent His Son to this world so that we might have a relationship with Him. And yet for the second year running, the on-going disruption and uncertainty created by the pandemic is continuing to place a strain on our schools and communities. People are tired and many are living in more difficult circumstances due to the ongoing pandemic. But the message of Jesus’ birth at Christmas continues to be one of hope in our troubled times.

The Church of England’s theme this year, ‘At the heart of Christmas,’ is an invitation for everyone to discover – or rediscover – the good news of God’s everlasting love. The openness of the theme very much encourages us to consider what they hold close to their hearts during the Christmas period, to give thanks for their blessings and celebrate the good news of Christ’s birth. We hope and pray that you will be able to experience and celebrate the joy of Christmas with your pupils, staff, families and community in the coming weeks.

The end of term sees us say good-bye to a special member of the DBE Team, with Sandra Reynolds taking early retirement. On behalf of the whole team, we offer our sincere thanks as a special colleague, and send love and best wishes for all that the future holds. There is a special thank you to Sandra on page 2. Finally, can I end by thanking all who are involved in the work of our Diocesan schools for your professionalism and resilience after what has been another challenging and unsettled term. We wish each of you a well-deserved break, and to you and your families, a very happy Christmas and good wishes for 2022.

## Thank you, Sandra

At the end of this term, the DBE team are saying good-bye to a special member of our team. Sandra Reynolds is one of the DBE's administrators, and will be known to many of you as the friendly face on reception at Church House, as well as being the supportive ear for all general queries regarding the Board of Education. Sandra has been part of the team since 2008 when Church House was based in Alford, Chester. Over the last 14 years, Sandra has provided advice and guidance to our schools, in particular overseeing the administration of foundation governors.



Sandra is leaving this Christmas and is looking forward to spending more time on her other interests that include walking, cycling, gardening, learning Italian and continuing to write and complete her first children's novel. She is also looking into adopting a Hedgehog from a Hedgehog Sanctuary as sometimes they can't be released back into the wild. We are so grateful to Sandra for all that she has contributed both to the DBE team and to our schools over the years and wish her well in her future adventures and endeavours.

## ABYYT – 'Community Matters at Christmas'



Throughout Advent, Community Matters will explore different communities from the Christmas story, see what they can teach us about community and how they can inspire us to make a difference this Christmas. Over four weeks, the resource celebrates how **community** can bring us **joy, acceptance, generosity** and **love**. The resource includes videos of pupils talking about their

communities, bible links, reflections and practical challenges and can be used in the classroom or in collective worship. Schools can sign up by clicking [here](#).

**Community Matters** is a new set of free resources for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 which helps pupils to explore how they can play their part in creating positive change in their communities. Download for free [here](#).

**NEW eBook: 'Community Matters: Helping Young People Lead With Character in a Post-Covid World'** is a series of reflections from experts in the education sector, focussing on the increasing need for the prioritisation of character education. Download the eBook for free [here](#).

## 'Picture News' - Christmas Campaign



**Picture News** are excited to share with you their Christmas campaign for 2021, '**Share the Light!**' This year, the focus is the subject of **loneliness** and the importance of showing **kindness** during the festive period. Please find below the activity and resource for you to use - it's a very simple activity that can be completed with children of all ages and would make a lovely display or presentation for families:

[Share the Light! - Activity](#)

[Share the Light! - Resource](#)

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is on 27 January, and there are lots of free resources online to help teachers lead assemblies, activities or lessons with students. New this year are lesson plans about the *Kindertransport* and a flexible set of worksheets called 'Days to remember', which give an introduction to different genocides through one day, one person and one artefact.

You can find all the school materials at [www.hmd.org.uk/schools](http://www.hmd.org.uk/schools).

Marking HMD helps your students to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups, more recent genocides and contemporary issues. They will increase their knowledge, empathy and desire to take part in social action. This is especially important at a time when hate crime, extremist views, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate are on the rise.

