

# DBE Schools Bulletin

March 2023

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

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



## Let's share the Good News!

We only need to turn on the television or read the daily newspapers to see and hear stories of trauma and sadness, concerning and depressing reports about the economy and the cost of living crisis, the misery caused by knife and gun crime and countries across our world reeling from civil war or natural disasters. And yet amongst all of this, there are many good news stories, heart-warming stories where individuals, organisations and communities have come together to support those in need, to offer and bring the love of Jesus through acts of kindness and selflessness for the benefit of others. This is no better reflected than through the amazing work of our schools, from right across the diocese, bringing hope, joy and 'good news' to those in their communities and further afield.

The spring term continues at a pace, and through this season of Lent, we look ahead to Easter and a time to celebrate the good news of Jesus's resurrection, as he overcomes death on the cross. Easter brings hope, new beginnings and the promise of eternal life. This month's bulletin, as in previous editions, features 'good news' stories and projects of how our schools and churches have been working together for the benefit of others. Sharing these stories and experiences may provide some inspiration and ideas for others. We are so grateful to our schools for taking the time to send us your stories and sharing what your school and pupils have been getting up to. We would love to be able to share good news stories from more of our schools in our April/May bulletin. If your school hasn't contributed before, why not send something in next month and we would be delighted to publish it and share your story across the diocese.

As we continue to journey through Lent and look to Easter, let our schools continue to be the good news, bringing the love, hope and joy of Jesus, enriching the lives of others.

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## RE Leaders Annual Conference

We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker for the RE Leaders Conference on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May will be Gill Vaisey.



Gill is a nationally recognised specialist in Early Years provision specialising in children's religious education and spiritual development. Spanning twenty -five years' experience covering Early Years and up to KS2, Gill's work promotes and supports excellence of provision in schools and educational establishments, through innovative approaches and development of novel and inventive resources that make learning more enjoyable and memorable for both practitioners and pupils.

For tickets to this inspiring event please follow the link: [RE Leaders' Annual](#)

[Conference tickets](#)

## Christian Leadership Course 2023-24

**"Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people." (2 Chronicles 1:10)**

Responsibility for leadership of a group of people can feel great at times. As King Solomon considered his leadership of the Israelites, he too felt the weight of this task and asked God, not for success or extra funds in his budget, or more time or more people, but wisdom. God given wisdom.



Now in its twelfth year, the North West **Christian Leadership Course: Making a difference** has been giving our leaders time and space to reflect, to seek wisdom on what it means to lead effectively, with Christian underpinning and flourishing at the heart of our schools.

With inspiring keynote speakers, quality core texts, journaling, and presentations, this year long programme of six face to face days (including school visits and a two day residential) will both challenge and encourage you as you explore your leadership calling and vision with colleagues across the 5 North West Diocese.

Whether you are primary or secondary based, a head teacher or aspiring to be in school leadership, the power of shared wisdom will have a lasting impact on your schools.

If you are interested in booking one of our limited places in next year's cohort, do get in touch for further information, I promise you won't be disappointed! [jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org](mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org)

## Admissions Guidance for VA schools & Academies.



Department  
for Education

The DfE has issued two publications to advise on Admission appeals:

**"Admission appeals for school places.** Guidance to help admission authorities to advise those involved with school admission appeals to understand their roles and responsibilities".

Available here: [Admission appeals for school places](#) &

**"School admission appeals code.** Statutory guidance on how schools should organise and run their pupil admission appeals".

Available here: [School admission appeals code](#)

## Casting the Net wide - Vision Celebration Save the Date



The grassroots consultation process, called *Casting the Net Wide*, began in the autumn of 2022. Since then, people of all backgrounds, ages, gender, and tradition have contributed their ideas and thoughts on how the Church can develop a new vision and strategy for the future.



The first Vision Cafe event was held in Grappenhall in September

The responses and contributions are being collated and a team made up of senior staff, including the three bishops, will review the responses before discerning what should be the key priorities and strategic aims for the Church in the Diocese of Chester.

