

Diocesan Education Newsletter

February 2017



Welcome to this February edition of our Diocesan Education Newsletter which features a variety of projects taking place in church schools across the Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses. Read on to discover more about:

Collective Worship Crusaders

Intergenerational projects

Prayer spaces

A message from the Director

Jeff Williams, Director of Education



Christmas may seem so far away now that we are all back into the swing and joys of improving children's life-chances, but the legacy of Christmas remains. In my case, it specifically relates to my challenge to share the message of the Zampognaro at every service I have led, every meeting I chair and training session I lead. If it's news to you, it's an interesting and good online read – and a wooden Zampognaro is here to borrow throughout the year.....

On a more personal level, the Christmas legacy relates to my reading: more Bear Grylls books! But I enjoy and share all he offers, as it is really inspiring. The down-side is that I've been sent online articles from a newspaper I wouldn't particularly read – but the item about his faith, how he prays each evening with his children and wife and before meals, is humbling and inspiring. I am clearly a card-carrying a member of Grylls' club if the membership criteria are applied – I quote him:

"My faith wavers every day. I get nervous talking about it. It's personal, it's a journey; but it's the glue to my life"

"I really, desperately have learnt in my life that I need my faith, and I'm just not strong enough on my own"

"I probably don't go to church enough, but my faith is a quiet, strong backbone in my life"

As we face a particularly changing and interesting year in terms of national and international politics, what roots and inspires us is even more important. And what challenges us, influences our decisions, For me, the whole Mental Health and Wellbeing agenda is so important and central to our values and responsibilities as Christian educators.

This will be a year of optional and aspirational offers from my team to support you and our children. The investment is critical: the impact and effect beyond measure of Ofsted and indicators – but will be something that has long term and permanent influence.

Every blessing and good wish for a productive and enjoyable term

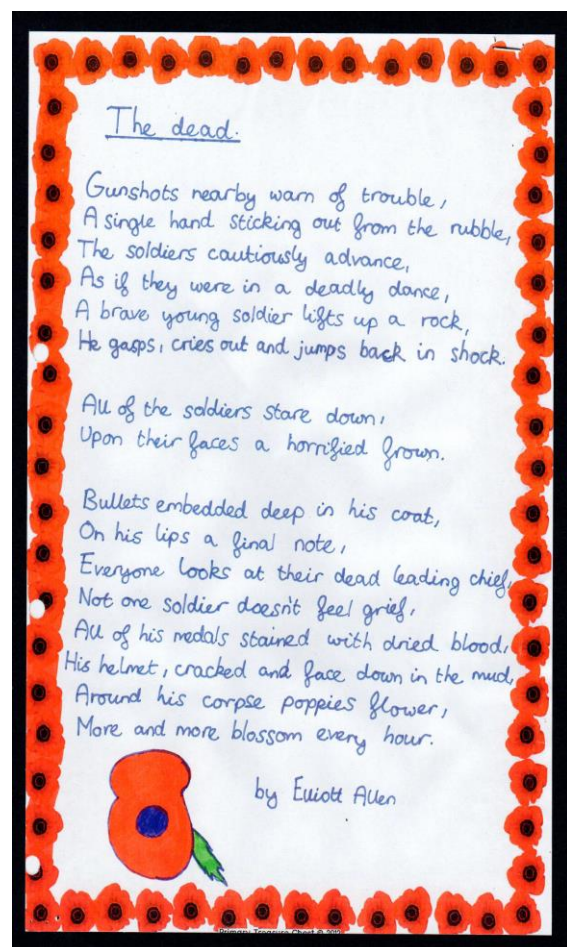
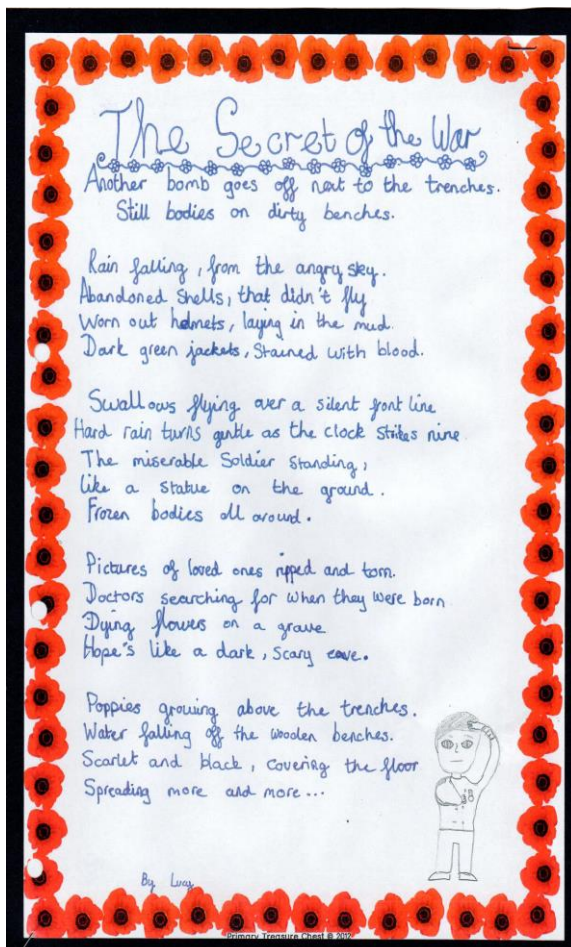
Jeff

