

"Shine Like Stars in the Universe"
With the

Worship Times

Welcome to the Christmas 2019 Edition of **Worship Times**
produced by
the Sparsholt C of E Primary School's Pupil Worship Team



We are the super enthusiastic and dedicated Worship Team who prepare and present worship on themes related to our core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity. We all enjoy playing an active role in leading collective worship for the whole school, preparing drama, PowerPoints, readings, prayers and songs that everyone enjoys singing. We organise all resources for the daily act of worship including setting and laying the Altar Cloths (based on the Church season) on our service table, setting up the cross, candles and Bible. We enjoy the opportunity to develop as young leaders and also to gain greater spiritual understanding.

This Christmas 2019 Special Edition includes....

- † Reverse Advent Calendar**
- † Christingle**
- † EYFS and KS1 Nativity**
- † Pupil Worship Teams in Action**
- † Christmas Kaleidoscope**
- † Our School Charity– Karis Kids**
- † Bible Study**
- † Senior Citizen's Lunch**

Our Christmas Prayer Tree at St. Stephen's Church.



Senior Citizen Christmas Lunch

On Thursday 19th December, Year 6 prefects welcomed eight senior citizens of Sparsholt to eat Christmas dinner with us at school. We really enjoyed serving our guests with delicious turkey, roast potatoes, sausages, stuffing, carrots and peas followed by warm mince pies topped with creamy custard, all cooked by our talented school cook. We had a lovely time chatting together and sharing the cracker jokes !

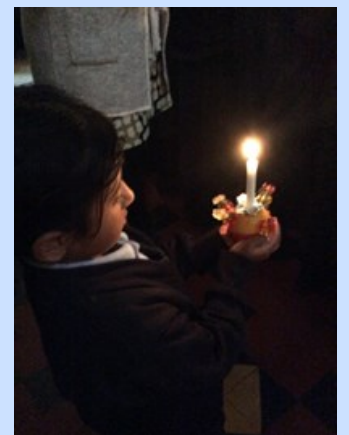


Bible Study



Reverend Jax has visited our classes this half term. In Willow Class she talked about Advent, explaining that it is a time when we wait, prepare and countdown to the day we remember the birth of Jesus. She talked with the children about what things remind us of baby Jesus and what we look forward to at Christmas, such as cards we send with our love, advent calendars and presents. The children showed Rev'd Jax their special Reverse Advent Calendar collection box decorated with stars with the words: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Rev'd Jax reminded the children that the most precious gift of all was God's gift of his son Jesus. In Maple Class, Rev'd Jax shared Desmond Tutu's wonderful Storybook Bible and the children enjoyed learning about how God created the world in Genesis. In Beech Class Rev'd Jax led a discussion about the parable of the Good Samaritan, the children thought that the message of the parable is that God wants us to love others especially when they are different.

Christingle 2019



Christingle Service 2019

On Friday 6th December pupils, staff and parents of Sparsholt C of E Primary school gathered together for a beautiful Christingle Celebration Service at St Stephens Church, led by Rev'd Jax. The symbolism of each piece of the Christingle was explained by the Worship Team by creating an amazing human Christingle. It was a truly uplifting and memorable moment when the whole school lit their Christingles and sang 'Away in a Manger' in the candle-light. It was a powerful reminder of the gift of Jesus to us, as light of the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness. Many thanks to everyone for your kind donations to the Children's society. We raised over £230 which will help children who need care and support this Christmas. We prayed together as a worshipping community.

Dear God,

Thank you for Christmas, the time when we celebrate the precious gift of your son, Jesus. Please help us to use the season of Advent to prepare ourselves with peace, joy and love in our hearts.

Amen



EYFS and KS1 Nativity



On Friday 13th December Rev'd Jax warmly welcomed the children of Willow and Beech to share their version of the Nativity in St Stephen's Church. The Church was packed with parents, grandparents and friends who loved every moment as the children presented the story of the first Christmas, through drama and song. Everyone loved the singing, acting and bell ringing and it was certainly a wonderful way to remind us what Christmas is truly about. It was lovely to see so many parents and friends writing thoughtful Christmas prayers to place on our illuminated prayer tree in St Stephen's Church.

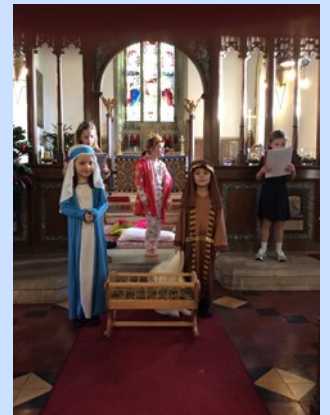
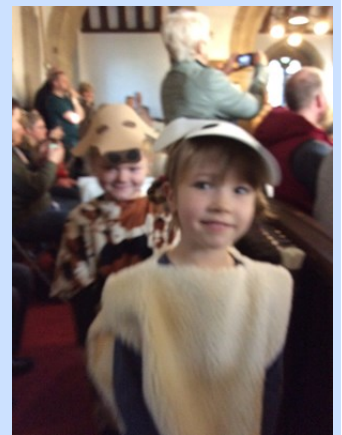


Posada Service at St Catherine's Littleton

A Pupil Worship Team enjoyed participating in the Littleton Posada at St Catherine's Church this Advent. The children read prayers and sang the carol, 'Child in a Manger Born' beautifully. A knitted nativity set travels from family to family, spending a night with each. The Crib Service (4pm on Christmas Eve when the Posada returns to church) is open to all.