An event at **Chester Cathedral** on **Saturday 20th May at 11am** will be an opportunity to celebrate the vision process so far and to feedback to the diocese on some of the overarching themes and priorities to have come out of the consultation. Further details about the event will be published on the diocesan website, [Eventbrite page](#), and E-Bulletin in the coming weeks.

## March, April & May 2023 CPD Courses.

Courses are listed on our [courses web page](#) and our [Ticket Tailor](#) site

### Headteachers and Senior Leaders

Date	Month	Course	Location
14 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Christian Leadership Course Day 5	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">Stepping into Headship Twilight – Part 1</a>	Zoom
25 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">New Headteacher Support - Distinctive Leadership - session 2</a>	Church House
28 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs and Incumbents briefing</a>	Zoom
4 <sup>th</sup>	May	<a href="#">Stepping into Headship Twilight – Part 2</a>	Zoom
w/c 15 <sup>th</sup>	May	Christian Leadership Course Presentations	
18 <sup>th</sup>	May	<a href="#">Headteachers Surgery</a>	Zoom
24 <sup>th</sup>	May	<a href="#">Deputies &amp; Assistant Headteachers' Briefing &amp; Networking</a>	Church House

### Recently Qualified or Early Career Teacher Programmes

10 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	<a href="#">Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 4</a>	Ellesmere Port Christ Church
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mar	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 2A</a>	Church House
18 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 2B</a>	Church House
24 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 5</a>	All Saints, Marple
24 <sup>th</sup>	May	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 3</a>	Moreton Christ Church

### Christian Distinctiveness (RE, Worship, Vision & SIAMS)

23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar	<a href="#">Religious Education &amp; The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule</a>	Church House
20 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">SIAMS - a detailed view &amp; SIAMS SEF Starter</a>	Church House
26 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">Understanding the Big Picture - Walk Through the Bible*</a>	Church House
2 <sup>nd</sup>	May	<a href="#">Collective Worship in a Church School</a>	Church House
4 <sup>th</sup>	May	<a href="#">'Drop In' RE Surgery</a>	Zoom
18 <sup>th</sup>	May	<a href="#">Governor Training - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)</a>	Zoom
23 <sup>rd</sup>	May	<a href="#">Collective Worship Leads network</a>	Zoom
26 <sup>th</sup>	May	<a href="#">RE Leaders' Annual Conference*</a>	Holiday Inn

### Governors

18 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">Chairs clinic and networking group</a>	Zoom
26 <sup>h</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">Being a Governor of a Church School / Academy</a>	Zoom
28 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs and Incumbents briefing</a>	Zoom
18 <sup>th</sup>	May	<a href="#">Governor Training - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)</a>	Zoom
26 <sup>th</sup>	May	<a href="#">Chairs clinic and networking group</a>	Zoom

Any enquires about courses, dates or further details please contact [Linda Boys](#).

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Spring			
Cluster Name	Chair / Agenda Contact	Date & Time	Venue
Chester		Mon 30 January 1.30pm	Hoole
Congleton/ Nantwich		Wed 1 March 1.30pm	Marton
Macclesfield		Tue 14 March 1.30pm	Macclesfield St John the Evangelist - School Hall
Northwich	Caroline Mackenzie	Thu 2 February 1.30pm	Norley
Rural Chester		Tue 21 March 10am	Utkinton & Cotebrook
Stockport/ Tameside	Vicki Hewitt-Lee	Thu 2 February 10am	Edgeley St Matthew's
Trafford		Mon 20 March 1.30pm	Sale St Annes
Warrington/ Halton		<b>New Date</b> Tue 21 March 10am	Church House
Wirral	Amanda Donelan	Fri 20 January	Leasowe Castle
Secondary Heads		Wed 8 March 1:30pm	Church House

## Contact the team.

**DBE team contact details 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:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org">linda.boys@chester.anglican.org</a>	DBE Administrator	07549 109590

## RE Cluster Leader Groups

Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Meetings are being arranged for the autumn, more details to follow. Groups and leader details below:

		Summer	
Cluster Name	RE Leads	Date & Time	Venue
<b>Cheshire West &amp; Chester South (Chester &amp; Ellesmere Port)</b> [Chester]	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE)	Wed 21 June 3:45pm	Overleigh St Mary's
	Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)		
<b>Cheshire East South</b> [Congleton/ Nantwich]	Fiona Pulle (Brereton)	Wed 21 June	Brereton
	Liz Ward (Wybunbury Delves)		
<b>Cheshire East North, Cheshire West &amp; Chester North (Northwich)</b> [Macclesfield]	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.)	Tue 20 June 4:00pm	Whitegate
	Michael Heathcote (Whitegate)		
<b>Cheshire West &amp; Chester (Rural)</b> [Rural Chester]	Finola Jackson (Saughton CE)	Thu 15 June	Saughton CE
<b>Stockport/Tameside</b>	Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges)	Thu 22 June	St George's Hyde
<b>Trafford</b>	Natalie McLoughlin (St Annes Sale)	Thu 8 June 3.40pm	St Annes Sale
<b>Wirral</b>	Charlotte Fenwick (Christchurch Birkenhead)	Thu 11 May	St Andrews Bebington
	Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)		

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or [linda.boys@chester.anglican.org](mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org) for further information.

## Discover magazine – exploring the Bible.

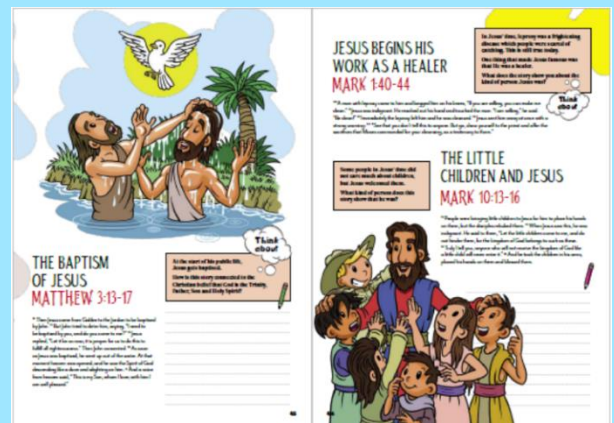
**GOOD NEWS**  
for Everyone!

Big ideas and key quotations from Christian Scripture

We are delighted to share a new educational publication from GOOD NEWS for Everyone! called the 'Discover Magazine'. With over 90 pages of teaching content the Discover Magazine has been created as a teaching resource for UK primary schools. It is free of charge and designed to help teachers in RE lessons for Upper Key Stage 2 level to teach their class about the Bible and to learn what the Bible says.

To see more and subscribe, select the link:

[Discover Magazine](#)



## St George's Ethos Conference - A Spiritual Journey'

We are holding our third Ethos Conference on **Thursday 27th April 2023**. Our theme is 'A Spiritual Journey'. Spirituality concerns a person's relationship with themselves, with others, with God, and with nature and the environment. These four elements: self; others; transcendence and beauty will form the basis of our conference looking at ways of developing a strong sense of spirituality.

We would love some of your children to come and join us and take part in Collective Worship led by our Ethos group and enjoy the workshops they have planned for you around Spiritual Development. We hope that you will take away some ideas for Ethos and Spirituality work in your school.

If you would like to join us please see [our leaflet](#) for more details and return the form to let us know a.s.a.p. how many children and adults you will be bringing (up to 6 children and 2 adults).

We hope you will be able to join us – our Ethos group are really keen to meet you all!!!

Nicola Hewitt , Headteacher St Georges CE Primary, Hyde

## Bin Twinning for Earth Day



Tearfund's [Bin Twinning](#) initiative is raising funds to create a global network of social enterprises to tackle the growing problem of single-use plastic.

Earth Day is fast approaching on 22 April, 2023 - and with that in mind, Bin Twinning has just created a brand new kit to help schools learn about how we can protect the planet from the urgent issue of plastic pollution. You can download the kit [here](#).

Why Earth Day is so important

In December 2022, more than 100 people were killed in landslides and floods in DRC's capital city of Kinshasa. They were the worst floods in years, and evidence of why Kinshasa's plastic problem is deadly.

