

# "Shine Like Stars in the Universe" With the **Worship Times** Christmas 2020

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



We are the super enthusiastic and dedicated Pupil Worship Team who prepare and present worship on themes related to our core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity. Even though we haven't been able to meet for collective worship as a whole school this term we have continued to enjoy playing an active role in pre-recording Collective Worship videos for class worship so each class can take part on their interactive whiteboards in their classrooms. It's our responsibility to help keep our worship display board up to date and to look after our main prayer space located in the entrance hall. We keep this special space vibrant and relevant and are proud to say it has been a particularly important focal point for reflection for the entire school this term.

We have continued to enjoy every opportunity to flourish as young leaders and have also gained greater spiritual understanding through our roles.

## Christmas 2020 Special Edition highlights....

- † Reverse Advent Calendar
- † Christingle
- † Zooming with Revd Jax
- † World Religion– Hinduism
- † Courageous Advocacy
- † Our School Charity– Karis Kids
- † Prayers for Christmas 2020
- † Christmas Blessing from Revd Jax

**Our Prayer Space at Advent - a focal point for prayer and reflection**



# *Collective Worship Team in Action... Zooming with Revd Jax!*

This Pupil Collective Worship Team took part in a planning meeting with Revd Jax, via Zoom. We set the agenda and Revd Jax guided us in our work and responsibilities for the Autumn term. We showed what a great team we are by adapting everything we do to keep in line with the current Covid-19 guidelines. Revd Jax gave us lots of ideas and support of how we could make sure there were opportunities for the whole school to express and live out our faith. We started our meeting with a prayer.

Our Agenda:

- ★ Our Collective Worship Themes
- ★ Courageous Advocacy—Karis Kids
- ★ Harvest— Winchester Night Shelter
- ★ Harvest Service—VLE Video
- ★ Christmas Presentations—VLE
- ★ Reverse Advent Calendar
- ★ AoB



# Christingles - Explained!

At Christmas time many people, all over the world, make Christingles. Christingles started at a church in Germany in 1747 when the minister gave each child a candle wrapped in a red ribbon. Since then it has moved around the world and become a big part of Christmas.

## So what do Christingles Represent?

The symbolism of each piece of the Christingle was explained by the Worship Team during a Blue Peter Style worship video! We loved filming a special Christingle Worship which included a demonstration of how to make a Christingle, an explanation of the symbolism and some prayers and reflections. We lit our class Christingles and in the candlelight we 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.

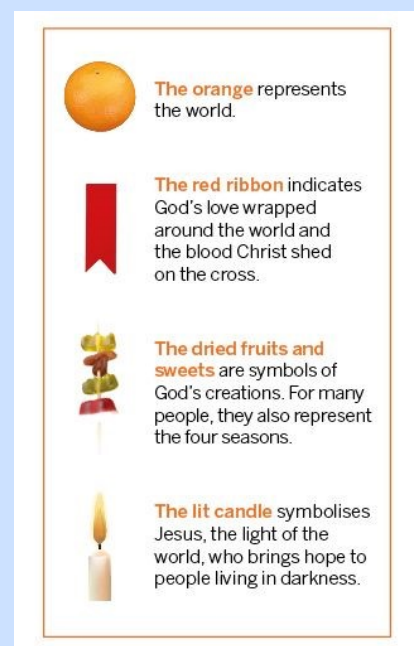
### Christingle Fast Facts

- ★ Christingle translated means 'Christ's light'.
- ★ In 1968, the Christingle came into the UK
- ★ The meaning of the Christingle varies according to the season.
- ★ At Advent it represents the hope of light in the darkness, while at Christmas it symbolises the birth of Jesus.
- ★ There were 2,349 1 pence pieces collected by our school community this year!

