

DBE Schools Bulletin

April - May 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



**'We hope this will be a time
celebrating God's love and
generosity, and making that love
known in our communities
and national life.'**

Archbishops of Canterbury & York

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Coronation & Conferences

It is incredible to think that we are now embarking on the summer term and a busy few months ahead. One key event that our schools will be looking to mark, as part of the wider community and church celebrations, is the King's Coronation. The Coronation will be a historic moment in the life of our nation, a time to reflect on our history, celebrate who we are and look to our future. At its centre is a Christian service in which His Majesty will be anointed as King. It will be rooted in longstanding tradition and Christian symbolism. We offer our prayers for King Charles III and the Royal Family for this important occasion. The Church of England hopes that this might be a moment for the nation and many around the world to encounter the person of Jesus Christ, the servant King, and hear His call to each of us to serve others. A range of resources have been created for use in schools leading up to the Coronation with details and the link on page 3.

Further in the month of May, we are hosting our second annual RE Leaders Conference. The event takes place at the Holiday Inn, Runcorn on Friday 26th May and is available to all staff, with a particular focus for our RE leads, senior leads, and early years teachers. We look forward to welcoming Gill Vaisey to speak to delegates on children's religious education and spiritual development, with a particular focus on the early years. There is also the opportunity to hear from Matthew Thompson from Liverpool Community Spirit who will be exploring how schools can provide authentic pupil encounters with people of diverse faith. Further details and a link to book tickets can be found on page 2.

Looking further ahead, we are pleased to be joining our colleagues from Liverpool Diocese in hosting a primary schools spirituality conference on Friday 23rd June in Warrington. Further details can be found on page 3

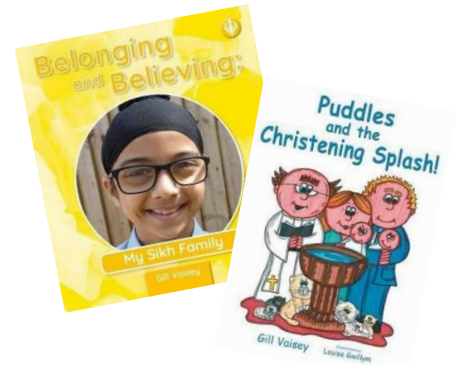
RE Leaders Annual Conference

We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker for the RE Leaders Conference on Friday 26th 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.

Gill's innovative approaches and development of novel and inventive resources that make learning more enjoyable and memorable for both practitioners and pupils will inspire you and your early years team.



Many of our children care passionately about animal welfare, and as we encourage them to be courageous advocates of change, they want to put faith into action, naturally wanting to care for the creation they see around them. We will also be hearing an update from a national research project on [Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare](#) that a number of Chester Church schools have been involved

in and the RE resources that will help our children to address what the Christian faith has to say on this important issue.

We close the day with our final key note speaker.

Matthew Thompson is the Founder and CEO of [Liverpool Community Spirit](#), the pioneering inter-faith education charity promoting better understanding of world faiths across the North West for the past 21 years. As we seek to re-establish important connections in a post-COVID world, Matthew will share his insights into planning authentic pupil encounters with people of diverse faiths. He will draw on his (33 years) experience of delivering faith encounters in schools across the North West and Wales.



Tickets to this inspiring event cost £150, with a reduced rate of £100 for subsequent bookings, so both RE and EYFS team can come together and share this quality CPD.

To book, please follow the link: [RE Leaders' Annual Conference tickets](#)

Coronation Resources



The Church of England Education Office are offering a number of resources for the new Coronation.

The resources include:

- A podcast of children's Coronation stories
- A resource pack for schools and assemblies
- Coronation colouring packs, arts and crafts and other resources

These will be available on the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org/coronation



If your school uses Prayer Spaces in Schools for reflection, they have a number of resources via their Home screen to support the Coronation.



This Friday's Picture News pack will be

all about the upcoming Coronation of King Charles III including collective worship guidance. As it's such a big event, they have decided to send this pack free of charge to all who would like to use it! The link to request the pack can be [found here](#).