Worship has dramatic effect on children

A moving and powerful worship has inspired children at a Bournemouth school to write amazing poetry. Children at St Luke's Church of England Primary produced the moving poems following a worship led by Retired Lieutenant Colonel J-P Hughes. Taking the children through the history of Remembrance day, the impact of war and the role of a humble soldier caught up in conflict, the worship had a profound effect on the children. Difficult topics were made accessible to pupils by clever use of artefacts. The children also had great fun dressing in full kit.

Children in Year 6 had already studied WW1 poems and had begun to draft their own, but J-P had other ideas. Following worship the children walked to the local war memorial in Winton for two minutes of silence. J-P then told them he was coming back a week later to see their final poems.

'The impact was amazing, the children were both excited and slightly nervous about meeting his expectations. The outcomes were superb and J-P's planned 30 minute visit lasted over 2 hours,' said headteacher Mark Saxby.



Prayer spaces bring beauty to St Columba

Children at St Columba C. of E. Primary Academy in Fareham are enjoying new prayer spaces created to develop spirituality and faith.

Following the Principal's attendance at a prayer spaces workshop, organised as part of the Fruit of the Spirit Conference in Winchester in the summer, the academy decided to try creating their own. The key aim was to enable children to explore their faith and spirituality by providing them with an opportunity for an encounter with God.

Utilising some of the great ideas on the internet – www.prayerspacesinschools.com – the children and staff set up a prayer space in the Academy running up to Christmas, covering four aspects of Christian prayer. Themes included thinking about how wonderful God is, saying sorry, saying thank you and asking for God's help.



The four spaces use different senses and activities, including drawing, modelling with dough, thinking quietly and writing a prayer. The RE link Governor and a church volunteer have spent some time in the prayer space with small groups of children from across the Academy visiting each space. 'You can reflect on things, not just bad things but also good things.' said Elissa in Year 6. Her thoughts were echoed by Aiden, Year 5: 'I think it is nice and calm and relaxing so that you can think about what is wrong and how you can change it.' 'It is nice and quiet where you can think about God,' said Ian, Year 5.

'My favourite space was the wonderful space because you could draw on a starfish or a shell and think about all the wonderful things God created,,' said Grace, Year 2.

‘Our first prayer space has been so successful that we plan to have different prayers spaces through the year, in different locations and with different themes within the Academy,’ said Principal Jane Hoggarth-Allen.

Diocesan Christmas card design winner

Connie Woodham was the winner of the Diocesan Christmas card competition 2016. The Diocesan offices were inundated with designs but it was the entry from St Alban’s Church of England School pupil Connie that caught everyone’s eye. Connie incorporated the nativity scene and a very prominent sheep which fitted the brief perfectly.

