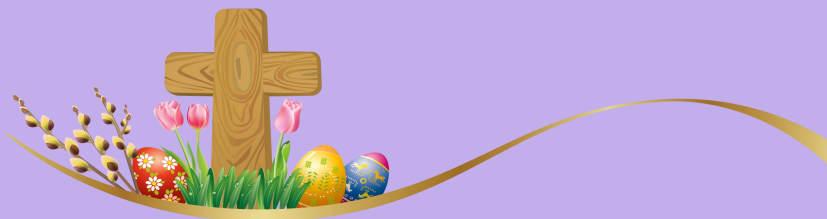


"Shine Like Stars in the Universe" With the **Worship Times**

Welcome to the Easter 2020 Edition of Worship Times
produced by
the Sparsholt C of E Primary School's Pupil Worship Team



As we have come to the end of the Spring term it is a wonder to reflect on how much has been achieved by our brilliant and resilient learning community. The children have continued to throw themselves whole heartedly, through their enthusiastic leadership, inspiring us all to live out our core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity. The deep engagement with our values has been truly proven over the past few weeks when external factors brought the term to a quiet close. Our Easter edition of the Worship Times Magazine celebrates the many ways in which our learning community continues to dig deep and flourish, as we engage with so much learning and joy as we continue our journey of spiritual development together.

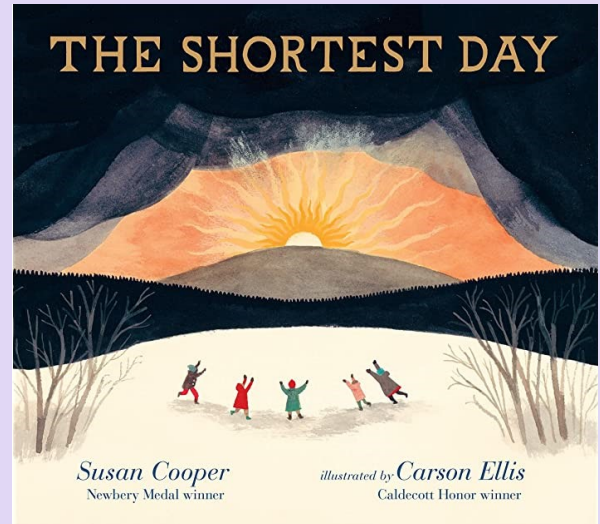
This Easter 2020 Edition includes....

- † Standing Together in Unity
- † Ash Wednesday
- † Support for one another
- † Pupil Worship Teams in Action
- † Rainbow Gallery
- † Our Spring Photographs
- † World Religion
- † Easter Food Symbolism
- †

Our Prayer Space at Sparsholt C of E Primary School.



Revd Jax Class Visits Celebrating Light and Rebirth - The Shortest Day



Reverend Jax has visited our classes this term. In Willow Class she shared Susan Cooper's joyful and beautifully illustrated picture book 'The Shortest Day'. The children were captivated as Revd Jax shared the poignant tale of how early people would gather for the long night ahead - pushing against the darkness, bringing their own light of candles and fire, dance and song. Despite the people depicted in the story wondering if the sun would ever rise again and desperate to push away the darkness, the overriding message of the tale is one of hope, love and spiritual happiness. Revd Jax led a discussion about the joy of God's wonderful creation and the gift of Jesus as the light of the world.

*Through all the frosty ages you can hear them
Echoing, behind us - listen!*



Standing Together in Unity Holocaust Memorial Service

At the end of January the whole school commemorated Holocaust Memorial day 2020. Led by Revd Jax and attended by Mrs Wesley (our foundation governor), who assisted Revd Jax during the service, both ensured we shared a moving service together. The pupil Worship Team told the story of Anne Frank using drama to inspire courage and determination. The whole school sang the Hebrew song 'Shalom', showing reverence and compassion as they laid their peace wreaths and peace pebbles around 75 candles. The message of the moving and memorable service was about living together in peace and accepting differences. It was a special opportunity for our school worshipping community to reflect and think together for a better future for every child and person in our world.