Primary Schools Spirituality Conference



Join us on Friday 23rd June at the Smile Centre, Warrington for our joint Liverpool and Chester Diocese Primary Spirituality Conference!

We 'll be spending the day with Ali Rice exploring ways to develop a shared understanding of spirituality in a Church school setting. We 'll be thinking about:

- SIAMS & spirituality
- Spiritual development research
- How to develop a shared understanding of spirituality
- Spirituality through reflection spaces, collective worship & the wider curriculum
- Case Studies from schools exploring their practical journeys of developing spirituality

Ali Rice, an independent consultant supporting Church schools to flourish will lead the day. She is passionate about helping Churches and Church schools to work together to transform their communities. Most recently she has been supporting Church schools to explore their understanding of spirituality and how this can lead to spiritual flourishing for pupils and adults.

Tickets cost £120 including lunch and can be booked here: [Spirituality Conference tickets](#)

Unlocking Education for women

On Wednesday 15 March there was a wonderful day held in the Cathedral to raise awareness about all the girls in Afghanistan who are not able to go to school or university.

As part of the day a small group of girls and their mums from Overleigh St Mary's C of E Primary school read poems that they had written out loud across the Cathedral sound system. These families had come from Afghanistan and only joined the school in September with the girls having no English when they arrived. The girls wrote their poems in English and then they were translated into Farsi. Each line was read first by the daughter in English and then by their mum in Farsi. It was an inspiring day and really reflected the amazing nurture and work that the school has done for its Afghan community.



ما دختران افغان هستيم

We Are Afghan Girls

We are strong, ما قوى هستيم

We must be respected. بايد به ما احترام گذاشت.

We want to be educated, go to school. ما مي خواهيم تحصيل كنيم، به مكتب برويم

We enjoy working hard, ما از سخت كار كردن لذت مي بريم،

We are ambitious, ما پر حماسه هستيم

We deserve a future. ما لياقت آينده يي درخشان داريم

We will be teachers, doctors, engineers, journalists and pilots. ما معلم، داکتر، انجنير، روزنامه نگار و پيلوت خواهيم شد

We will go outside, ما بيرون ميشويم

We must be seen and heard. ما را بايد ديد و شنيد.

We should be free to be, بايد آزاد باشيم

Proud Afghan Girls! دختران پرغرور افغان!

Written by Proud Afghan Girls from Overleigh St Mary's Primary School



احساس خانه

Senses Of Home

Taste the biting spice of Biryani popcorn, تندى پاپ کورن بریانی را بچشید

Celebrating, giggling and laughter. جشن، تبسم و خنده

The special beans my father makes, لوبیای مخصوصی که پدرم میپزد

Cooking with love, filling with happiness. آشپزی با محبت، پر از شادی

Smell chai in delicate, flower painted glass, بوی چای در گیلان ظریف با نقش گل،

Overflowing memories of faces that held them. خاطرات پر از چهره هایی که آنها را در خود نگه داشته است.

Sweet sugar scent of jalebi, طعم شیرین جلیبی،

Delicious, hot and sticky. خوشمزه، گرم و چسبناک.

Feel the tender hold of my auntie's arms, چنگ زدن لطیف بازوهای عمه ام را احساس میکنم،

Squeezing, loving, belonging. فشردن، دوست داشتن، تعلق داشتن.

Softness, carefully chosen clothes for Eid, لباس های با دقت انتخاب شده برای عید

Rhythm of the drum beating as we dance. صدای طبله در حالی که می رقصیم.

Hear the echoing call to prayer, شنیدن انعکاس صدای آذان،

Reassuring, relaxing, comfortable. اطمینان بخش، آرامش بخش، راحت.

Noisy chatter, voices in every room, پر سر و صدا، صداها در هر اتاق،

Wrapping me with happiness. مرا با خوشی میپوشاند.

See the tableau of Muhammad's name, تابلوی نام محمد را ببینید

Melt my heart, peace, contentment. نرمش قلب آرامش و قناعت.

Sleeping surrounded by family, خوابیدن در گرد خانواده،

Safe, protected and warm. امن، محافظت شده و گرم.