Contact the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Education Officer today for help and support and to get started: [education@hmd.org.uk](mailto:education@hmd.org.uk).



## Virtual Ethos Conference

**Virtual Ethos Conference  
on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - 9.15am-3pm**



The fifth annual children's Ethos Group Conference in Cheshire West and Chester has again been organised and planned by leaders and children from St Oswald's, Mollington, Tarporley and Witton Church Walk CE Primary Schools with support from The Bishop Bluecoat CE High School.

The theme for the day this year is: '**Love**'

The event is **FREE**.

To make a booking or to find out more information please click on the link: [Flyer 2022.pdf](#)

## Worship in a church school

What makes working in a church school so special? When answering this question many people cite the joy of collective worship, whether that be the whole community coming together with shared vision and goose bump inducing, heartfelt singing or the intimate setting of form / class-based worship that allows friendship and knowledge of the Christian faith to grow.



In many of our schools, collective worship is most definitely the heartbeat of the school that permeates through the day. As a diocese we value and greatly appreciate those who take on the responsibility of leading on this important aspect of our school lives and want to further our support of those who are making this happen.

So, we warmly invite you and your associated clergy to join our **Collective Worship in Church Schools Network**. Aiming to meet once a term, via Zoom, we will look to share resources, ideas, explore the implications of the [CEEQ Guidance for CW](#) and work through big questions together as we seek to offer high quality worship in our schools. **There is no charge for this network.**

Meetings will last one hour, **9:30-10:30am** on the following dates:

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 *\*\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE\*\****

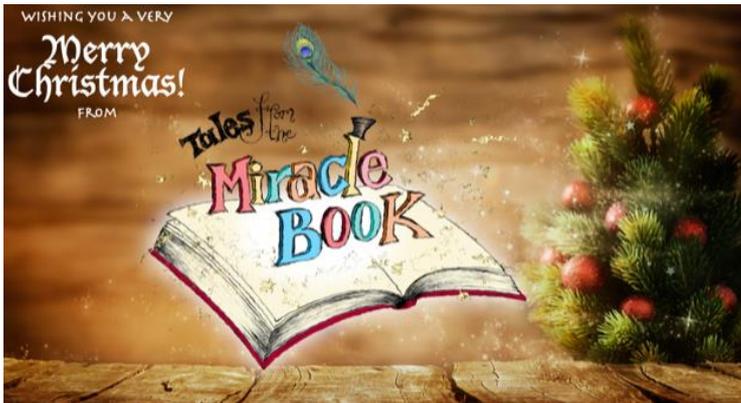
*The meetings are available to book through [Bookwhen](#).*

***Looking forward to seeing you there!***

As we have engaged with the Growing Faith adventure, we realise too that our clergy would greatly value that time to be supported and support schools in this. Do share this information with those who support your school.

Also, we have made an addition to our training programme this year to include a session specifically for **Clergy working with Church Schools** on the **9<sup>th</sup> February at 1:30pm via Zoom**. If interested, please contact [sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org)

## Tales from The Miracle Book – NEW films!



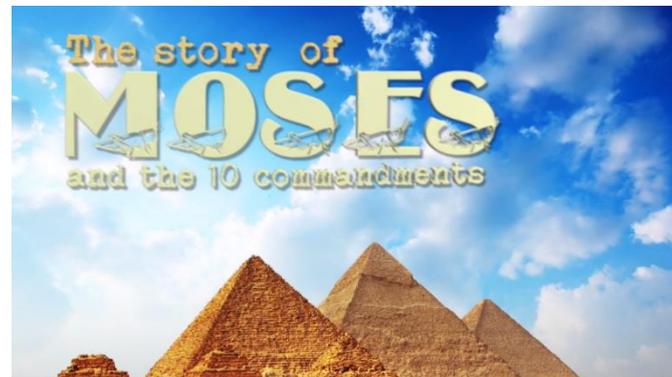
Tales from the Miracle Book's **Christmas film series** gives every class and assembly access to Christmas, Easter and a host of other Bible stories too (48 films- adding more each year) with cross-curricular worksheet packs and accredited by *Understanding Christianity*. Click [here](#) to view the trailer.