Ash Wednesday Service 2020

On the 26th February Revd Jax led a very special and reflective Ash Wednesday Service for children and staff in St Stephen's Church. Revd Jax asked the children to explain why Ash Wednesday is important to Christians. After readings, prayers, and a thought-provoking sermon, Revd Jax invited the children and staff to be 'ashed'. This was an opportunity to be blessed and was a reminder of the forgiveness we have been given.

Revd Jax helped us to think about the meaning of the ash, and what we might want to say sorry for - whether it was something we had done wrong, or something we had not done. A cross was marked on our forehead in ashes from last year's Palm Sunday Crosses, signifying the beginning of Lent. All the children were very thoughtful and respectful; it was really peaceful and wonderful opportunity to think and reflect, not just about the Christian Calendar, but also our actions and how we treat each other.

During the service we sang one of our favourite hymns.

LORD, THE LIGHT OF
YOUR LOVE is shining;
Jesus, Light of the world
Shine upon us, set us free by the truth
You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.



Year 6 shared their prayer with us as we started our journey through Lent:

Be close to us, Lord Jesus, as we journey through Lent.
As we pray and share with others, help us to see that all people are precious, and
that we are all blessed by your love.
Amen

World Religion Islam

Earlier in the term, a volunteer who visits schools and community groups, Hamza Berat, kindly visited Rowan and Oak Class. He talked to us about his life as a Muslim by describing The Five Pillars of Islam - the rules Muslims live by. The five pillars are: declaring your faith in God, prayer, charity, fasting during Ramadan and going on a pilgrimage to Mecca. We told Hamza that we could recognise the similarities between how Muslims try to live by the 5 Pillars and how Christians try to live in the light of the 10 Commandments.

Hamza Berat Visits our School



Rainbows of Hope Gallery

Rainbows, as a symbol of hope, have been spreading across our worshipping communities of Sparsholt, Littleton, Crawley and beyond. Madsy and Martha, in year 5, were quick off the mark to encourage us to join in with the national trend of using creative skills to create a rainbow of hope. Many families have stuck their wonderful rainbows to their windows to bring a smile to neighbours and friends. Thank you to the families who have emailed photographs to uplift our spirits.



Rose's banner outside house



Sophia S



Oli B



Martha's granny has been knitting!



Gregory and Teddy construct a Lego rainbow



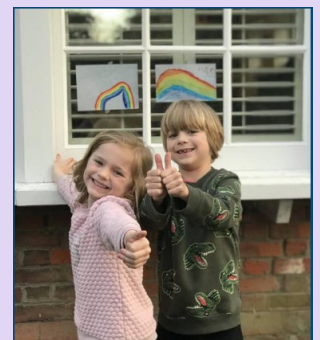
Dasie



Madsy and big brother, Jackson

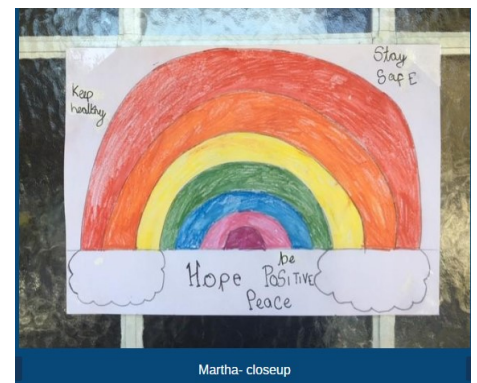
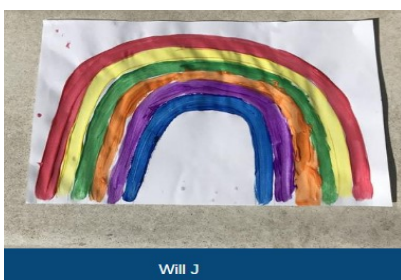
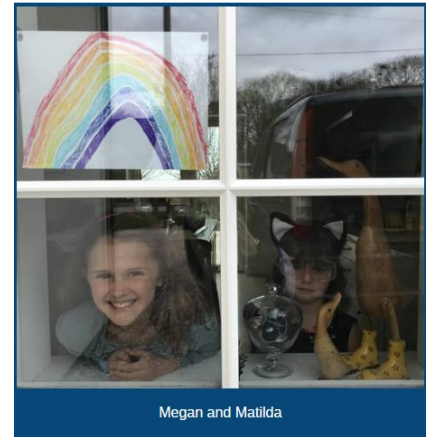


Isabelle and Ollie



Inigo & Scout

Rainbows of Hope Gallery



Our Caring Community Sparsholt Village

'My command is this : Love each other as I have loved you'- John 15:12

Without a thought for themselves, Janette and her hardworking team of Sparsholt Village Shop volunteers have brought love and goodwill into our community. Giving their own time to run an initiative to assist local residents unable to leave their homes for vital supplies they continue to make daily deliveries of essential food provisions and a friendly smile to those in need.