Written by Proud Afghan Girls from Overleigh St Mary's Primary School

Originally expecting around 40 Afghan children from the Luton area in September 2022, a further 50 children from refugee camps in Pakistan also arrived meaning the school had over 90 children and their families to support. Immediately recognising the needs of the families, and not just the children, the St Mary's community mobilised into action. Clothes, toys and baby items were gathered from around the Chester area as the families had come to England with nothing. A toy library was set up, mother and toddler sessions offered and an amazing event held for families where Dr Waheed Arian shared his story as a refugee from Afghanistan to becoming a doctor in the UK. The support has continued with cooking classes, family events and the full integration of the children in the school supporting their learning. With many arriving with no English, the progress that they have made is amazing and so to hear their voices and those of their mums at the Cathedral event was both moving and inspiring.



Hope & Dreams امید و آرزوها

For Afghanistan برای افغانستان

We need for everyone: برای هر کسی نیاز داریم:

Peace, صلح،

Calm and happiness, آرامش و خوشحالی،

Free Education, excellent learning, تعلیم رایگان و آموزش عالی،

Respect, احترام،

Free from the ghost of fear, آزاد و عاری از ترس،

Eyes dry of tears, چشم های عاری از اشک،

No more hiding, دیگر پنهان نباشد،

Safety and work, حفاظت در کار،

Money, food, water and electricity for life. پول، غذا، آب و برق برای زندگی،

This is our hope for Afghanistan, این آرزو ما برای افغانستان است

Written by Proud Afghan Girls from Overleigh St Mary's Primary School



Hotel is our stepping stone to HOPE هتل یک مرحله از رسیدن به آرزو است

For Our New Life آغاز زندگی نو،

A home to welcome friends to visit, جامعه دارای خانه های مشترک،

A space to be quiet and still. همکار، بااحترام با دوستان جدید

A community of houses together, در مکتب مانند اورلی،

Helpful, respectful with new friends. با احتیاط، بیننده، معلمین مهربان

A school like Overleigh, آرام و خواب راحت،

Caring, watchful, kind teachers. فامیل خوشحال نازم.

Soft, gently sleeping, وسی اگر انتخاب ام بود

Warm family around me. عروسی اگر انتخاب ام بود

Married if I choose, کار، انتخاب من.

University, work, my choice. مشاهده و شنیده شده،

To be seen and heard, بین است آرزوی ما برای آغاز زندگی نو.

This is our HOPE for our New Life. نوشته شده توسط دختر های باافتخار افغان از مکتب ابتدایه اورلی

Written by Proud Afghan Girls from Overleigh St Mary's Primary School

Our gratitude goes to the girls for allowing us to share their poems and to Emma, the head for her amazing work.

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



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.

April, May & June 2023 CPD Courses.

Courses are listed on our [Ticket Tailor](#) site

Headteachers and Senior Leaders

Date	Month	Course	Location
w/c 15 th	May	Christian Leadership Course Presentations	
18 th	May	Headteachers Surgery	Zoom
24 th	May	Deputies & Assistant Headteachers' Briefing & Networking	Church House
9 th	Jun	Christian Leadership Course Submission of journals	
15 th	Jun	Admissions and Appeals for VA Schools and Academies for Governors & Headteachers	Zoom
15 th	Jun	New Headteacher Support - Taking distinctive schools forward - session 3	Church House
20 th	Jun	Headteacher wellbeing – group 1	Foxhill
23rd	Jun	Headteacher wellbeing – group 2	Foxhill

Recently Qualified or Early Career Teacher Programmes

24th	May	RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 3	Moreton Christ Church
tbc	Jun	Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 6	Christ Church, Moreton
20th	Jun	RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 4	Church House

Christian Distinctiveness (RE, Worship, Vision & SIAMS)

4 th	May	‘Drop In’ RE Surgery	Zoom
15 th	May	Governor Training - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)	Zoom
23 rd	May	Collective Worship Leads network	Zoom
26 th	May	RE Leaders' Annual Conference*	Holiday Inn
23 rd	Jun	Primary School Spirituality Conference	Smile Centre
26 th	Jun	Collective Worship in a Church School	Church House
27 th	Jun	Clergy with church schools network	Zoom