Bin Twinning's DRC partner runs a hub where waste pickers are paid by the kilo for plastic bags and bottles. This plastic is then melted down and mixed with sand to become eco paving bricks.

In our FREE schools kit, your schools will find:

- An interactive lesson plan full of facts and stories to help primary and secondary students learn about the human and environmental impact of plastic pollution
- Quizzes and activities to make the learning fun and memorable
- A junk-modelling competition with the chance to win a Bin Twinning litter picking kit for your school!

We are creating a brand-new film from DRC that brings home the scale of the waste issue in the capital, Kinshasa. We'll be back in touch as soon as the film is ready to share with you.

If you would like to book a schools speaker for a pre-recorded or in-person talk for a school assembly, please contact [Sarah Suddrey](#) to find out more.

## Called, Connected, Committed Podcast

**'Called, Connected, Committed':**

Resources and Updates from the Church of England Foundation of Educational Leadership



*Matt lead the Sustainable Schools programme for Zellar.*

In this episode of the [CCC Podcast](#), we are joined by the team from Zellar, a start up who's mission to accelerate community climate action.

Zellar is a sustainability platform that empowers UK businesses to go green, save money and share their sustainability journey with those that matter most to them. Zellar has just completed a ground breaking Sustainable Schools pilot with 40 schools in the East Midlands and they've unlocked free access for Church of England Schools to help accelerate climate action in our schools and communities

We discuss how Zellar's community first mission to demystify and democratise climate action aligns with the vision and principles of Courageous Advocacy and how their platform is supporting schools deliver across all of the priority areas outlined in our Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 strategy.

Zellar is committed to empowering young people as 'sustainability champions' in every school and business and believes that they can act as the conscience of our communities to help drive rapid and impactful action.

We hear highlights from a recent sustainability workshop they ran with 100 young leaders at our National Conference.

Join us to explore sustainable schools and be inspired to lead the change in your school.

[Free access to Zellar](#)

[CCC Podcast](#)

## Spring Dance Company

Springs provides an exciting way for children to interact with the R.E. curriculum through physical movement and creativity. Now booking:

- **The Good Samaritan** – Based on one of the Parables that Jesus told, these workshops provide opportunities for children to explore the importance of helping others and standing up for them, even if they are not like you. The workshops touch on themes of living in a multi-racial / multi-religious society.
- **Creation** – Our Creation Project introduces the Genesis narrative of creation in a fun, inclusive and engaging way through dance. Children will have the opportunity to explore some key concepts such as who made the world, what God is like and the relationship between creator and created.

Further details on all of our work for schools can be found at [Spring Dance Co - School Workshops](#)

To book and to find out more please email [touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk)

or call **07775 628 442**

## News from Schools

### Bowdon



In Year 6 at Bowdon, our Christian value is Service, and this term we have looked beyond our school to see where we can be of service to our wider community.

We have therefore set up an outreach project with Pictor Academy in Timperley. Pictor is a school which caters for children aged 2 – 11 with special educational needs. A large number of their pupils have an autistic spectrum disorder which means that

they have difficulties communicating and interacting with others, and they may also have difficulties with play and imagination.

Our children have been joining Pictor's PE lessons, and it has been wonderful to see them building relationships. Personal development has a high priority for us, and the children have gained such a lot from interacting with others who may struggle with aspects of communication and play that they take for granted. These skills will help them as they move on to secondary school in September. We are very proud of them and looking forward to a joint Sports' Day in summer!



### Dodleston

#### Gaia at Chester Cathedral

We were invited to attend the launch of the Gaia, an art installation of planet Earth at Chester Cathedral. Three of our Year 6 pupils were invited to speak about Climate Change and reflect on our responsibilities for taking care of the planet.

We couldn't be prouder of the three children as they independently prepared their presentations, spoke so fluently and eloquently and connected with the audience of around 100 people, including the Sheriff of Chester and the Dean of Chester Cathedral.

During the event, the staff had many attendees approach them to praise the children as they were so impressed with their presentation and knowledge.



