



**Diocesan Education Team Project 2021-22
Celebration Edition**

Our Vision : Deeply Christian, Serving The Common Good



Introduction

Our annual project is embraced by the most creative and inspirational teachers and school leaders across our dioceses. We offer ideas and 'off the shelf' plans in our detailed project booklet each year, but what brings me joy, is seeing how schools go further and deeper.

Parishes increasingly join in with the great opportunities our projects offer for developing, embedding and enhancing the link with school-home-church. Thank you for all you are doing.

Each year we produce a celebration Newsletter to share some of the ways our schools have developed the project. The photos and stories in this edition are wonderful – sometimes humbling, often amazing, typically excellent.

Our project culminates in the Year 6 Leavers' services at the Cathedrals and Priory, but as you'll read and see, schools have been embracing the project for months in advance. For the first time since the pandemic, over 4,000 children attended our days of workshops and worship in person – and everyone made the most of it, enjoying themselves in the sunshine.

Four of our bishops worshipped and inspired the children, marking the end of the Diocesan Education Team's **TenTen#flourishing** project which this year focussed on developing spiritual wellness in school communities. The project title was derived from John's Gospel chapter 10 verse 10 where Jesus tells us: ***I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.***

Children and adults in our schools spent the past year learning, worshipping, praying and meditating in the great outdoors to support positive mental wellbeing. The project drew on contemporary research that shows being involved with nature improves child and adult mental health. At the same time, it was a project that focussed on ancient Christian traditions when sacred places and practices were often outside. Many of our schools created outdoor spiritual spaces and prayer gardens that will be used and appreciated by their local communities for years to come.

The ideas in the Project Booklet can continue to be used, both in our Church Schools, but also with community schools where our parishes engage. Do take a look if you aren't familiar – this and lots of free resources are on our Diocesan websites.

Next year's project will be launched shortly. But if you want a taster, we are using Desmond Tutu's reconciliation theology as a basis – clearly not 'go-to' reading for children, but what will appear in our podcasts, videos and project in age-appropriate, inspirational and exciting activities and opportunities. Watch this space for more on our 2023 project '**Everyday Ubuntu : Growing & Developing Together**'



My thanks and admiration for all you do and are

Jeff

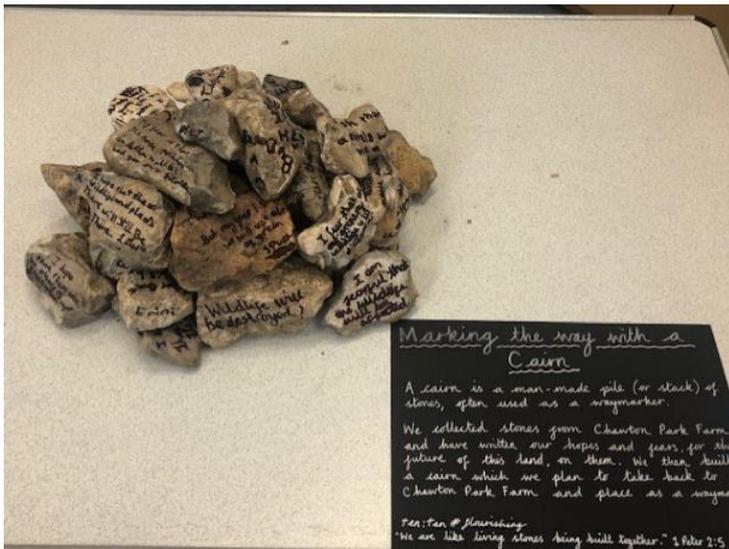
Slowing life down at Chawton

Chawton Church of England Primary School embraced the TenTen#flourishing project with children and staff getting involved in a host of school and community projects.

Pupils planted a sunflower house on land given by the Parish Council and now used for Forest School sessions. Some sunflowers have grown this year and the house is starting to take shape.

As part of the school's interest in the proposed Chawton Park Farm development, children walked to the proposed site and took lots of photographs of the beauty that would be lost if building were to go ahead.

Each child collected a stone from the site and took it back to school to write on. The messages were either of thankfulness to God for the beautiful space or children's worries if the development goes ahead.