Governors

15 th	May	Governor Training - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)	Zoom
26 th	May	Chairs clinic and networking group	Zoom
13 th	Jun	CoG surgery	Zoom
15 th	Jun	Admissions and Appeals for VA Schools and Academies for Governors & Headteachers	Zoom
27 th	Jun	Clergy with church schools network	Zoom

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

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Summer			
Cluster Name	Chair / Agenda Contact	Date & Time	Venue
Chester		Thu 25 May 1.30pm	Overleigh St Mary's
Congleton/ Nantwich		Wed 14 June 1.30pm	tbc
Macclesfield		Thu 18 May 1.30pm	Bollinbrook
Northwich	Caroline Mackenzie	Mon 22 May 1.30pm	Frodsham
Rural Chester		Wed 17 May 1.30pm	Bickerton
Stockport/ Tameside	Vicki Hewitt-Lee	Mon 19 June 1.30pm	Stalybridge St Paul's
Trafford		Wed 14 June 10am	tbc
Warrington/ Halton		Tue 23 May 1.30pm	Church House
Wirral	Amanda Donelan	Fri 28 April	
Secondary Heads		Wed 14th Jun 1:30pm	Church House

Archbishops' Young Leaders – Free Webinars

Looking for a programme that supports pupils to develop courageous advocacy, leadership and character and to serve their communities? Come and find out more about the **Archbishops' Young Leaders Award** Programme through our free online sessions this term for both Primary and Secondary schools.



Free Twilight Webinars

Introduction to the Young Leaders Award

Introduction to the Young Leaders Award

Developing Leadership & Character Through Social Action

Primary KS1 & KS2

Tues 16th May, 4:00-4:45pm

Thurs 8th June, 4:00-4:45pm

Wed 5th July, 4:00-4:45pm

Secondary KS3

Wed 24th May, 4:00-4:40pm

Tues 13th June, 4:00-4:40pm

Secondary KS4/+16

Tues 9th May, 4:00-4:40pm

Wed 21st June, 4:00-4:40pm

Find out more and sign up at www.abyyt.com/events.

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
Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port) <i>[Chester]</i>	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE)	Wed 21 June 3:45pm	Overleigh St Mary's
	Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)		
Cheshire East South <i>[Congleton/ Nantwich]</i>	Fiona Pulle (Brereton)	Wed 21 June	Brereton
	Liz Ward (Wybunbury Delves)		
Cheshire East North, Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich) <i>[Macclesfield]</i>	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.)	Tue 20 June 4:00pm	Whitegate
	Michael Heathcote (Whitegate)		
Cheshire West & Chester (Rural) <i>[Rural Chester]</i>	Finola Jackson (Saughton CE)	Thu 15 June	Saughton CE
Stockport/Tameside	Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges)	Thu 22 June	St George's Hyde
Trafford	Natalie McLoughlin (St Annes Sale)	Thu 8 June 3.40pm	St Annes Sale
Wirral	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 for further information.

Contact the team.

DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

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mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
linda.boys@chester.anglican.org	Governance Officer & Administrator	07549 109590

News from Schools

Bebington St Andrews



At our school we have been joining in with 'Show The Love' for February. To show the love we have been making green hearts to symbolise our love for the world and to show we care about the future of the planet.

'Show The Love' is all about showing those in charge that we care about the world and want to make changes to combat climate change and the cost of living crisis. We spent time in worship considering how God had made humans to care for the world and the children talked about ways we could help the environment and teach others about respecting our beautiful

planet. The children have been learning about people who started with a small act to make a difference to the world. We reflected on how small acts can grow and grow and others may choose to follow the example until eventually many people can make a difference.

On Thursday 16th February, we had a 'Show The Love Day' and everyone wore green clothes or a green heart. The children brought in lots of hearts they had created in different ways and we will be sending photos of our green hearts to our local MP to show that we care about our world and want to make a difference.