They also have some new films on Moses. Lots of fun for Key Stages 1&2 for classroom RE (or even assemblies). The 10 commandments are particularly memorable in rhyme form and easy for pupils to learn! Please click on the following links to access the 2 **FREE** videos:

[Moses Chapter 3 : The Plagues Begin](#)

[Moses Chapter 6: The 10 Commandments](#)

More information can be found on their website at: <http://talesfromthemiraclebook.co.uk>



## 'Angels Delight' – A Fun-Filled Christmas Adventure for Key Stage 2

If you think that the nativity is just for Key Stage 1 then think again! A hilarious, fun-filled story all about what (might) have happened behind-the-scenes events at the Nativity...This highly comical re-telling of the nativity story is a novel aimed at 7 – 11 year olds. Great for an advent class read. Available on <https://www.mikepeacock.net/angelsdelight> or on Amazon.

*"A wonderful romp through the nativity story- and the reason for it!"*

**Bob Hartman, Author & Storyteller**



## Let Teachers SHINE 2022

Apply today  
[letteachersshine.org.uk](http://letteachersshine.org.uk)



Let Teachers SHINE 2022, an exciting grants programme for teachers, offers up to **£25,000** over two years to teachers who have brilliant ideas to help support children in the North of England to succeed in English, maths, or science, particularly those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. SHINE also offers practical support for winners, to help them develop their ideas.

Please click [here](#) to view the flyer.

Full details, guidance and application criteria and the application form are available by clicking [here](#). **The deadline for applications 18 January 2022.** The online application form is simple and has been built so that applicants can save it and return it. Any teachers interested in applying can contact SHINE directly on [info@shinetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@shinetrust.org.uk) to ask any questions or arrange a call.

## 'PARABLE: Interactive Performance Workshop' & 'The Easter Project' Workshops

**Springs Dance Company** specialises in cross-curricular dance, in particular with Religious Education, Values and PHSE. **PARABLE** is a professional performance and interactive workshop experience by Springs Dance Company, providing schools with a chance to boost children's engagement with RE. Delivered with Covid safety at the forefront, PARABLE is an exciting opportunity for children to encounter and overcome creative challenges, accomplish tasks and influence the outcome of the show.



SPRINGS  
DANCE COMPANY

Springs is also offering to schools its sought after **Easter Project**, which can run for between one and six days. Delivering fun, engaging and thought-provoking dance workshops, **The Easter Project** provides a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story. The workshops can culminate in an informal sharing or performance by the pupils, which can be shown to the school and parents through either a live or filmed presentation.

For further information regarding the Parable Interactive Performance Workshop & Easter 2022, please click on the following links:

[Easter 2022 Flyer](#)

[PARABLE: Interactive Performance Workshop Flyer](#)

## Project Earth Rock

# Project Earth Rock

**“Can I sit and watch that again and again and again and again?”**

What a joy when a student says something like this.. that was Phoebe (age 10) from Allfarthing Primary School after watching Project Earth Rock's Fossil Fools animation.

Aligned to the National Curriculum and in use in over 300 UK schools, Project Earth Rock is an award-winning KS2 eco arts scheme of work. It consists of songs, animations and lesson plans. To celebrate COP26, schools can use the code **COP26PER** to get a 20% discount if they sign up for a subscription by 31st December.

If 5 or more schools order together there will be a further 20% off. Contact [Jess@projectearthrock.com](mailto:Jess@projectearthrock.com) for group purchases.

You can trial the *Power Challenge* theme for free, just visit [www.projectearthrock.com](http://www.projectearthrock.com).