The stones have been placed on the proposed site in a cairn to show respect and thankfulness for the land. Children hope that other people will see these and add their messages of support.

Children practised synchronised breathing as part of developing mindfulness strategies.

All pupils also got involved in researching and designing a spiritual garden for the school.



The children wanted grass, lots of plants to tend to, look at, smell and touch - as well as quite a few that they could eat!

They also wanted a cross shaped planter to reflect the school's Christian ethos and a chance to enjoy the sound of trickling water to remind them of Jesus as the water of life. The beautiful garden now has a solar powered water feature, as well as solar powered lights. It is a place of peace and relaxation for all to enjoy.



Seeking inspiration

Children at Romsey Abbey Church of England Primary School used Psalm 23 as the inspiration to design their new reflection and wellbeing garden, starting something truly special at the school.

The children have also been inspired by visitors to the school, including Paralympic gold medallist, Aaron Phipps and missionaries working in Uganda and Liberia.



The school now has a team of eco warriors who oversee the 'grounds for growth' planting activities and children have worked with the community to plant an orchard in the nearby churchyard.



A calm and thought provoking place

Children at Vernham Dean Gillum’s Church of England Primary School put great thought into the 10:10 verse and thought about what would support them to flourish and would promote emotional health and well-being. They decided on a spiritual garden. The children said:” We thought of all the things we felt the area would need and really wanted it to link to our school Christian values of compassion, courage and creativity. We thought also of the Spirituality themes; Self, beauty, beyond and wonder, as well as things that help us feel calm and reflective.”



They turned this.....

Into this.....



In their presentation at the leavers service in Winchester Cathedral, pupils said: "We put words of reflection and motivation on to pebbles which we can look at and hold. These will be placed in our spiritual area. When we are feeling a bit uncertain, we can look at the quotes to help us have positive thoughts. It is a quiet place to sit and reflect on our own or with friends.

We planted lavender for its beautiful calming scent and marigolds because they are bright and golden like the sun, which makes us smile. This is the reading shed, used to read for pleasure and share books with our friends, to teach others how to read and gain knowledge."

Developing spirituality through art

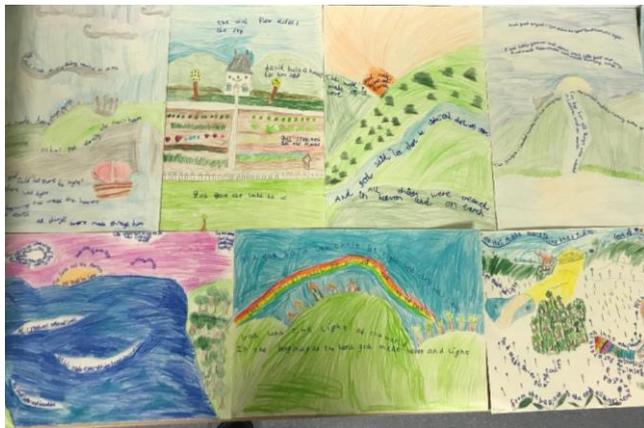
Below is a collection of artwork inspired by the 10:10#flourishig project and created by children at St James Church of England Primary School, West End.

Year 2 children created 'Colours of Creation' leaves.

These were used to write prayers for forgiveness, gratitude and positive aspirations.



After visiting the school's Remembrance Garden, year 3 pupils created their own tactile labyrinths from materials around the school. The labyrinths were then used to promote meditation and self-regulation.



Year 4 created artwork in the style of Christian artist Hannah Dunnett. The children painted a scene and added biblical text to explain their imagery.

Year 6 explored the meaning of flourishing by creating their own versions of Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh. This gave the children the opportunity to add their own reflections and questions about the universe.



The school's environmental area will soon become an outdoor cathedral with help of some local artists and the school's new Hope Weaver's Project.

Painting a rainbow of hope

Children at St Lawrence Church of England Primary school used the symbol of the rainbow in the story of Noah as the inspiration for the transformation of their spiritual garden.



The pots show the words children chose to demonstrate the words of John 10:10.