### **Inter-faith Week**



Our school enjoyed a week hosting volunteers from Cheshire West Interfaith Harmony Project to promote equality, acceptance, religious tolerance, respect and how we live well together as a community. We welcomed visitors from the Bahá'í faith, Christianity, Quakerism, Unitarianism, Islamic faith and Humanism who spoke to the children about their faiths and the values which are important to them.

The children found that although there are differences between the faiths, they learnt and reflected upon the many shared values of the faiths; such as treating others as we wish to be treated, valuing and protecting our planet and believing in ourselves and the power that we have to make a difference.

### **Guilden Sutton**

During our last week before half term, we celebrated 'Cultural Week'. Each class had a different country that they learnt about during the week. Children thought about their own culture and family traditions for a whole school homework and shared these in school with their classmates. Parents and children put together photos, talks and PowerPoints so they could confidently and proudly share their cultures with different classes around school. It followed really well from 'Children's Mental Health Week' in which each class created a large paper chain following the theme 'Let's Connect'. It prompted some wonderful discussions about what we each value.



### **Hartford High**

#### **Vision Café comes to Hartford**

Across the Diocese, Vision Café has been set up to enable people to have a voice about the future direction of the church, and in particular, how to reach the younger generations with the good news of Jesus. As such, we invited Vision Café to our school so that the young people themselves could have a voice, and in particular, to hear from the young people who do not attend church...what are their barriers to faith, and how do they feel the church should be reaching their generation.



They agreed that the message of the bible should never be watered down, but felt that the method of delivery could be more in keeping with their generation. Many said that they did not want to be preached at, but would like to sit down, discuss and ask questions...particularly over food (food did have quite a priority with our teenage boys, but not surprisingly, Jesus often ministered over food!)

Whist expecting their answers to 'words to describe church' to be quite negative (cold, boring, old), instead, almost all their answers were positive... 'safe, family, loving, caring'... interesting as many of them do not attend church apart from school services or occasionally, i.e. Christmas.



Many also said that young people are very much influenced by online content, and as such, there should be more quality online promotions, particularly via social media (not just Facebook which is for an older generation). It came through very strongly that our young people care very much for issues that matter the most: the environment, poverty, injustice, food insecurity etc.

They want to be part of a movement that is making a difference, as Jesus would, not an institution that just talks about these things. They truly want to make a difference for good and for God.

In answering the questions, 'How can the church make a difference in the community?' and 'If Jesus were here where would he go/what would he do?' many of them mentioned things about social justice, foodbanks, the pub (to reach the lost), healing people etc. However, quite a large proportion of our young people said that Jesus would be in the schools teaching the children and young people about God and showing them His way. This is something that I am personally very passionate about. If 95% of young people have never been to church, but 99% go to school, then surely we need to be equipping and training the church to serve and share Jesus in the schools (including high schools) via assemblies, Christian Unions and social action projects whilst these doors are still open to us!



"How can they believe in One of whom they have not heard?" Romans 10:14

Tracy Morgan (School Chaplain)

## Kingsley St John's



We have been part of the Letters for Creation project at Chester Cathedral – I am sure you have lots of information on it, already. We have loved being part of the project. Our children used the activities and information shared from Christian Aid to support their ideas of what they want to see change in God's world and what they are proud of and want to keep.

From this, they wrote their own poems to share their thoughts with others and encourage other people to act to make a difference.

Together, we then created some art work to accompany our thoughts and emotions raised in the poems.

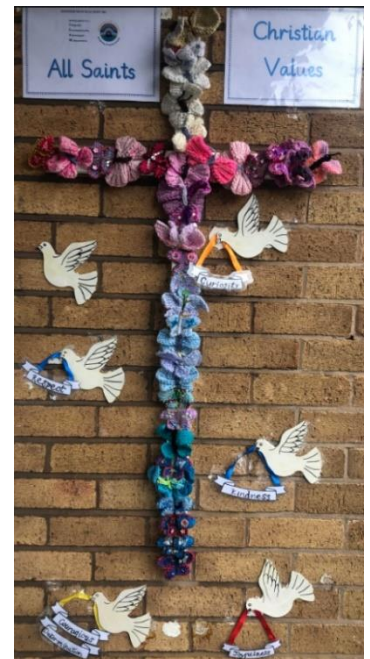


## Marple All Saints

This half term our school have started embedding our new Christian Values displaying them outside our school entrance on doves. We have five - one for each half term with the aim of the final half term being for memory and retention of all the Christian Values covered during the year.