Director of Education Jeff Williams told Connie: ‘We were impressed with your design, incorporating the nativity scene and a very prominent sheep which is great because we are launching our ‘Ewe Matter’ project shortly. Your design included presents – which of course is important and fun, and reminds us of the greatest present at Christmas, God’s gift of His Son, Jesus. The vibrant colours of your design were noted by the printers, and also caught our eye.



Connie showing her winning design surrounded by her friends.

Two hundred and fifty cards were printed and sent to 160 schools across the Diocese. Others were delivered to politicians, councillors and Bishops.



The runner-up was Cameron Oliver from St Michael & All Angels Church of England School in Lyndhurst (pictured above) with a bold picture of a sheep on a hillside. The hundreds of entries were varied and interesting. The cards will be put on display in the Diocese offices, as well as Winchester and Portsmouth Cathedrals and at The Priory in Christchurch next July at the Year 6 leavers services, when our fibre-glass decorated sheep will be a prominent feature, as part of the Diocesan 'Ewe Matter' project.

Collective worship crusaders

Children at an Alton school are leading the way in Collective Worship.

The 'Collective Worship Crusaders' at St Lawrence CE Primary School regularly meet Mrs Micklefield, the Deputy Head, and express their feelings about Collective Worship in the school. They explore issues such as how children can be more involved, how to celebrate specific festivals, class prayer corners and which charities to support.



The Crusaders recently voted to support “Toilet Twinning” <http://www.toilettwinning.org/>. The group talked to classes about the charity, explaining that they wanted to try and twin some of the school toilets with toilets in another country to help those in desperate poverty to have access to a proper latrine, clean water and the information they need to be healthy. The school raised £240 to twin 4 toilets in Uganda, Malawi, Guatemala and Liberia.

The school, which holds a Fair Trade Aware Award, has also appointed Fair Trade Ambassadors. These children meet to discuss how the school can promote Fair Trade in school and the local community. During Advent the children worked Fair Trade Parish of the Resurrection representative, Jo McGregor, to create a school order of Fair Trade Advent calendars. The Fair Trade Ambassadors aim to continue to develop the message of Fair Trade and put in an order for Real Easter Eggs at Easter!

See a later article to discover how the school has joined in with intergenerational projects being encouraged by the Winchester Diocese.

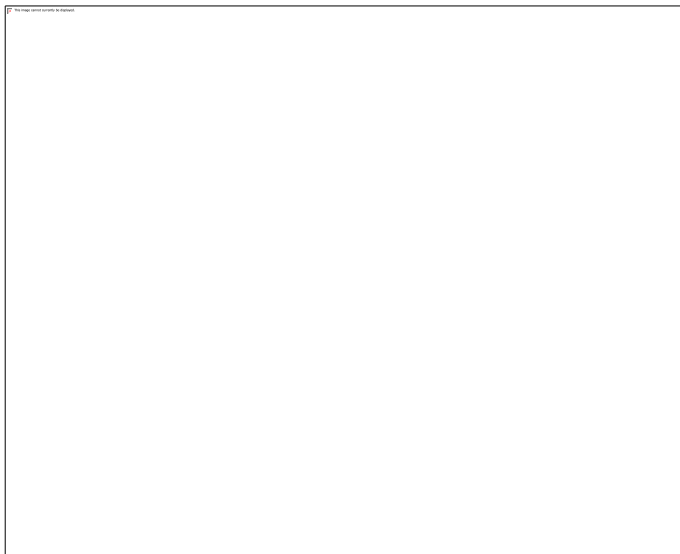
Intergenerational projects celebrated and shared

A Diocesan project to bring older and younger people in communities together is gathering momentum with more and more schemes springing up across the area.

Bishop Tim welcomed headteachers, members of the clergy, pioneer ministers, parish and community workers to Wolvesey to celebrate intergenerational work being carried out across the diocese and to investigate the impact on young and old alike.

