

THE HERALD

**Committed to bringing you news of the courageous,
compassionate and creative life of Sparsholt C of E
Primary School Community**

Welcome to the Christmas 2021 Edition of **The Herald**
produced by
the Sparsholt C of E Primary School Pupil Worship Team

Herald: 1. noun – a person who brings news or announces something

Similar: proclaimer, announcer, messenger

2. verb - a sign that something is about to happen

Similar: announce, signal, indicate, point to

We have exciting news. The Pupil Worship Team have decided to rebrand our termly publication, The Worship Times as 'The Herald.' We feel this choice helps reflect our vision to encompass the diverse perspectives in our school community; a herald for all the voices of our readers.

Please send your contributions for our Easter 2022 edition of The Herald to adminoffice@sparsholt.hants.sch.uk

The Herald Christmas 2021 Highlights....

- † **Apple Fest**
- † **Poppies for Remembrance**
- † **Christingle 2021**
- † **Interview with Revd Jax**
- † **Our School Charity – Karis Kids**
- † **KS1 and KS2 Presentations**
- † **Sparsholt Christmas Playlist**
- † **Christmas Blessing from Revd Jax**



Our Christmas Prayer Space

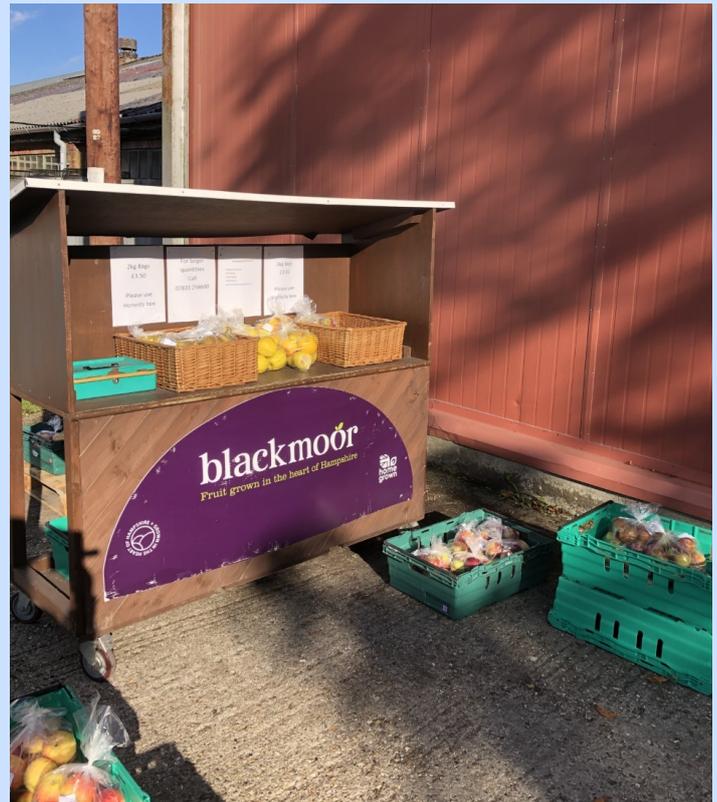
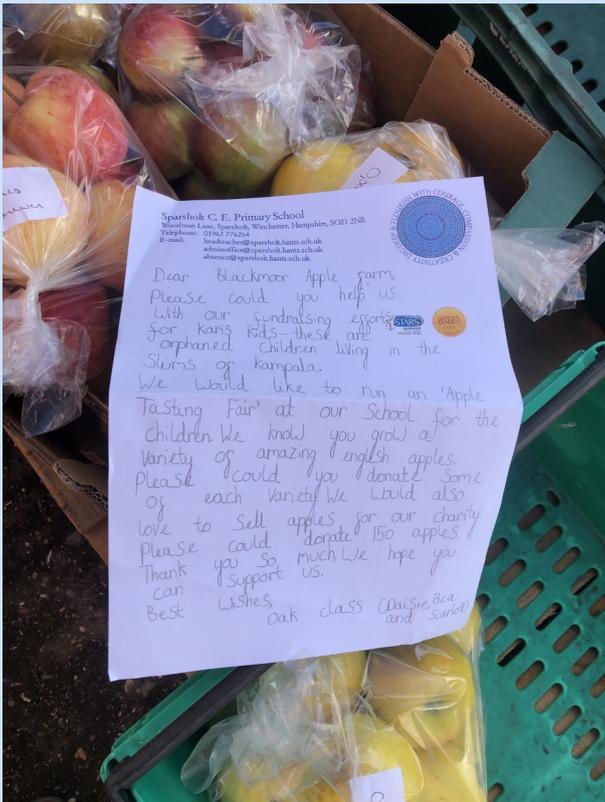


Apple Fest



The Apple Fest was a highlight of the Autumn term and a first for

Sparsholt C of E Primary School.