Bidston

Eight children from Y5 and Miss Gartland took part in the 'Red Card for Racism' event at Tranmere Rovers, with Andy Haywood from The Wirral Deen Centre. They met Kane Hemmings who plays for TRFC. They are now the new Anti-Racism ambassadors for Bidston Village and will be organising activities and assemblies to raise awareness of racism and to help combat the issue.

We are so proud of five pupils from Year 3 for their courage, confidence and performance skills. They learnt "Walking my Iguana" by Brian Moses, added actions, practised hard and worked well as a team. We attended the Wirral Poetry Festival, where pupils from seven different primary schools performed poems in front of judges. Our team was judged to be in first place. It was an exciting occasion, which enabled them to enjoy performance poetry.



Bishops' Blue Coat High

Vision Building at Bishops'

At our school, we have been busy this term working with parents, governors, teachers, senior leaders, and our various church partners to develop a deepened understanding of our school vision and how it is expressed through the life of our school. Our vision is of course rooted in the Church of England's vision for education but we wanted to explore in greater depth the wider biblical context of John 10: 10 – "I came to give you life in all its fullness" – and what this means for our school in our particular context here in Chester. Through prayer, reflection, and discussion, we arrived at the view that the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who sacrifices himself for and who brings abundant life to his sheep, is a very relevant and resonant image for our lives as a school community.



We feel that the phrase 'life in all its fullness' can easily be misconstrued in quite a shallow way and so we are entering into a phase of CPD and discussion across the school to ensure that all of our stakeholders – our staff, our students and our parents – develop a deeper and more grounded understanding of what we mean when we refer to John 10: 10 as the central vision for our work with young people, an understanding that is rooted in this central image of Christ as the Good Shepherd. This process of vision building, and development is ongoing, but we are excited about the work we are doing collaboratively and through our partnerships to grow and deepen our understanding of what our core purpose is.

Guilden Sutton



Year 3 & 4 visited St. John the Baptist Church for their Easter Service led by Sarah Batchelor. Families walked down to church with us. We also had a whole school Easter service in which we thought about the symbolism of the cross and how Easter is celebrated around the world. Children read the Easter Story and prayers that they had written. It was lovely to finish off our spring term with an Easter coffee morning with our school

community altogether and to showcase the 'eggcellent' entries to our Easter Egg Competition.

To mark World Autism Acceptance week, members of the School Council planned and delivered a Collective Worship for the whole school. We were also very fortunate to have members of Maple Grove School come to visit to share what it is like to be autistic.



Halton St Mary's



In April St Marys in Halton said goodbye to our well-loved vicar – Tony.

The children, staff and parents of St Mary's have all benefitted from Tony's wise counsel and he has been a regular visitor to St Mary's school. Children love his Bible stories and the way he allows them to ask any questions they want about the stories he has shared. Just last term he led a 'baptismal service' for Year 2 and led a session for Year 4 looking at forgiveness, using the parable of the unforgiving servant as a starting point.

We gave him a good send off with a surprise assembly where we were able to look back over his life - sharing photos of his many achievements. The whole school went to St Mary's church and celebrated our final worship session with him.

He has served the community for over 13 years and we are all so sorry to see him go.

Kingsley St John's

Our school have taken part in the Letters for Creation project and shared our work alongside the Gaia exhibition at Chester Cathedral. It has been a privilege for our school.

Within our curriculum, we ensure that we learn about ourselves as a global Child of God. Our partnership with other church of England schools is vitally important to who we are and what we do.

It is part of our strategic School development plan, this year, to harness and nurture the challenge for our children to be the best that they can be and support them in their courageous advocacy.



have been celebrated widely within our school family.

It also supported our journey towards our Silver accreditation as a Rights Respecting School. Understanding children's rights as a global citizen is a key area of our learning and through taking part in the Letters for Creation project, we were able to explore some of the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our contributions to the display alongside Gaia,

Marple All Saints



All Saints' C of E Primary School, Marple enjoyed a fantastic Easter Experience for our KS2 children at our local All Saints' Church which was transformed into First-Century Jerusalem.

The Easter Experience was a guided and interactive re-telling of the wonderful story and message of Easter. KS2 children took a journey back through time, to step into the story and experience the events that happened in the last week of Jesus' life KS2 to experience this amazing moment in history and explore how Christianity was born.



