

# *"Shine Like Stars in the Universe"* with the **Worship Times**



Welcome to the first edition of **Worship Times**,  
written and produced by  
the Sparsholt C of E Primary School's Pupil Worship Team.

**Worship Times** is distributed to all pupils, parents,  
friends, governors and to the  
Worshipping Community of the  
Downs Benefice.



We are the Sparsholt C of E Pupil Worship Team. We plan,  
practice and perform pupil-led services for the whole school  
every week.

We work hard to include everyone in our services and enjoy  
sharing the teachings of Jesus to help our school community live  
out our school Christian values of courage, creativity and  
compassion every day.

## **Autumn 1 Edition includes....**

- † Gods Rules for Good Citizens
- † Harvest Creature Challenge
- † Harvest festival
- † One World Week
- † Pupil Worship Teams
- † Interview with Revd Jax
- † Our School Charity
- † Advent Calendar

- † Top 10 Worship Songs



# ***Harvest Creatures***

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of October the Pupil Worship Team held a Harvest creature challenge to celebrate God's Bountiful Harvest of fruit and vegetables. Each child created an animal made from fruit, and vegetables. The creatures were displayed at the Harvest Supper and at the Harvest Service. From penguins to sharks, worms to giraffes and lots more! All the children loved using their creativity to flourish in learning. In the end Mr and Mrs Wesley decided everyone was a winner as all the creatures were brilliant! Please see a selection of the creatures on the next page!

## ***Bible Study***



Reverend Jax has visited our classes this half term. In Oak Class she talked about Christian symbolism. She spoke about love and how a heart is not the only way to symbolise love. She showed us her special prayer shawl and her communion chalice. We talked about Christian symbolism and the meaning of the empty cross and we all enjoyed decorating our own cross. In Willow Revd Jax joined in with 'Bubble Prayers' where each child said a prayer or made a wish before they blew the bubble wand to make lots of bubbles. In Rowan class Revd Jax led a discussion on One World Week where the children had space to think about our global neighbours and world peace. Maple lit a candle and shared their thoughts about what light means to them.

# Harvest Creatures Challenge





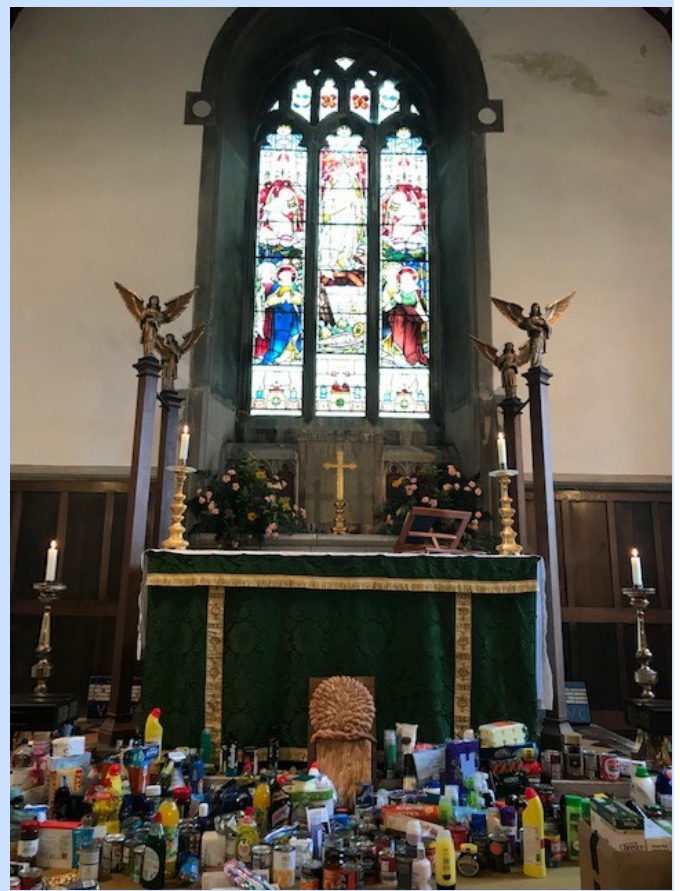
# Harvest Thanksgiving Service

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October pupils, staff and parents of Sparsholt C of E Primary school celebrated harvest at St Stephens Church. Each class presented to the rest of the school, to show thanks to God for the harvest. The service was opened by Mrs Wesley and Mr Kent. All the children joined in beautifully with harvest songs and prayers.

Willow Class recited two prayers they had been learning. These prayers showed they were thankful for having food.



Next Beech class sang a song called 'Cauliflowers Fluffy', this song recited all the things we are thankful for. Maple performed a song. Their song was about a single seed growing into a mighty plant. Rowan class presented an acrostic poem.



It showed us how to be thankful and grateful for all of our food.

Oak Class performed their Fruit of the Holy Spirit presentation. This reminded us to show: goodness, peace, self-control, kindness, gentleness, patience, faithfulness and love. Every pupil brought in a kind donation for the Winchester Night Shelter. Oak led us in prayer..