Representatives from Oak Class wrote a letter asking Blackmoor Apple Farm for a donation of different apple varieties so that they could stage their own apple tasting event in aid of locally based global charity Karis Kids. Every class joined in the apple fest and had apple-tasting time tasting and rating 8 varieties of English apples and 2 pear varieties.

The apple fest raised over £250 to help support the education of orphaned children in Kampala, Uganda.

Apples varieties donated for tasting included:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Topaz | Egremont Russet |
| Smitten | Cox |
| Spartan | Opal |
| James Grieses | Orange Pippin |



Our Applefest was the Best!



2021



We rated the apple varieties and voted for our personal favourites!

Poppies for Remembrance

A display of poppies made from painted plastic bottles made a striking display on the St Stephen's Memorial Green. The Sparsholt School community were invited by Janette (manager of the village shop) to take part in this creative project marking remembrance. Seth, Year 6 Eco-Warrior leader told the Herald reporters, 'We were determined to create poppies from 100% recycled materials'. Many families cut the bottom off used plastic bottles which were painted to resemble poppies. The remembrance service was held outside encircled by the beautiful poppies.

Revd Jax, Rector of The Downs Benefice said, 'Sparsholt has a faithful and compassionate community determined to remember the lives of all who fell to give us peace'.





Christingle 2021

What do Christingles Represent?



The symbolism of each piece of the Christingle was explained by the Worship Team in their PowerPoint presentation.

The **orange** represents the world

The **dried fruits and sweets** symbolise God's creation and the four seasons

The **red ribbon** symbolises God's love wrapped around the world

The **lit candle** symbolises Jesus, the light of the world

What does Christingle mean?

Christingle means 'Christ's light'.



We lit our class Christingles and thought about the real meaning of Christmas as a celebration of the gift of Jesus to us, as light of the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness



- ★ Our thanks go to Revd Jax for all the Christingle resources and prayer ideas.
- ★ Many thanks to all our families for your kind donations to the children's society totalling an amazing £420.32
- ★ Thank you to Sally Wesley for counting the coins!



Phone Box Art Gallery

Advent Exhibition 2021

As many of you know Sparsholt has the smallest Post Office in the World (not fact checked!), but did you know we now officially have the coolest, smallest, and definitely the most creative art gallery in the universe too! Inspired by Janette, from the Sparsholt Village Shop, the children were invited to adorn the iconic phone box with Christmas themed artwork for the festive season 2021.

Watch this space for future exhibitions in 2022



Jemima,
Harry,
Pippa
and Henry
from
Willow Class
visit the
phone box art
exhibition

EYFS and KS1 Nativity and KS2 Christmas Kaleidoscope

Willow and Beech children dressed up as nativity characters and creatures to present the story of the first Christmas through narration and song. It was wonderful to perform outside under the bright blue winter sky. The presentation was a huge hit with parents. 

Children from Oak, Rowan and Maple performed songs and narration from 'Follow that Star!' It was fun performing to an audience and everyone got into the festive spirit and reflected on the real meaning of Christmas.



Willow and Beech Nativity Presentation



KS2 - Follow That Star!

5 Fascinating Facts about Advent Wreaths



The candles on the Advent wreath symbolise Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. In December, during Class Worship we lit each candle on our lovely wreath and said our school prayer.

1. NATURE

Advent wreaths are usually made from evergreens. Branches from pine or fir trees are commonly used for the base of the ring

2. THE WORD

Advent derives from the Latin verb 'ven' which means 'to come', as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of the Lord.

3. THE HISTORY

As far back as the seventh century, wreaths were used in baptisms and wedding ceremonies.

4. THE SHAPE

The circular shape of the wreath reminds us of Christ's eternal presence and reflects the unending love of Christ.