In school, families got creative for our annual Eggstravagaza competition and the whole school also had fun during a very eggciting Easter Bunny Run with chocolate eggs!

The week culminated in an eclectic Easter Service comprising of: songs, drama, prayers, poems, Art and dances where all our families came together to celebrate the joy of Easter.

Moreton Christchurch



Our school ethos group have been working hard this term to set up a prayer pod on the back playground for the children in school to use. The children designed the pod themselves, and helped to put in orders using the RE budget. There are resources to support the children experience a quiet time of reflection—including prayer stones, Bibles, cushions and potted plants! The ethos group dedicate their time during playtimes and lunchtime to model prayers for their peers and to pray for their friends.

In March, the ethos group and their teachers and attended a weekend residential trip called Wirral School Ventures with CPAS. This brought together groups of children from four Wirral Diocesan schools who had a great weekend at Barnstondale learning more about Jesus. All children had a wonderful time reflecting, being active and making relationships with others.



Mottram

We have gone composting crazy at our school!

On Monday 27th March 2023, a wonderful team from Permanent Education came to our school and taught us all about composting. We took part in three activities to help build our composting knowledge. Firstly, we built a garden using natural materials. Then we made a miniature composting jar using our fruit and vegetable peelings and finally, we investigated what we could put in our compost bins. As we begin our composting journey, our aim is to reduce waste and produce our own compost to use on the school allotment.



Oxton St Saviours



We have recently had to say goodbye to one of our long standing devoted governors Miss Judith Parry. She decided, when her term of office ended on 23rd March 2023, she would not be returning as a Foundation PCC governor.

At our last full governors meeting held in March we presented Miss Parry with a gift and flowers to thank her for her commitment, friendship and for the support she has given to the school over the last twelve years.

At our Easter Church Service which was attended by children, staff and parents, Miss Parry was presented with a gift from the community to also say thank you and show their appreciation for her time as a governor at our school. She will be greatly missed.

Saighton



Last month, we had a memorable visit from Bishop Mark Tanner. Who would have thought that his chosen mode of transport would be a motorbike? Despite a week of challenging weather, the sun shone when Bishop Mark joined our school community for a prayer walk and during the special outdoor worship, he blessed Tilly along with our much loved hens.

We were delighted to welcome Springs Dance, a professional team of ballet dancers, to Saughton. They worked with each class to help choreograph our Easter performance. The children found that dance was a fantastic way to explore the Easter story and the many emotions, themes and messages contained within.



We were given a late opportunity, joining Hoole and Chester Bluecoat, to take part in an exciting residential organised by School Ventures. The children were invited to Barnstondale as detectives to solve The Case of the Empty Tomb, drawing on material from Luke's Gospel. The children had a wonderful time and this unique experience encouraged a greater understanding of the world and themselves.

The whole school took part in a very special Easter fundraiser organised by the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. The children loved hopping, skipping and jumping in their super cute bunny ears. We were delighted to have raised over £1000 for this brilliant local cause.

Tilston



On Friday 17th March, our whole school, including parents showed their support by collectively running a sponsored marathon relay and helped to raise over £1600 for The British Heart Foundation. This is a charity close to our hearts after helping to treat Ralph (Y3) who was diagnosed with a heart problem when he was a baby. After years of monitoring, tests and treatment to help him, Ralph's heart is now beating in a normal way!

Our whole school community came together to celebrate the wonderful care Ralph and his family received and to help other families facing the same challenges.

A great example of our school family encouraging one another and building each other up!



Witton Church Walk



Witton Church Walk C of E Nursery and Primary School enjoyed taking part in an Easter walk exploring the events of Easter Week. The children started their walk by celebrating the arrival of Jesus cheering "Hosanna". The children then explored the thoughts and feelings of the disciples during The Last Supper before reflecting on the great gift of Jesus' sacrifice.

During our Easter service at St. Helens church the children retold the events of Easter Week by proudly presenting their decorated eggs and confidently sharing their reflections with our school community. The children reflected on their role of sharing God's love in the way that Jesus

taught us.