In addition, we have now started awarding Christian Values certificates in our Friday Celebration Worships, where children chosen by staff join our Monday's 'Top Table' to eat and be congratulated by the Co- Head teachers.



Our 'Growing Faith' monthly Gardening Club members continue to carryout great work helping wildlife in our local community and ensuring our Spiritual Garden is kept looking beautiful so that it is ready to bloom for all to enjoy some peace and harmony in at Easter!

## Marton & District



We recently marked our first ever 'Marton Minds' Week, an initiative focused on promoting mental health and well-being across the school community. It was an incredible success and the students and staff were able to take part in a range of activities; the theme of the week was 'Let's Connect' so we worked on our relationships with others and how we can keep them positive and healthy.

During the week, each classroom was provided with a class worry monster and a worry box, which we are hoping will become a fantastic way for the children to express the worries that they have and give them a safe way to initiate

conversations about how they are feeling.

We were also involved in a range of activities throughout the week to help build relationships and develop our understanding of mental health. We played games to build connections, did some Taskmaster tasks, and each class produced something for the February issue of the school well-being newsletter. This included insightful poems and informative pieces to raise awareness and give tips for mental health. The newsletter is published monthly on the school website and is a great resource for everyone to access.

The week was made very special by the commitment shown by our staff and students in promoting mental health, and we are all looking forward to seeing what else we can come up with in the future.



## Mossley

This half term our Christian value was 'peace' and as part of this the children created pieces of work that have been displayed around school. In Reception, as part of their home learning, the children were asked to get creative and make their own symbols of what peace meant to them. In Year 1 the children created two



beautiful doves and reflected about when they feel peaceful. Key Stage 2

children also used their art skills to create a lovely display for one of our parent meeting rooms. During Collective Worship we thought carefully about what Jesus has taught us and how we can be peace keepers during our lives. At Mossley we also had our SIAMS inspection and we are so very proud of what we achieved. The report stated that

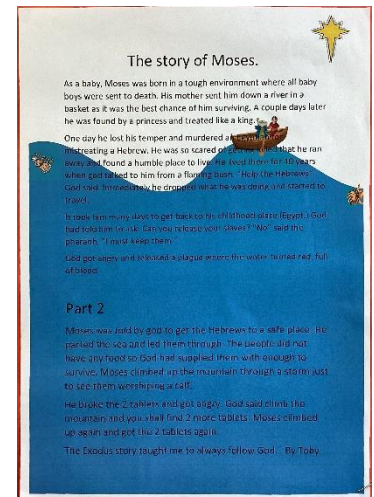


*"The School's Christian vision, and associated values, are at the heart of the school where pastoral care is a strength."*

## Pott Shrigley

In class 3 we studied the story of Exodus and talked about **God rescuing the children of Israel from Egypt and forging a special relationship with them.** We studied the stories of the Ten Plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, and the Ten Commandments and why they are important to our lives today.

We focussed on Justice and how Moses was an example of this. We explored God's love for his people and how it teaches us his love is unconditional and everlasting.



## Saighton



Earlier this month, we were delighted to win a 2023 Canon Chancellor Award inspired by the question: "What are we doing to God's World?" The children made a Giant Curlew - one of the most beautiful birds in the world but sadly, endangered. This large pheasant-like bird is under threat due to the deforestation of tropical forests. The children enjoyed making a wire sculpture and filling it with recycled plastic.

Our Vision Ambassadors led a worship on animal flourishing and this inspired some wonderful outdoor prayer spaces where children could reflect and pray for more love, compassion and care in God's world. We enjoyed a special prize giving ceremony at Chester Cathedral, along with fellow prize winners, Shocklach School and the event was generously hosted by Canon Jane Brooke and Education Officer, Jen Stratford.

Year 2 have just returned from a wonderful visit to Delamere Forest where they enjoyed a wide range of activities and an overnight stay. One of the highlights was willow weaving – the children created stunning fish and we are looking forward to using these in some contemplative RE sessions later in the term.