### Christingle Thanks

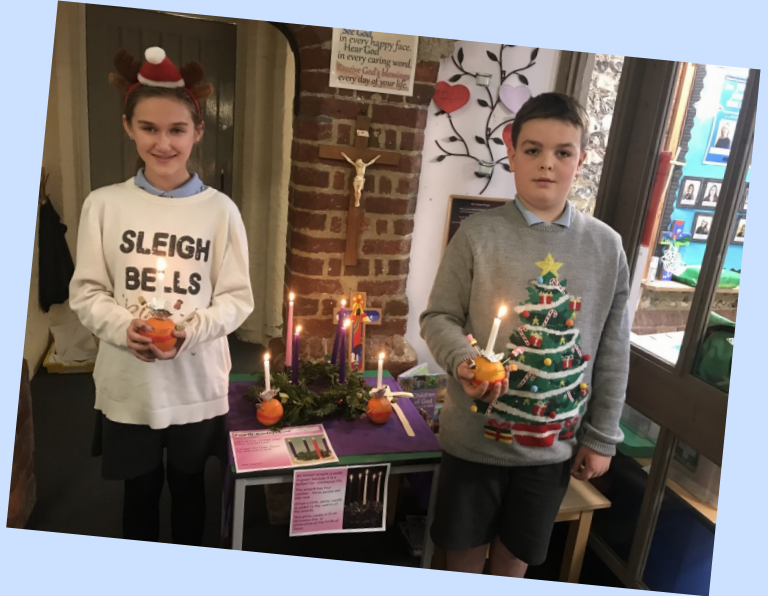
- ★ Our thanks go to Rev Jax for all the Christingle resources and prayer ideas.
- ★ Many thanks to all our families for your kind donations to the children's society totalling an amazing £479.84
- ★ Thank you to Sally Wesley for counting every single penny! That is the labour of love!

denomination	
£20.00	£40.00
£10.00	£40.00
£5.00	£20.00
£2.00	£16.00
£1.00	£103.00
£0.50	£25.50
£0.20	£84.80
£0.10	£36.00
£0.05	£69.85
£0.02	£21.20
£0.01	£23.49
Total	£479.84





# Christingle 2020



DIG DEEP & FLOURISH WITH COURAGE, COMPASSION & CREATIVITY



# Phone Box Art Gallery

Not only does Sparsholt have the smallest Post Office in the World (not fact checked!), we now have the coolest, and smallest, and definitely most creative art gallery in the world too!

Inspiration came from Janette, from the Sparsholt Village Shop, who invited the children to adorn the iconic phone box with 'Poppy' artwork for Remembrance. Janette was so delighted with the response she asked the children to create an Advent and Christmas themed gallery.

**Watch this space for future exhibitions in 2021**



# Phone Box Art Gallery

The World's smallest Advent Art Gallery

## Advent



## *EYFS and KS1 and KS2 Christmas Presentations Films available on the VLE!*

During the last week of term each class were so excited to film their class Christmas presentations. Willow Class presented the story of the first Christmas through rap, Beech and Oak Class dressed up as Nativity characters and recited narrative poems of the first Christmas. Maple sang an uplifting Christmas song about the excitement of Christmas time and Oak and Rowan performed Jingle-Bells using body percussion! Please enjoy watching our Christmas presentations on the VLE over the festive season!



## *Beech Class Light our Advent Wreath*



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.

# World Religion - Hinduism

## Beech Class Get to Know Ganesh



You may recognise Ganesh — he's famous around the world for his elephant head. Having an elephant head makes Ganesh special. He has all the wisdom, loyalty and compassion of an elephant and his large ears mean he can clearly hear the needs of his people.



**We found out** there are lots of Hindu gods and goddesses, you'll find images or ornaments of Ganesh in most Hindu homes. This is because Hindus believe Ganesh is the "remover of all obstacles," so they pray to him before any ritual or new event because his blessing will make things go smoothly.

### **We found out that Ganesh has a sweet tooth!**

In most images of Ganesh, you'll see him holding some sweets called *laddoos*. These delicious round treats are Ganesh's favourite, and offerings of sweet foods, like laddoos, are often made to him.