The children said: “The beautiful flowers remind us of a Creator God who wants us to enjoy and love His world with no limits. The bug hotel – reminds us to show respect to all God’s living creatures – however big or small Our Spiritual garden is a place of peace and tranquillity; where we can pray or just ‘be’. We had a Sunflower Day to raise money for the Ukrainian refugees and we planted seeds. Now we are able to show love and friendship to our new Ukrainian friends in our school.”



Ukrainian friends

Longparish Church of England Primary School also recognised events happening in the Ukraine during their work on the Ten:Ten#flourishing project. Children produced a special flower to symbolise the war – bringing together a recognition of its sadness alongside prayers of hope. The flower’s petals were creatively made from newspaper cuttings focusing on Ukrainian refugees. The children



said: “We used black and white newspapers to show lack of colour in these places, and the key words from the headlines to highlight the sadness, horror and grief. The stamens represent blood spilled and the flower is slowly dying’.

Wellbeing workshops

Wellbeing workshops have begun at William Gilpin Church of England Primary School where pupils learn to live in the present and take time for themselves. Taking part in a variety of different mindful activities, children learnt how to concentrate on themselves and being present in the moment, ending each day in a positive and happy way

They are a chance for children to invest in their mental health and physical and mental wellbeing. The school has started a Wellness Wanderers Club where children enjoy a run or walk around the large school field. This can be a fast run or more of a sensory wander – there are worksheets and clipboards for pupils to use and some children chose to sketch as they walk. Other activities include ball skills and dancing to different music in the hall – concentrating on the beat, always ending on a mindful visualisation activity.



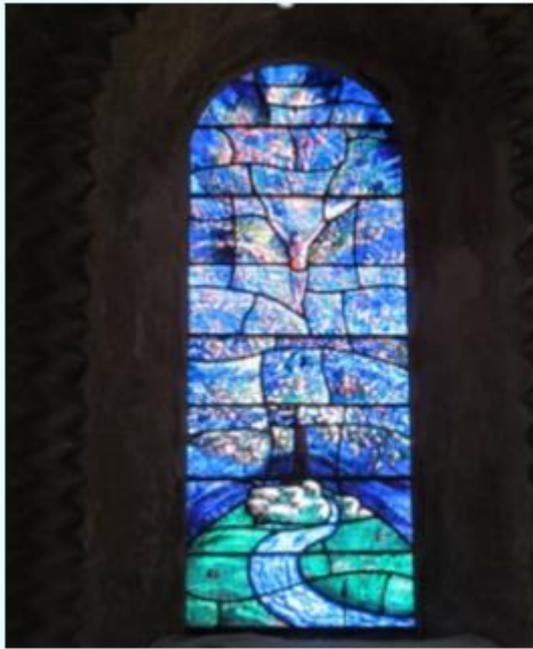
Newtown Church of England Primary School is working with its local community to develop a spiritual garden containing bee friendly plants. Children often learn outside as part of the curriculum.

Looking closely

Children at The Bay School on the Isle of Wight have become increasingly committed to caring for the world. The school in Sandown has a large group of dedicated eco-champions, who organise the recycling of paper; recycle pens and pencils; collect litter on the playground and weed and maintain the school's wildlife garden.

Presenters from the school's eco-team presented at one of the Portsmouth Cathedral services. "We took part in the Ten:Ten#flourishing project, with the theme of 'leave no trace'.

Over the week, Year 6 explored different aspects of nature, with a focus on taking the time to look closely at nature, creating things using nature and working as a team. In all our activities, our aim was to 'leave no trace' i.e. we will create and do without wasting nature's resources.



We collected some natural resources and made some nature sculptures. When we finished, we returned everything to its natural state.

We designed and created 'tree' stained glass windows. We also copied and created our own labyrinths, we invited Year 5 children to try them out.



At Portsmouth Cathedral, often referred to as the cathedral of the sea, children from St Jude's Church of England Primary School spoke of their appreciation of the area in which they live and how the beauty of God's world calmed and inspired them.



Children created their own fish 'pebbles' and thought about how they are all special and important to God. The pebbles were placed in the prayer garden to create a river as a lasting reminder of this.

The space is now used daily to enhance RE sessions, increase wellbeing and give everyone time for relaxation.