5. HOLLY LEAVES

Holly leaves used on wreaths can be prickly and therefore represent the crown of thorns placed on Jesus's head during his crucifixion



Bryony, George and Eliza by the light of our Advent wreath

Courageous Advocacy - Roots and Shoots Programme Marine Conservation Society

This term our Eco-Warrior leaders, Pupil governors and their classmates supported Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots Charity by sponsoring two chimps!

We are also passionate about helping the Marine Conservation Society in their work restoring the health of our ocean and combatting climate change. We raised over £200 for our two charities



Top Left: Eco-Warrior Leaders ready for the sale

Top Right: Soft toy Adoption Bay - ready for their new homes!

Left : Soft Toys waiting for adoption.

Interview with Revd Jax



Q1. What is your favourite part about Christmas?

I love all the different Christmas services and the many ways in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus, from school nativity services and productions, Crib services and Carol services. I am bit of a child at Christmas Day services as I'm always so excited, though the stillness and holiness of the Midnight service on Christmas Eve fills me with spiritual wonder and joy at the birth of the Christ-child.

Q2. As a Parish Priest what do you do on Christmas Day?

Ha ha! It's more a case of what I *don't* do!! I get home from the Midnight service on Christmas Eve at about 1.30am, then I run around like a mad thing at home tidying up and making sure Father Christmas and the reindeer have enough to eat and drink, and that everything is prepared for Christmas Day. Some years I don't fall into bed until about 4am. On Christmas Day, I'm usually up at 6am, take an early Holy Communion service at 8am somewhere in the Benefice, then it's straight on to take a 10am service somewhere else. After that, I spend about four hours visiting people who are sick or alone on Christmas Day – and then I get home around 4pm, change out of my clerical clothes into a silly Christmas jumper and start the big task of cooking Christmas dinner for my family. We usually sit down to eat at about 7pm, then we open our presents around the tree which is a mad time, full of laughter and Christmas joy.

Q3. What is your favourite Christmas carol and why do you like it?

Gosh – I love all of them and by Christmas Day, I've usually sung so much that I lose my voice! However, I adore The Coventry Carol. It is not often sung and is a 16th Century carol which remembers when King Herod tried to find the baby Jesus and kill him, because he was so scared that a King far greater than him had been born. This carol reminds me of all the people I have loved, and it is a special memory to have at this time of year, full of love and the hope Jesus brings.

Q4. What is your most memorable Christmas and present as a child?

Oh dear – definitely the Penny Puppy Walker my parents gave me for Christmas when I was 16 years old. It was a doll which stood about half a metre high and walked a little puppy on a lead when you pressed a plastic button. I was **16 years old** You think about how embarrassing that was!!!

Q5. What is your favourite Christmas food/treat?

Cherries in kirsch and proper Turkish Delight are joint first!! It used to be Bread Sauce, but I can't eat that anymore as I am coeliac.

Q6. What is the real meaning of Christmas?

For me, Christmas is about God coming to be with us in His son, Jesus. He came to teach us how to love. It is a time when we have the chance to think deeply about the way we love others – the people we are close to, our family and friends, but also people in our wider communities and in other parts of the world whose lives are difficult. How do we love them?

Q7. If you could have one Christmas wish what would it be?

It truly would be for our world to be at peace and for everyone to be equal. Can you imagine a world where there were no wars or sickness, where everyone had enough to eat, a warm and loving home, and where our hearts were truly motivated by loving others and not ourselves.



Courageous Advocacy

'Love your neighbour as yourself' Mark 12:29-31

During the Autumn term we have continued our courageous advocacy activities by supporting local, national and global charities.

We recognise that at times all people face challenges that they need help and support with overcoming. Our core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity help us to think about how we work together in activities that can help others and bring about change to benefit others. By making small personal sacrifices we can have an impact on the well being of others. Since September we have supported the vital work of these charities:

★ The Children's Society

★ Children in Need

★ The Royal British Legion
Poppy Appeal

★ Winchester Basics Bank

★ The Beacon-Formally the Winchester Night Shelter

★ Our Global Charity - Karis Kids



Revd Jax and Carol Coleman (representing Karis Kids) with the Worship Team

Reverse Advent Calendar Collection In aid of Winchester Basics Bank

Many thanks to our School Community for your generous donations!