*Laddoo is made from chickpea flour, sugar and ghee*





# Courageous Advocacy

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

During the Autumn term we have been courageous advocates 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
- ★ Winchester Night Shelter
- ★ Our Global Charity—Karis Kids



## School Charity - Karis Kids

A big thank you to all of you who supported our Autumn raffle, which was very successful, also a special thanks go to our classmates :Charlotte, Livvy, Florrie and Lula who ran their own out of school, socially distanced, sales raising a staggering £300. Altogether we raised £800 for our charity; Karis Kids. We are so relieved that through our team efforts we have been able to fund basic supplies for our friends in Kampala at this time, because of the impact of during Covid-19. Please see letter from Revd Jax on the next page...



# Letter from Revd Jax

## **Dear Sparsholt C of E Primary School Community,**

This comes with my heartfelt thanks to you and the children, staff and parents of Sparsholt Primary School for supporting the request for donations to the Emergency Appeal from Karis Kids charity.

As you know, Karis Kids is a Winchester-based charity which supports families in the slums of Kampala, Uganda. Already struggling to cope with the tragic loss of life from AIDs and political unrest in the country, our friends in Kampala have also been hit hard by Coronavirus.

One mother, Marion, is a single parent with a big heart, and she has adopted a number of children whose own parents have died, and they all live together in a very tiny home. They have one room, which serves as a kitchen, living area and bedroom for the whole family. Marion, and other families just like hers, do not have much money to buy basic food items, let alone be able to buy hand-sanitisers and disinfectants to keep their homes and school environments germ free. Your kindness in raising an amazing **£807.95** will help them more than I can describe.

The money you have raised by the exceptionally thoughtful and resourceful fund-raising ideas you invented, which have also had to take into account our own need for social distancing and Coronavirus restrictions, is the most fantastic gift to our Karis Kids families you could imagine! Revd John and the people at the church at Okuvu have not been paid since the beginning of the year, and so your fabulous donation will enable them to buy food and soap, not only to feed their own hungry families and keep them germ-free, but also for the many hundreds of people their church supports.

As Christians, we all try hard to do as Jesus asks - loving each other by sharing the world and its resources fairly; not selfishly keeping what we have for ourselves whilst other people go hungry. Your support of Karis Kids enables many people to share some of the things we often take for granted, like fresh water and food. So, thank you so much for your hard work and kindness in raising this money.

Now, many families who have been hungry will be able to look forward to a happy Christmas. We will all be able to celebrate the birth of Jesus together with happy hearts and full tummies!

With my love to you all,

**Revd Jax Machin**  
**Rector, The Downs Benefice**



# Christmas Prayers



Dear God,  
Please can covid-19 go  
away because I want  
to see my family.  
Amen,

Eddie

Dear God,  
We pray that next  
year will be greater  
than this one. Merry  
Christmas to everyone,  
including those less  
fortunate than  
us.

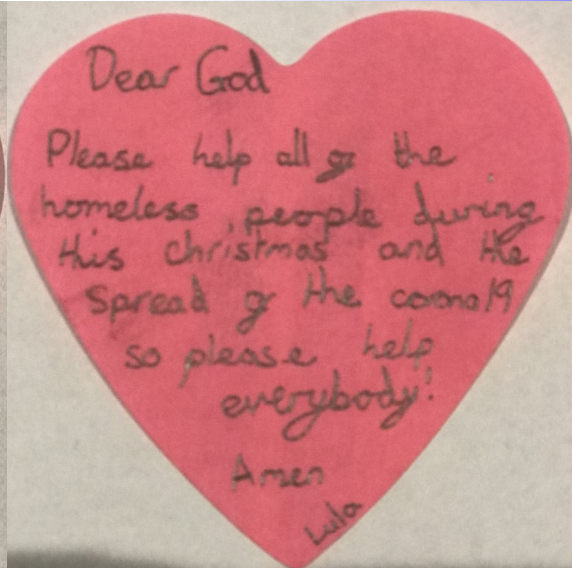
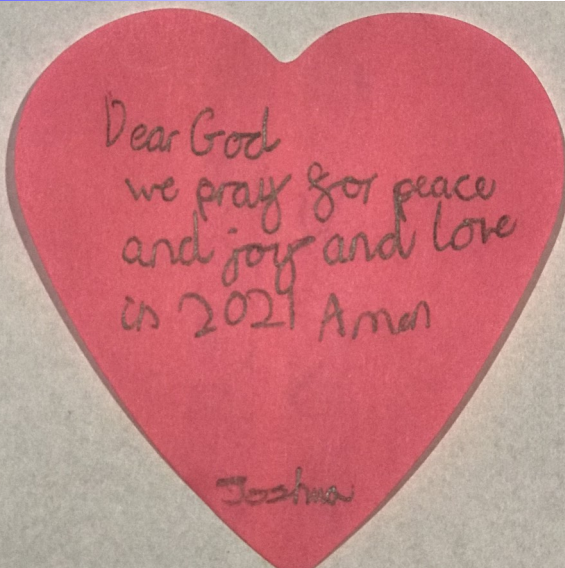
Amen Madsy