Bugs are welcome to stay at Emsworth



Students from Chichester University, helped to create nature walk at St James Church of England Primary School in Emsworth. As well as providing an area of relaxation for the children, bugs are also welcomed to the site to stay in the bug hotel.

Children can also enjoy the new relaxing reading area.



One pupil commented: "In class, we have been working on friendship and our mental health. It is a big part of our school to be kind and treat others how you want to be treated. We have been working on giving each other space and not following people when you have had a disagreement with them and treating them fairly and with respect."

Children from the federation of Shalfleet and Yarmouth Church of England Schools on the Isle of Wight show their boundless creativity in making flowers by recycling paper and fabric



Year 6 children at Lockerley Primary School creating recycled flowers ahead of their visit to Winchester Cathedral. Some were supported in knitting flowers from donated wool, while others used the school's vast Beano collection to create origami-inspired flowers.

Newly built Ten:Ten#flourishing canopy

The Christian Values Team at Horndean Church of England Junior School used this year's diocesan education project to look at the value of respecting and looking after the environment and began researching the different properties of plants.

Every class now has 3 different house plants which are used to help us focus the children on their mental health. During their cathedral presentation, one pupil outlined the benefits: "In our class, we have - Aloe Vera which has healing properties, a Spider Plant which helps purify the air and we also have a Cactus which helps reduce some pollutants. We did lots of research to decide which house plants would help us flourish the most."



The school has a prayer garden, used as a quiet place where anyone can go to reflect or talk to God and a friendship bench which is used for children who feel alone and need somebody to talk to. The children are delighted with their newly built Ten:Ten#flourishing canopy which will be used for learning and wellbeing. It is designed as a peaceful space for learning and thinking and will help children flourish outdoors. It is just awaiting its Ten:Ten#flourishing logo for the roof. "It will be nice to learn in a different environment and it will be peaceful," said Oscar, Year 4 .



Children at St Albans Church of England Primary School in Havant have a long tradition of working on eco projects, notably pollination. Their desire to be 'seeds of hope' was used by Bishop Jonathan in his talk to the children at Portsmouth Cathedral. He asked everyone to go to their Secondary schools as seeds of hope for the future.



Local businesses, the Mud Island Garden Centre and Barnaby's Coffee shop, donated money and plants to help create a new bee garden at Swanmore Church of England Primary School. The children designed the garden as a place to enjoy nature and appreciate God's creation in a relaxed environment.



Children at Froxfield Church of England Primary School created a tree of flourishing.





Children in year 6 at Long Sutton Church of England Primary School ‘called in the cavalry’ and asked their friends in Reception to help them transform part of the school grounds into a place of relaxation.

“We hope that our legacy is that we have created a space where other children from our school can go and take time away from the bustle of daily life, to be renewed and refreshed by God’s creation, even after we have moved on to our new schools,” they said.

Relaxing at the beach

The beach provides an area of relaxation and retreat for the hardworking pupils at Milford on Sea Church of England Primary School. Below is some of the art work completed as part of their Ten:Ten#flourishing project.





The Daffodil Project



In October 2021, the Year 6s at Whitchurch Church of England Primary School planted over 1000 daffodil bulbs in the school allotment. The children enjoyed getting outside and working with their hands on a collaborative project. The flowers were later sold as mother's day gifts to families.

"Getting outdoors and doing some gardening or even just playing outside makes you feel happy and relaxed. The daffodil project has inspired us all to get outside and have some time out of the classroom and in the sunshine," said the children.



These photographs show the prayer tree at St Mary's Church of England Junior School, Old Basing. It was inspired by the children's work studying the Tree of Life. Children created prayers, laminated them and hung them for everyone around school to read and be inspired by.



Cathedral services mark the end of the project

Nine services were held for children leaving church Primary schools this year, with an extra service being offered at Portsmouth Cathedral due to the popularity of the events. Four different bishops led the services, all of which were held in glorious sunshine.

Children enjoyed a host of workshops at Winchester and Portsmouth Cathedrals, Christchurch Priory and Romsey Abbey before taking part in interactive services. The workshops included making prayer pyramids, labyrinths, gargoyles and Lego structures, as well as a special coronation workshop to mark Jubilee year. Children also enjoyed singing masterclasses with the music master at Pilgrims School, Winchester and at the Portsmouth Cathedral choir school. Below are some images captured from the special days, marking the end of the children's time at their church Primary schools and the Ten:Ten #flourishing project.