An incredible community spirit of generous care and kindness is also gathering momentum and flourishing thanks to vital Action Groups set up in Littleton and Crawley. The enterprising support for one another in our community provides a lifeline to residents by providing an array of services including: shopping, prescription collection, gardening and even mending and lending household appliances!

Sparsholt Village Shop and Post Office-



Thank you from Janette...

"Many thanks to my fantastic team of volunteers, without which we couldn't help support so many people in the Sparsholt community, particularly during these challenging times - you are all super-stars!"

Try to be
a rainbow in
someone's cloud.

—Maya Angelou

Pupil Led Collective Worship Report - Easter Food Symbolism

This Collective Worship was led by the Joy Worship Team. We talked about the symbolism of hot cross buns, Simnel cake and Easter eggs and how they relate to the Easter story. We explained that the Simnel cake traditionally has 11 marzipan balls, each ball represent Jesus' disciples, but one of them— Judas Iscariot— is not represented as he betrayed Jesus. We explained how the cross on the hot cross bun reminds us of Jesus dying on the cross. Next we explained that Easter eggs represent the stone that was put across the doorway to Jesus' tomb. The idea is that breaking the egg symbolises the tomb being 'cracked' open and Jesus coming back to life. We encouraged a discussion about the idea that eggs are also a symbol of hope and new life because chicks hatch from eggs and at Easter, and this reminds us that Jesus came back to life and gave hope to the world. We led everyone in prayer:



Dear God,

**Thank you for the
Easter Story and
the hope it brings.**



**Thank you for the
life of Jesus and the
example he is to us
all.**

**Thank you that his life, death and
resurrection changed the world.**

Amen

Anya, Jenna, Oscar, Flynn

Prayer for the NHS

Loving God,

Please give strength and courage to the
nurses and doctors in our NHS and protect
them as they help their patients to get better.
Please help the scientists defeat this heart
breaking and terrible virus.

Amen

Anya, Year 6.



Collective Worship Team in Action... The Easter Story Reflection

Our Pupil-led Collective Worship aimed to encourage the children to reflect on the real meaning of Easter. We used drama to enact the moment the stone was rolled across the entrance to Jesus' burial cave. The second scene showed Mary ,arriving at the tomb early the next morning to anoint Jesus' body and discovering he had disappeared. We tried to portray Mary's sadness and bereavement turning to fear, shock and horror as she, heart-broken and sobbing, wandered in the garden until a gardener asked her why she was crying. Suddenly, Mary realised the gardener she was actually talking to was Jesus! Mary was desperate to share her news with the disciples. Confused, Peter ran to the tomb to discover for himself that Jesus' body had disappeared but the, neatly folded, cloths he was wrapped in were still there. The next scene showed all the disciples trying to make sense of what had happened when Jesus appeared to comfort his friends! He had risen from the dead and was in a different body now.

We reflected on how surprised the disciples must have been that Jesus was alive again and that we call this ' the resurrection'. Christians believe that that Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life. On Good Friday, they remember his death and on Easter Sunday, they celebrate his resurrection. We explained that Jesus didn't die again, but went back to heaven alive, which means that he is always there for us to talk to, anytime. We concluded our Collective Worship by praying together.

Dear God

Thank you that Jesus came back to life and is alive today.

Thank you that you promise always to be near us.

Help us to remember that we can talk to you at any time of the day or night.

Amen

**Madsy, Anya,
Tom, Lylah.**

The worship was a big hit and got everyone thinking about the meaning of Easter and why we celebrate it.



Spring has Sprung!

It's wonderful to see new growth is blossoming as we celebrate springtime across our communities, reminding us of the beauty of the world around us. Thank you to our budding young photographers for their inspiring photography.



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



Happy Easter!



**Wishing you all Peace, Love, Joy , Hope and
Fun this Easter**