A myriad of projects were celebrated from Lego clubs to woodwork designing, from memory days to tea dances. All the activities, happening in schools, churches and community centres, are designed to bring older people and the young together. The gifts each generation can offer each other were shared. Headteachers quoted older people who said that activities had brought them out of their homes into contact with children, they had made new friends and had shared their lives and skills with others. Children spoke of their fascination when hearing the memories of the older people. They had learnt new skills like cooking and knitting and had made unexpected new friends in the local community.

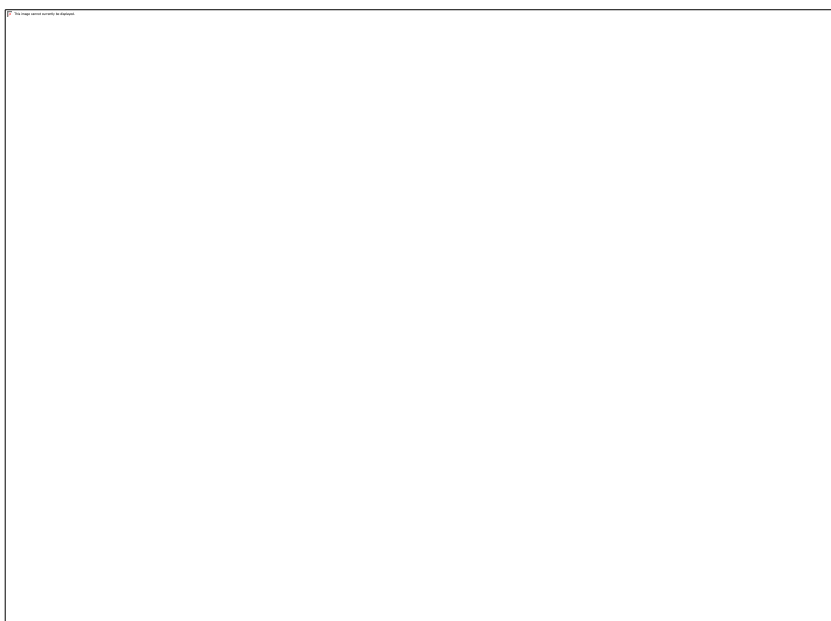
Following worship and a celebration of the work already being carried out, the group went on to plan and discuss future projects. These included joint work on mosaics, labyrinths and posadas. The ideas are to be distributed to schools and parishes.



Children joined older people to share memories and afternoon tea at Wolvesey at the launch of the intergenerational project.

A group of Year 5 children from St James Primary School in Southampton were met by Bishop Tim. Following a tour of the palace, the children work with a group of older people from the local community to find out about life in the past. Subjects ranged from school days to life in the war and the sinking of the Titanic.

The children sat enthralled as the older member of the community brought history to life – all in the historic surroundings of the Bishop’s library.



The culmination of the project was an opportunity for the children to visit St Mary’s Football Stadium in Southampton where they delivered presentations for the older people about what they had learnt. The presentations celebrated memories and childhood.



It is hoped that the project, led by the Saints Foundation and supported by the City Chaplaincy and the Diocese of Winchester, will be one of many to develop relationships between older and younger member of the community in an often fractured society.

The children were treated to a stadium tour, prizes and a talk with Lawrie Mcmenemy, Captain of Saints between 1973 and 1985.



Free Course for Governors

Governors are invited to attend free courses focussing on their role in a church school. 'The Role Of Governance In A Church School' courses are available to anyone with a governance role in a church school, from foundation governors to staff and directors. The courses will explore some of the additional responsibilities of church school leadership such as:

Church School Foundation and Trust Deeds

Buildings, land and staffing

Christian ethos

SIAMs inspections

The courses are free of charge and will be held at St Mark's Church of England School, Basingstoke on Tuesday 21st March from 4pm to 6pm and at Bitterne Primary School, Southampton on Tuesday 2nd May from 4pm to 6pm .To book a place follow the appropriate link

[Tuesday 21st March 2017 4-6pm \(St Mark's Hatch Warren, Basingstoke\)](#)

[Tuesday 2nd May 2017 4pm-6pm \(Bitterne CE Primary Southampton\)](#)

Books bring older and younger people together in Alton

Members of Year 6 from St Lawrence Primary School in Alton have joined the Library Club for older members of the community at Alton library for a peaceful read. The children took along books they were reading to share. Several books, like The Hobbit and Goodnight Mister Tom, had been read by Library Club members too. The age of those present ranged from 10 to 108 years old!