Children enjoyed the workshops and the worship, with many of them visiting a cathedral for the first time. Kristina Douch, from Horndean Church of England Junior School, said: "I enjoyed designing a Labyrinth, which really fun. It's also quite cool that we got to learn about the cathedral being the cathedral of the sea." Summer Chambers, 11, from Newport Church of England Primary School, said: "I liked the Lego challenge, but it was quite hard, as your partner had to tell you how to build it, and use words instead of showing you a diagram. I also liked the tour of the cathedral - I got to see lots of things I wouldn't see on the Isle of Wight."

A group of students from nearby Ark Charter Secondary Academy helped a host of cathedral volunteers at Portsmouth to support and guide the younger pupils in the morning workshops. Abbie Rist, Sarah Barbacaru, Dylan Valentine and Honey Kakabira from Years 8 and 9 were chosen by their Heads of Year for their mature attitude to their school work to act as role models for the Year 6 children.

The services, all of which included presentations and prayers led by pupils, were based on the Parable of the Sower. Children were asked by the bishops to continue with their work on building a more empathetic and ecologically aware world and to be 'seeds of hope' as they moved on to their next school. To demonstrate this, Bishop Jonathan threw seeds across Portsmouth Cathedral, delighting the children as they were showered with sunflower kernels.



He kept his promise to the children to sweep up afterwards!



Each child attending one of the services was asked to bring a flower made out of recycled materials. The variety of blooms that arrived was breathtaking and included flowers made from old comics, newspapers, maps, old washing up sponges and plastic bottles. Here are just a few examples:





Children at Compton Church of England Primary School studied particularly 'lush' full-petaled flowers including rose and peonies. They used examples of school work from this year to create layers of petals, plus old stud earrings for the centres. Each flower was carefully placed into a bag into which the children have placed their choice of finely-torn lavender, geranium or mint.





Children from church schools in the Bournemouth area enjoyed their leavers service at Christchurch Priory. The Parable of the Mustard Seed was the focus of the talk in their service.



The children heard how, from seemingly small, insignificant beginnings great things can grow and bear fruit if you follow Jesus and the values that He taught. Activities held outside in glorious sunshine included making clay gargoyles, cairns, weaving and making pictures using natural resources. There was even an ice cream van!

Special service for church infant schools



Seven Church of England infant schools within the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocese do not feed directly into a church junior school. In keeping with tradition, Year 2 children in these schools enjoyed a special leavers service of their own in Romsey Abbey. This year each school brought a piece of 3D art work made from recycled materials and the children talked about how caring for the environment helps us all to flourish within God's creation. The children love exploring the majestic building. Afterwards the teachers reported that the children were 'filled with awe and inspiration'.

Special presentation

The West Hampshire branch of Good News For Everyone! (formerly The Gideons) offered copies of the New Testament and Psalms to children attending the Year 6 services. The books are traditionally offered to pupils when the organisation visits schools, but for the first time, boxes of the books arrived at the cathedrals for children – providing a special gift for them to take home.

Here are some reflections from children at All Saints Church of |England Primary School, Winchester, on their leavers service :

‘It was a really enjoyable day, with a chance to learn new skills and relax with our friends, reflecting back on our time at primary school. It was lovely to see friends from other schools as well.’

‘Whilst it was nerve-racking reading the prayer in such a huge space in front of so many people, once I was reading, it was fine because we were representing our school in such a good way. It was an honour to take part and to show how much we have grown up and developed in confidence since Year R.’

‘As we walked the banner down the aisle, it was so lovely as people were saying nice comments about our flag, such as well done, we like your banner, it’s lovely!’



‘It was such a lovely thought to know that when we are no longer at the school, other Year 6 children will experience the same event as we did.’

‘Making our flowers was emotional as we know it was one of our last activities as a class together.’



The flowers made by all schools are being sewn and glued onto large hangings that will be displayed at venues around the Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses.

Three of the hangings will be hung in Portsmouth Cathedral in August.