We reversed things again this Advent with a calendar that gives back! Our school community came together to channel their compassion and goodwill by donating Christmas food items for families in need in our local community. Generous Donations of Christmas cakes and puddings, chocolates, sweets and Mince Pies flooded into school. We were so amazed by the team effort and the huge collection of Christmas goodies! Many thanks to Sally and John Wesley who delivered the items to the Winchester Basics Bank to ensure the food was ready for those in need in the Winchester district this Christmas.



Sent with love....



Sally Wesley (Foundation Governor) pictured with Sparsholt Pupils— loading up for Basics Bank Delivery!



Winter Wonderland in Sparsholt!

On the evening of the last day of term, The Friends of Sparsholt C of E Primary School, led by Mrs Bonnie Stagg, created an enchanting winter walk at Ham Green. Several families produced inspiring and magical stations of festive lights, alongside a woodland walk, enabling the awe and wonder of the illuminated wonderland to be enjoyed by many visitors over the weekend!



Get into the festive mood With the Sparsholt Christmas Playlist Researched by Isaac and Seth (Year 6)

Mrs Morey	Once in Royal Davids City I remember singing it at our school end of year Carol Service every year.	
Mrs Leitzell	In the Bleak Mid Winter From my school days, I love the words and the haunting tune, and it makes me so grateful for my family and friends.	
Mr McGettigan	Must be Santa-Bob Dylan It is so different to anything else he's ever done and there's a real sing-a-long fun aspect to it!	
Mrs Archer	Come on Ye Faithful I love hearing a choir singing it, and I enjoy joining in!	
Mrs Wall And Mrs Williams	Driving Home for Christmas it reminds both staff of when they were younger (20's) and driving home to their parents for the Christmas break.	
Mrs Hanratty And Mrs Le Fevre	Do they know it's Christmas? My favourite song makes me feel Christmassy and also I like it because it's a charity record and it raised a lot of money for famine relief. Both Mrs Hanratty and Mrs Le Fevre told The Herald	
Mrs Rowe	Away in a Manger I love it because it reminds me of my children's first Nativity.	
Miss Bell	I wish it Could Be Christmas Everyday! It's my favourite as it gets everyone up dancing and singing!	
Mrs Clarke	Silent Night, Holy Night I like it because it was composed in Austria and it is THE Christmas song in Austria and I am Austrian	
Miss Joyce	I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas This is because I do!	
Mrs Horrill (Chair of Governors)	My favourite Christmas song is a carol – Away in a Manger. The reason it is my favourite is because my Daddy taught me the words when I was 5 years old. He used to drive me to school as we lived quite a long way from my school and we used to sing together in the car.	

Get into the Festive Mood With the Sparsholt Christmas Playlist Researched by Isaac and Seth (Year 6)

Mrs Gwilliam	Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow! - Frank Sinatra I love it because I absolutely love snow, and I like the lyrics 'the weather outside is frightful but the fire is so delightful!' It makes me feel really Christmassy!
Mr Firth (School Governor)	My favourite Christmas song is "Driving Home for Christmas" by Chris Rea. I love it because; it reminds me of the times I made the long journey home, to Newcastle ,to see my Family!! My car would be full of presents and I would sing very loudly ,as I excitedly coasted along the A1 motorway
Mrs Wesley (Foundation Governor)	My Favourite Christmas song is a carol, Hark the Herald Angels Sing. I enjoy singing it every Christmas.
Revd Jax	I adore The Coventry Carol. This carol reminds me of all the people I have loved, and it is a special memory to have at this time of year, full of love and the hope Jesus brings.



Why not play some of these classic Christmas Favourites suggested by the teachers and governors of Sparsholt C of E Primary School!

Isaac and Seth

Advent Blessing from Revd Jax

Advent Blessing

This blessing comes to all of you as pupils, staff, parents and governors

May the joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The perseverance of the wise men,
The obedience of Joseph and Mary,
And the peace of the Christ Child,
Be yours this Christmas and always.
Amen.



Revd Jax leading worship

Have a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year -

Revd Jax
Rector, The Downs Benefice



Wishing you all Peace, Love, Joy and Hope this Christmas and throughout the coming year.