EYFS and KS1 Nativity



Courageous Advocacy

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

Here at Sparsholt C of E Primary School we are courageous advocates for the common good, locally, nationally and globally. 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 everyone. Over the last 12 months we have supported many good causes, some of which include:

★ The Children's Society



★ Children in Need



★ The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



★ Winchester Basics Bank



★ Winchester Night Shelter



School Charity - Karis Kids



A big thank you to our kind community who have raised over £600 this term for our charity; Karis Kids. We are so pleased that through our vital team efforts we have been able to fund uniform and shoes to enable our school friends in Kampala to attend school. In the new year we are excited about developing our link with a school in Kampala to learn about our similarities and differences and how we can help support and develop each other through our friendship.



Christmas Love Worship

This Collective Worship was led by the Joy Worship Team. They talked about **'Wherever you find love, it feels like Christmas'**. We talked about our favourite gifts received at Christmas and what we love about Christmas. Answers included: decorations, lights, Christmas food, seeing family and the school holidays! The Worship Team pointed out that there are many ways to show love to others this Christmas for example by being kind, thoughtful, helpful, saying thankyou and making thoughtful cards and gifts. Christians believe that God showed his love by sending his son,

Jesus, into the world. This is the event celebrated by Christians at Christmas.

Dear God,

Fill us with your love this Christmas

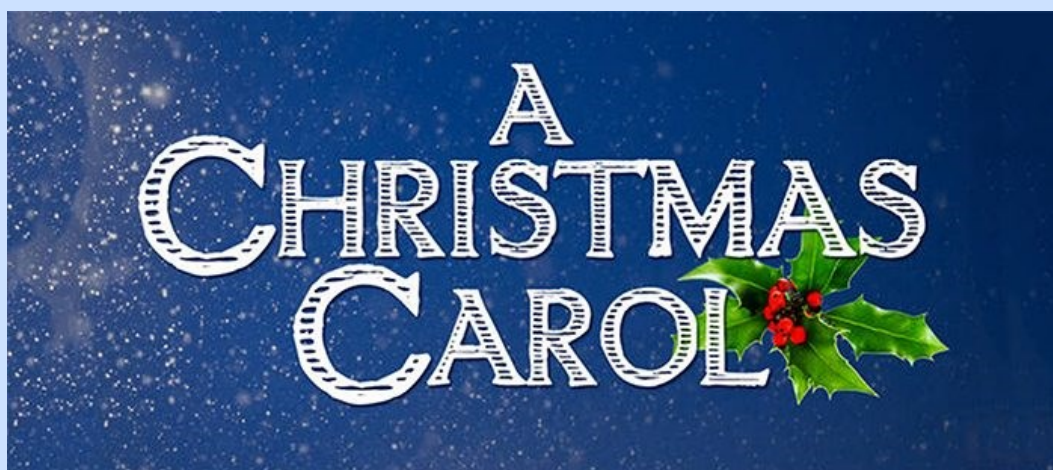
So that we, in turn, can share this love with others.

Help us to spread joy and happiness to everyone we meet and be grateful for everything we receive.

Amen

Christmas Kaleidoscope 2019

We had so much fun working together using our creative and collaborative skills to create our Christmas Kaleidoscope Presentation. We could barely contain our excitement as we processioned into the hall holding candles and singing Silent Night. The appreciative audience were treated to Christmas Songs, bell ringing, readings, a re-telling of 'A Christmas Carol' and The First Christmas.

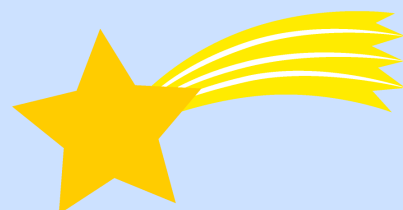


Collective Worship Team in Action... Christmas Cracker!

This Pupil-led Collective Worship was presented by a team who wanted to spread the story of The First Christmas through a Christmas Cracker! Two children were invited to pull the cracker. The bang represented the shepherds in the fields were afraid when they saw the angels and they told them not to be afraid because they had good news to tell them. They explained that the joke inside was like the riddle of the prophets in the old testament foretelling the birth of Jesus hundreds of years before he was born. Jesus was the answer to a riddle. The paper hat is a crown symbolising that Christians believe that Jesus is the king of the universe. The one thing left in the cracker: a gift reminds us that at Christmas, we remember that Jesus came to earth for each one of us.

The worship was a big hit and everyone is thinking about how they can help by doing their bit to save the planet.

It's a Cracker!



Thanks a Million !

Reverse Advent Calendar Collection

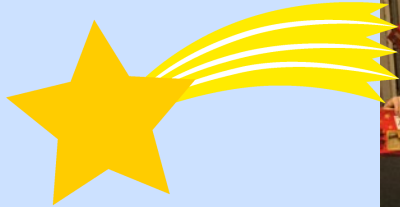


The Pupil Worship Team and all the children at Sparsholt C of E Primary school reversed things this Advent with a calendar that gives back. In the countdown to Christmas we collected Christmas food items for people in our local community who are in need this Christmas. Each class filled a large box full to the brim with Christmas cakes and puddings, chocolates, sweets and Mince Pies. The incredible collection of Christmas goodies was collected by Michele from The Night Shelter who was overwhelmed by the generosity of our Worshipping Community.



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

Reverse Advent Calendar



Wishing you all Peace, Love, Joy and Hope this
Christmas