Any organisation that would like to borrow one or more of the hanging can do so by contacting sue.bowen@portsmouth.anglican.org



A project booklet containing ideas and activities for the Ten:Ten#flourishing is available on this link:

[https://cofewinchester.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/Ten_Ten_flourishing_Project_Booklet - final with both RE SOWs O3EH51S.pdf](https://cofewinchester.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/Ten_Ten_flourishing_Project_Booklet_-_final_with_both_RE_SOWs_O3EH51S.pdf)

Useful contacts / further information

Books for Children:

The Promise, Nicola Davies

The Tin Forest, Helen Ward

Green Poems for a Blue Planet, Martin Kiszko

Finding Wild, Megan Wagner Lloyd

Get Your Boots On, Alex White

'The Day the Crayons Quit' -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=share&v=489micE6eHU&app=desktop>

'The Dot' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Clpw7PG7m1Q>

You've Got This – A mental health journal promoting positive thoughts, Steve Turner

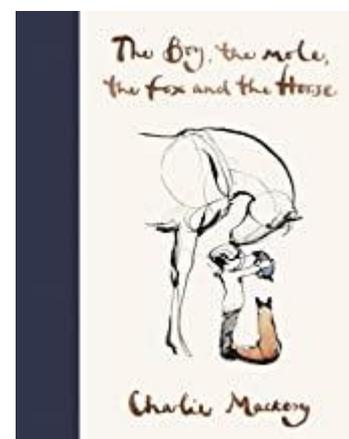
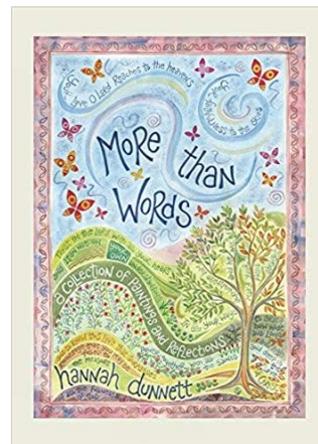
My Body Sends A Signal, Natalia McGuire

The Survivor Tree, Cheryl Somers Aubin

The Tell-Me Tree, Karen Inglis

The Tale of The Three Trees, Angela Elwell Hunt

The Proud Tree, Luane Roche



Books for Adults:

Wild Worship, Wild Lent and Wild Advent – 3 books by Rachel Summers

Soulful Nature, Brian Draper and Howard Green

Spiritual Intelligence, Brian Draper

Earthed in God : Four movements of spiritual growth, Christopher Chapman

Nature Spirituality – praying with wind, water, earth, fire, Mark G. Boyer

Saying Yes to Life, Ruth Valerio

Forest Church, Bruce Stanley

Think Like A Tree, Sarah Spencer

Stilling, Michael Beesley

Planetwise, Dave Bookless – book and resource pack

Sacred Space Sacred Place, Barnabas

Teaching Children the Magic of Silence and Stillness, Maggie Dent

Creating a Multi-sensory Spiritual Garden in your school, Shahne Vickery

Outdoor Worship: Engaging with God in his Creation, Sara and Sam Hargreaves

The Nature Fix: Why Nature makes us Happier, Healthier and more Creative, Florence Williams

The Man Who Planted Trees, Jean Giono

Websites:

<https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/13-outdoor-maths-activities-early-years-year-6-plus-bonus-ages/>

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/articles/maths-in-the-great-outdoors>

<https://www.planetdolan.com/15-beautiful-examples-of-mathematics-in-nature/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/resources/school-resources/>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/services-for-schools/mental-health-resources-for-schools/>

<https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/get-involved/get-involved-schools/school-resources>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/stories-and-features/primary-school-pupils-given-targeted-mental-health>

http://thesanctuarycentre.org/resources/creative_prayer_idea_wild_worship_field_guide.pdf

<https://engageworship.org/ideas/outdoor-worship-garden-prayer-stations>

<https://arochoa.org.uk/wildchristian/>

<https://thriveglobal.com/stories/19-must-read-books-to-help-kids-understand-their-emotional-and-mental-health/>

<https://childmind.org/article/best-childrens-books-about-mental-health/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/m/mental-health-awareness/>

Watch this space for our 2023 project.....