## Shocklach Oviatt

### Winners of The 2023, Canon Chancellor Award!



We are delighted to share the exciting news that we are once again winners of The Canon Chancellor Award! These exclusive awards celebrate teaching Christianity in schools through a variety of medium. In 2019 the theme was poetry based and the children produced a winning rap. In 2020 it was music based and the children composed a song with Charlie Mackesy's book, 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse' as the starting point. Last year we made a Misericord based on parables (google it!) and this year has been linked to the question 'What are we doing to God's world'. The children looked at endangered animals and discussed ways in which human existence has caused issues for God's wonderful world and how as humans we can make a difference. Our

winning entries this year were an Orangutan and a Turtle!

As part of our prize, children were invited to a celebratory lunch at the Cathedral, where they got to experience the wonderful Gaia - Luke Jerram's spectacular artwork. We have also won an interactive workshop led by Jen Stratford, the Cathedral Education Officer, to explore light through experiment and then explore the metaphor of light in the Bible. The workshop will focus on light and how Jesus is described as the Light of the World.



### Education Sunday



A highlight for Year 2 and 3 this term has to be Education Sunday which was held at St Mary's church Tilston. They performed their song and dance 'Seize the day' with such enthusiasm and gusto. We felt so proud of them. It was wonderful to see so many Shocklach families at St. Mary's church on this occasion. It is also a special service as we share it with Tilston school who performed 'Amazing Grace' in such a beautiful way. Thank you to all who came, but the biggest thanks must go to the children who were

the stars of the show!

## Stretton St Matthew's

### Endangered Animal Day

At the end of January, the Eco Council and Global Citizenship teams joined forces to support a charity of their choice. They decided they would like to champion the WWF and for each class to adopt and support an endangered animal from the charity. We fundraised by all children coming to school dressed as their favourite animal to help each class raise funds to adopt their animal and support this wonderful charity. During the week, Eco Council and Global Citizenship Council led a whole school assembly explaining how the money raised will help and what they're proposed plan was to champion this cause. The children spent time within their classes learning about the animal they were going to adopt and how their contributions will help protect these animals and their habitats in the future.



## Tilston Parochial

**Community:** How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.' Psalm 133.1



To promote children's mental health week, we worked in partnership with our Tilston School Association, the local Scout group and our community to host a 'Let's Connect Big Breakfast Event.' Our aim was to provide a safe, warm space where our school family and local community could come together to 'connect' with each other

and enjoy a delicious breakfast. We raised over £500 for the Tilston School Association and Place2Be.

The scouts achieved their community badges and helped to raise awareness of mental health; great courageous advocacy and a wonderful event bringing our community together.



## Warmingham



Badgers' Class (Years 5 and 6) have been exploring the Christian world we live in today. As part of their study, they invited Bishop Sam into school to talk to them about how Christian leaders create the kind of world Jesus wants us to live in. It was a really interesting discussion where we were able to ask Bishop Sam lots of questions.

The whole school spent some time reflecting on which of the Christian values mean the most to them, and how they help all of us to let our lights shine. The children then created some handprints which we displayed on a tree.



## Winsford St Chad's

Over the Autumn Term, our Year 1 and 2 classes along with our Nurture provision the Ark have been working hard on improving our school environment and learning about conservation. They have enjoyed lessons in our outdoor area where they have been applying their maths, phonics and science skills. Year 2 have also enjoyed a residential at Delamere Forest, where they had chance to take part in a wide range of



exciting woodland activities. Together the children have planted 750 trees for a native hedge with another 750 being planted in the next week and 21 different fruit trees for our new orchard area. As a result of their fantastic work that we have achieved GOLD in the green tree awards.



Currently, our Year 3 and 4 children are continuing the project by working with local business Ingersoll Rand to create a science area around a disused pond, which will also be used by our local preschool. The children are working towards the John Muir Bronze Discovery Award for work exploring and improving a local area. Next term, our Year 5 and 6 children will be creating a reflection garden which can be used for outdoor worship time and RE lessons.