Dear God,  
we pray for the people  
who are living on  
the streets and hope  
next year will be  
a better year  
Amen

Lula

Dear God  
Thank you for  
this year I  
hope that  
next year  
will be  
better  
amen

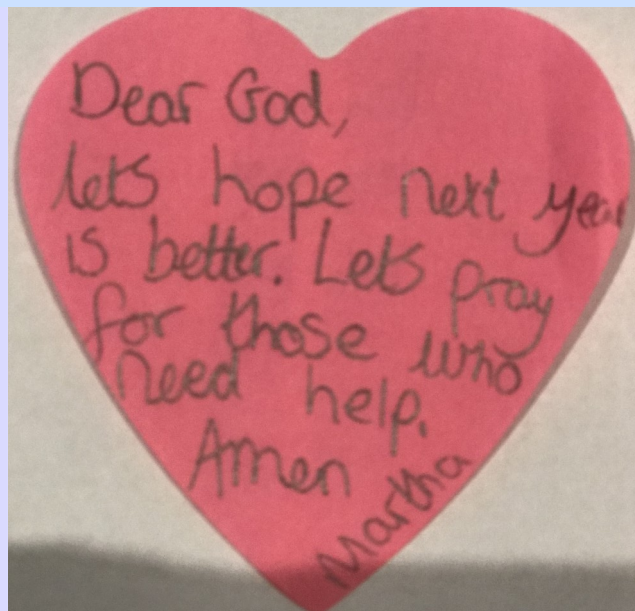
# Christmas Prayers



**Dear God,**

**Fill us with your love this Christmas  
So that we, in turn, can share this love with others.  
Help us to spread joy and happiness to everyone we meet and  
be grateful for everything we receive.**

**Amen**



# Thanks a Million !

## Reverse Advent Calendar Collection



The Pupil Worship Team and all the children at Sparsholt C of E Primary school reversed things this Advent with a calendar that gives back. At the beginning of Advent we collected Christmas food items for people in our local community. We collected Christmas cakes and puddings, chocolates, sweets and Mince Pies. Such an incredible 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....



# Advent Blessing from Revd Jax

## Advent Blessing

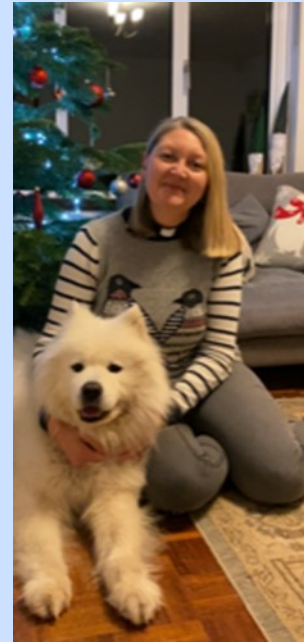
This blessing comes to all of you as pupils, staff, parents and governors

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.

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

With love from Herbie and me and everyone in The Downs Benefice.  
Have a blessed Christmas and God bless you all, now and for evermore. Amen.

Revd Jax  
Rector, The Downs Benefice



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