# Project Earth Rock

## January/February 2022 Courses

**\*\*We are pleased to offer the Understanding Christianity course in 2022 – please click on the link below to book!\*\***

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
12/01/22	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme 2021-22 **DAY 2**</a>	VENUE TBC
14/01/22	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs &amp; Incumbents Briefing</a>	ON-LINE
18/01/22**DAY 3**	<a href="#">Early Careers Teaching Support -2 Year Programme</a>	VARIOUS LOCATIONS
18/01/22	<a href="#">Being a Governor of a Church School/Academy***REPEAT***</a>	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBURY
19/01/22	<b>**JUST ADDED**</b> <a href="#">Understanding Christianity - Day 1 of 2</a>	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBURY
25/01/22	<a href="#">Effective Partnership- Church School Partnership (ONLINE TWILIGHT)</a>	ON-LINE
26/01/22	<a href="#">World Faiths-Judaism (ONLINE TWILIGHT)</a>	ON-LINE
01/02/22	<a href="#">Distinctive Leadership</a>	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBURY
02/02/22	<a href="#">Fresh Voices-Young People &amp; Participation</a>	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBURY
08/02/22	<a href="#">Governor Training-Statutory Inspection of Anglican &amp; Methodist Schools (SIAMS)</a>	CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBURY
08/02/22	<a href="#">Effective Partnering- 'Courageous Advocacy &amp; Global Neighbours' (ONLINE TWILIGHT)</a>	ON-LINE
10/02/22	<a href="#">Chairs Clinic &amp; Networking</a>	ON-LINE
10/02/22	<a href="#">Deputies &amp; Assistant Headteachers' Briefing &amp; Networking</a>	ON-LINE

### Does your school have any news to share from this month?

We are always keen to hear from our schools and aim to include all contributions received. We would particularly like to hear from you if your school has not previously been featured.

Please send a short article with a couple of photographs to [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)

**Contact details for members of the DBE team to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.**

<a href="mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org">chris.penn@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director of Education	07540 722667
<a href="mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org">sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
<a href="mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org">mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
<a href="mailto:simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org">simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
<a href="mailto:sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org">sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
<a href="mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org">charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
<a href="mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org">sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org</a>	Governance & Administrator	07549 109590

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
<b>2022 DATES</b>		
Nantwich/Congleton HTS	Monday 14th March Thursday 16th June	1.30pm -3.30pm 10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Monday 31 January Thursday 26 May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 24 January Monday 20 June	1.30pm -3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 24th March (New Date) Thursday 23rd June	10am -12pm
Warrington/Halton HTs	Tuesday 8th February Monday 16th May	10am -12pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Macclesfield HTs	Tuesday 18th January Tuesday 17th May	1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Thursday 27th January Tuesday 24th May	10am -12pm
Chester HTs	Thursday 3 March Wednesday 22 June	10am -12pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> February-NEW DATE Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April- NEW DATE Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June -NEW DATE	12.30pm -2.30pm

## News from Schools

### Bowdon C of E Primary School

#### A Poem by Year 6



### Love Jesus Love Life

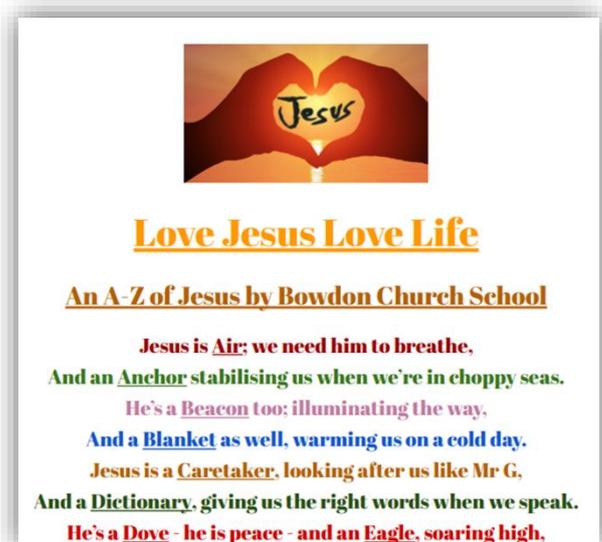
#### An A-Z of Jesus by Bowdon Church School

*'I have come that they might have life and have it in abundance' John 10:10.*

At Bowdon Church School we believe our whole community should thrive spiritually and academically in a loving, caring school family where everyone is valued. We will grow together, following Jesus, secure in the love of God.