***Come, Holy Spirit,***

***Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the power of your love.***

***Amen***

# ***Interview With Revd Jax***



Q. What do you enjoy most about your job?

A. *People letting me in to their lives to share all things that happen, happy and sad.*

Q. Why did you become a priest?

A. *God called me to be a priest however it was only when I was 40 that I became one.*

Q. Which parable of The Bible is your favourite and can you explain why?

A. *The Prodigal Son, because no matter what we have done wrong in our lives the parable tells us that God will always love us.*



Q. What is your favourite verse of The Bible?

A. *Shine like stars in the Universe Philippians 2:14:15.*

Q. Which Sparsholt School service do you look forward to the most?

A. *The Holy Communion service at Easter because we are celebrating Jesus rising to heaven and we take Communion to remember to him.*

Q. Apart from leading services what else do you do as being the Rector of The Downs Benefice?

A. *Collective Worships, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, visits to Hospitals to see the sick and dying, visits to people in their homes, teaching others how to be a priest, Confirmations, working for other churches, Pet Services. I have to do lots of fund-raising to keep our churches open and I also have to go to many meetings which I don't enjoy as I'd much rather be helping people.*

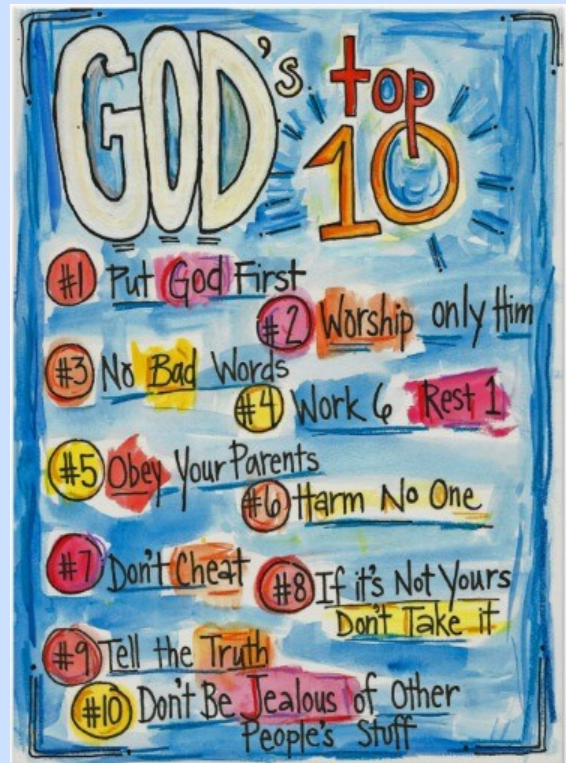
# ***God's Rules for Good Citizens***

Revd Jax started the Autumn term by leading a Collective Worship on 'God's Rules for Being a Good Citizen.'

She talked about the Ten Commandments and how this is the list of rules that tells us how God wants us to behave. She told us that although these rules were made long ago they are still important to living a good life today.

During each Collective Worship this half-term we have been thinking about how to be a good citizen. This has included

looking after our school, caring for others and looking after God's creation.



## ***School Charity Karis Kids***



Last term we raised an incredible £2,000 for the Karis Kids Charity. We will continue to raise funds this year and have already had a successful cake sale!



# Friendship Worship

This worship was led by the Wisdom Worship Team. They talked about how important it is to have friends and how lonely we would be without them. In the worship they read out an acrostic poem about friends. They also did a drama which they wrote themselves. The moral of the story was to be kind and respectful to all. At the end of the worship they read a prayer on the theme of friendship.

*Dear God*

We thank you for our friends and the happy times we share with them. Help us to be a good friend. Teach us how to play fairly and to share. Help us to recognise loneliness in others and show friendliness towards them. We know that you are our friend and you will be with us always.

*Amen*

## 75 Memorial Flames

Oak Class created this stunning piece of art work currently displayed in the entrance to our school. It is made up of  $15 \times 5 = 75$  flame images in oil pastel and has been produced to commemorate 75 years since the end of the Holocaust.



# ***Climate Change & One World Week***



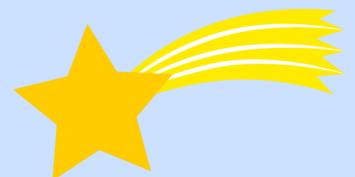
This Pupil-led Collective Worship was presented by a team who wanted to spread the message of climate change. The worship team actually wrote the whole script! At the beginning of the worship the girls spoke about Greta Thunberg (a climate change activist). This worship included an educational video about climate change.

To finish the worship, they performed a drama with a clear message. The worship was a big hit and everyone is thinking about how they can help by doing their bit to save the planet.

## ***Our Top 10 Worship Songs!***



1. Count on Me
2. Here I am to worship
3. Shine Bright like a Diamond
4. Make me a Channel of your Peace
5. A Million Dreams
6. Lord of the Dance
7. Our Father (The Lord's prayer)
8. Someone you Loved
9. Shine Jesus Shine
10. This is me





# *Prayer Spaces*

Next half term we are going to use our creativity to create prayer space activities in our classrooms, around the school and in St Stephen's Church.

Prayer Spaces will help us to wonder at the universe we live in and to have time to reflect and explore our spirituality in an interactive and inclusive way.

The themes for the prayer space activities include: asking God for help, praying for the world, asking questions, being thankful, experiencing peace and understanding how wonderful and unique we are.



The photographs show a Prayer Space Activity in Willow Class called 'Prayer Bubbles' where the children could make a wish or say a thank you prayer before blowing incredible bubbles!

# ***Coming soon... Reverse Advent Calendars***

The Pupil Worship Team and all the children at Sparsholt C of E Primary school have chosen to reverse things this advent with a calendar that gives back.

Instead of opening a door to a chocolate we are going to do the giving. In the countdown to Christmas we are going to start a new Sparsholt C of E Primary tradition. Reverse Advent Calendars will work by each class filling a box (or more ) with 24 non –perishable food items, starting on the 1st December.

After gathering all the items they will be delivered to the Winchester Food Bank and we will know that we have given a gift to someone that really needs it this Christmas. We are hoping that the churches of The Downs Benefice will join us by creating their own Reverse Advent Calendars.



*...shine like the stars in the universe*  
as you hold out the word of life... Philippians 2:15