Everyone spent time chatting about their lives and listening to each other's stories, two recited poems and Bob (aged 108) talked briefly about metaphors. The children told them what they were reading and recommended some of their books to the older people.

Members of the Library Club said they were impressed by the types of books they were reading which
plays



included
by

Shakespeare and thrillers, and the confidence of the children.

Chaplain Helen Jesty has worked with the school to encourage intergenerational links with the children visiting residential homes in the local area too. 'Everyone agreed that this was a wonderful start and the link between the school and Library Club should be developed. There was so much that everyone gained from each other.' She said.

Last chance to buy your sheep

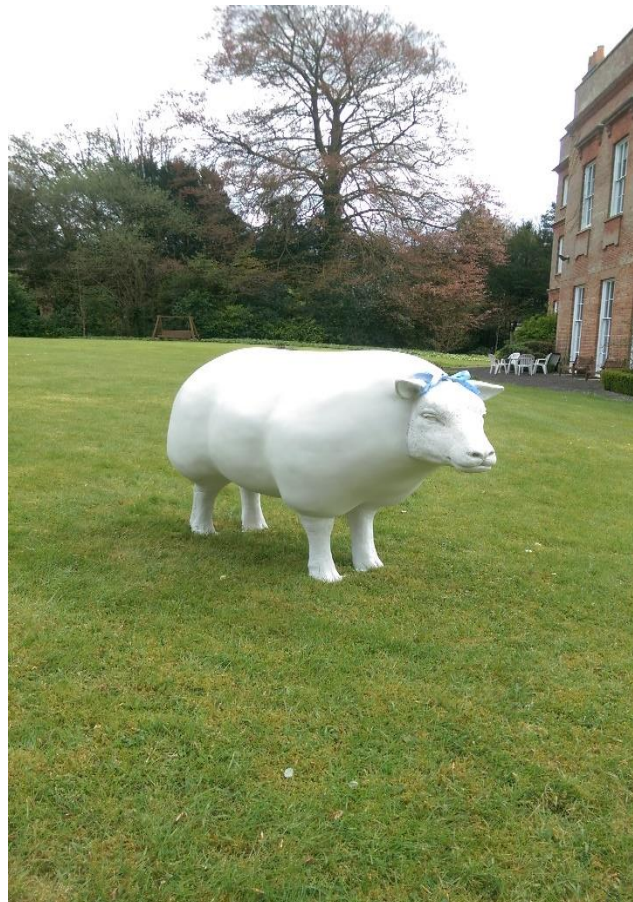
You may remember from previous editions of our Diocesan Education newsletter, along with information at our area briefings, that this year we will be launching 'Ewe Matter'.

The project will be similar to Marwell's 'Zany Zebras', the 'Cow Parade' in Cannes and Bristol's 'Shaun the Sheep' statues, and we have been asking if Church of England Schools in the Dioceses of Portsmouth and Winchester would like to take part in this fun project featuring fibreglass animals. Schools will be able to purchase a sheep, and then work as a team over the spring term to design and decorate it, with the finished article accompanying their Y6 class to the Leavers' Services at the two cathedrals in the summer term. Alongside this work pupils can take part in sheep-themed activities, both for fun and linked to the curriculum, from learning about the symbolism to exploring the meaning of sheep in the bible.

We invite all schools to purchase one (or several) of the fibreglass sheep at a cost of £181.32 including VAT and delivery direct to your school

If you would like a sheep or have any queries please email

julie.stirling@portsmouth.anglican.org



28 Years Of Service

Liz Hodson retired last week, after moving to part-time for the previous year, and having worked in Portsmouth Diocese, and then the joint education team for a total of 28 years. We wish Liz a happy retirement. Practical arrangements regarding points of contact for SIAMS and Foundation Governors will be shared with colleagues shortly.