Our unit in Year 6 RE last half term was how Jesus is Good News for Christians. We looked at Biblical metaphors for Jesus (shepherd, bread, vine etc). We then thought of some of our own. As teachers we never really know which lessons will strike a creative chord with children, but the class was inspired by the task and had so many good ideas that I thought we could probably manage an A-Z.

Therefore, in the next lesson, I put them in small groups, gave them a sheet with the whole alphabet on it and a dictionary, and asked them to complete as many as they could. The final poem was a combined effort from all groups - I took the best ones and turned them into a poem. The children enjoyed working collaboratively and their ideas were brilliant. We may have it hand-painted (on the wall or on canvas) with some small icons to indicate the metaphors, or we may have it professionally designed, printed and framed.



Please click [here](#) or on the image to the right to view the full poem.

### Fulshaw St Anne's C of E Primary School

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, the whole school had a real treat as Bishop Mark visited for the afternoon, accompanied by Rev Throup and Rev Prince.

Bishop Mark was met by the School Council, which currently includes representatives from Classes 2, 3, 4 and 5, and also Mrs Thomas, the Deputy Headteacher. They all gave their visitors a tour of the school on what was a very grey and rainy day, but still managed to get outside to see the lovely grounds and all the work that has been done regarding sustainability and outdoor, environmental learning.



After calling in on Classes 1,3 and 4, Bishop Mark answered some challenging questions in Class 2 and read the children a lovely story.

He had refreshments with staff and then ended the day with a great question and answer session with the Class 5 children, who were delighted to hear all about his motorbikes and his own personal journey to God.

It was lovely to host such a special visitor, who was so keen to meet the children and staff and get to know the school.

### Hartford C of E High School

On 20<sup>th</sup> October, eight Ethos Ambassadors joined with ethos groups from Hartford Manor Primary School and Hartford Primary School at St John's Church for a short act of Remembrance. Students led prayers and bible readings and had a short time of reflection, plus of course the Last Post. Afterwards, students prayerfully lined the paths with memorial crosses, each one bearing the name of a local soldier who had given his life for his nation.

It was a time to look back with grateful thanks, to consider the 'now' and the battles still being faced, and to look ahead to how we can be bringers of love and peace into a hurting world.



What seemed like a tragic end on the battlefields paved the way for a new beginning, and as the sun shone, the poppies sprang forth, bursting with new life and seed for the future. In the same way, God wants us to bask in His light, looking to the future with hope. Even in the current 'battles' we face, where many of us lack peace and are filled with uncertainty, let us look to Jesus and thank Him for the good that is springing forth, as people cook meals for strangers, give to those in need, care for neighbours and sow seeds of love and hope for a brighter future.



**Lostock Gralam C of E Primary School**



Jen Stratford from Chester Cathedral visited the school recently to present the Canon Chancellor Award, for their video entry to their competition last academic year. It was fantastic to welcome her.



**Marple All Saint's C of E Primary School**



Created a beautiful, contemplative space where children can be calm, relax, reflect and have the opportunity to encounter God. It has turned into so much more.

If this pandemic has taught everyone one thing, it is to appreciate what green space we have.

True gardeners say singing to our plants can stimulate growth, but as part of Church week it was the sound of bells that rained down from All Saints' Church and spread joy over the new oasis on the school field. Each class visited, a true excitement as this has always been a highlight of the school year and one that was sorely missed due to Covid. Well planned activities, such as bell ringing, songs, bracelet making, learning about Potters village in Uganda or water and baptism were all held in the church.

*'...he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake'*  
**Psalm 23**

Everyone was so proud of the new spirituality garden complete with a working water feature, new life given to an old boat, colourful peace posts and an abundance of flora and foliage. It has enabled pupils and staff to become recharged and rebalanced, creating a real place to go and reflect. Everyone can encounter God, discover God and find peace and wellbeing amongst a hidden paradise.



### **Mossley C of E Primary School**

**'They shall have life, life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)**



Mossley C of E Primary School have helped their local community at Harvest festival. At school they had a tractor on their field to collect food donations and Head Boy and Girl helped Reverend Langton- Miller with this. The donations were then taken to The Storehouse foodbank at the New Life Church in Congleton to be sorted and sent out to the people who need food parcels. The children then had Harvest festival Worship in the hall which linked in with their Christian Value of 'thankfulness'.

Everyone has been thinking about the importance of water to everyone around the world. In particular, the work done by WaterAid to ensure that millions of people are getting clean water and decent toilets. In Year 5, the children thought about all the things water is used for, and what happens if we don't have enough water. They discussed why it is so important to ensure that people around the world have clean water so that they can lead a healthy life.

### Overleigh St Mary's C of E Primary School



In their first Pupil Parliament meeting of the year, everyone decided that they could work even harder as a school to protect our environment and that small changes make big differences. Together, they decided to start with plastic bottles. It was suggested to pupils that instead of asking for a plastic water bottle or carton with lunch, they could use a reusable water bottle instead. As a result, they have already saved a lot of plastic bottles (the tally chart is growing by the day) and will continue to do so throughout the year. Everyone feels empowered to be making a difference and can't wait to do more.

### Pott Shrigley Church School

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October the whole school showed support for anti-racism charity, Show Racism the Red Card. In the run up to the day many of the lessons focussed on Black History Month to deepen their understanding of what racism is. They looked at historical events and figures that have made their mark through history.

Everyone dressed in red on the day in exchange for a £1 donation and Class 3 were tasked with organising activities.

Year 6 led worship highlighting what racism is and sharing information on how to be inclusive as a school and in our community. Creation of a banner highlighting different races with each child designing a poster to highlight their understanding of racism



Class 3 were split into two teams - one team worked with Class 1 to set up a red-themed obstacle course and activities whilst the other team worked with Class 2 to set up a penalty shoot-out and games including wink murderer.

There was also a bake sale which was very popular and in total raised over £60

All in all a great day for a very worthwhile charity.

## Saighton C of E Primary School

Pupils have recently taken a more unusual approach to protest by using their handicraft skills to share their concern about climate change with the community.

The children created a small handmade yellow canary to gift to Mr Edward Timpson MP to urge him to use his position to push for stronger and faster action to tackle climate change locally, nationally and encourage our Government to act as bold hosts of this year's UN climate change summit, COP26.

The children took their inspiration from yellow canaries; in the past, these small and sensitive little birds quietly helped warn miners of dangerous pollution such as carbon monoxide with miners treating them as valuable colleagues not unkind enemies. In the same way, the pupils hope that their little canary will gently warn and help remind their MP, Edward Timpson and the Government about the urgent dangers of global warming and encourage him to take faster action to tackle this pressing issue.



In line with our school's distinctive Christian vision of Flourishing Together - Life in all its Fullness, our pupils are passionate about caring for the environment. We are very proud that our pupils are using kind, respectful and creative ways to be courageous advocates for positive change. Canaries' hopeful yellow colour and singing voices remind us of the beauty in God's world that we can save from environmental harm. Climate campaigning doesn't always have to be big, loud and disruptive to have impact.

This gentle and quiet craftivism (craft + activism) can play its part to show the widespread concern about climate change. The children's beautiful, chirpy handmade canary gift is memorable and powerful, it's wonderful that pupils have attracted Edward Timpson's attention in this quiet and intriguing way with humility, empathy and concern for our climate. The children named their canary, Frederick after finding out that it is Sir David Attenborough's middle name. They are delighted that Mr Timpson is currently sourcing a name plaque and he has since assured the children that Frederick has settled well into his new home at head office.