

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

**Welcome** to our special Year 6 Leavers' edition of **Worship Times**, written and produced by the Sparsholt C of E Primary School Pupil Worship Team.

Our all-encompassing core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity shape the beliefs and aspirations of our entire learning community. Living out our values encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith. Our values have been particularly meaningful and powerful to us as a school community since the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all our lives.

This is what some of us Year 6 Leavers said about our core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity and what they mean to us as we journey into the next chapter of our lives...

***"When I go to Secondary school I will keep our Christian values in my heart in everything I do. Courage not to be afraid to try new things and to dig deep if things get tough. Creativity to fully appreciate God's amazing creation. Compassion to be a good friend and to be as kind as Jesus. All these values will help me shine like a star in the universe, knowing that Jesus will always be by my side."***

***Cecily***



***"As I leave Sparsholt C of E Primary School our Core Christian values will help me 'Dig Deep and Flourish'. Courage to know God is there to help pick me up if I fall down, Compassion to treat others how I would want to be treated, 'Do to others as you would have them do to you' and creativity to use the gifts God has given me and to look after his amazing creation."***

***Elin***



***"Going forward in my life, I will make sure I will hold onto our Christian values to their fullest extent. Courage to face my fears, knowing I am never alone. Compassion to be kind and to care for the people around me. Creativity to appreciate God's creation of me and not to waste the gifts I have been given and use them to play my part in looking after our wonderful world."***

***George***



# Spirituality at Sparsholt C of E Primary School



## What is Spirituality?

Before lockdown, in our House Teams, we discussed what spirituality means to us. We said spirituality is... "things that we are amazed by" and "moments of stillness when you have time to think about who you are"

We reflected on how spirituality enables us to be happy; flourish and live life in all its fullness.

## What are the Four elements of Spirituality?

Spirituality is about your relationship with yourself, (**mirror moments**) your relationship with others (**door moments**), your relationship with the world (**window moments**) and your relationship with something greater than yourself (**candle moments**)

**The World** - Spiritual learners think about how beauty in the world can make you feel.

**Yourself**—spiritual learners are proud to be unique

**Others**—spiritual learners think about others

**Beyond**—Spiritual learners search for meaning in their lives

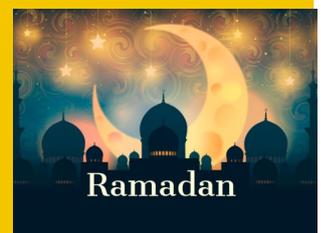
## What Does Spirituality look like at our school? Mirror, Door, Window and Candle Moments...



We explore spirituality through Mirror, Door, Window and Candle Moments. Through these spiritual moments we can think more deeply about the world around us and the contribution we can make to it. Above is photograph of our spirituality display outside Rowan, Beech and Oak classrooms.



## *Radi and Jannah's Experience of Ramadan During Lockdown*



This year due to the coronavirus pandemic Radi from Rowan and Jannah from Willow Class and their family, who are Muslims, observed Ramadan in a new way. Radi and Jannah told The Worship Times that they would usually pray in their Mosque with family and friends but this year they were unable to, as it was closed. Radi and Jannah ate their Ifatar meal and said their Taraweeh prayers in their home, as a family. Radi told us, "We usually see my grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and our Muslim community during Ramadan but this year we celebrated on our own. My brothers and sister quite enjoyed it as we had more time to reflect because we didn't have to go on the long car journey to the Mosque". Jannah added " We skyped our family so we could celebrate together". The Hussain family kindly sent the photographs of their family during Ramadan.

### Radi and Jannah's Five Facts about Ramadan

1. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims won't eat or drink between dawn and sunset. This is called fasting.
2. Fasting is important during Ramadan as it allows Muslims to devote themselves to faith and come closer to Allah or God.
3. Fasting is one of The Five Pillars of Islam, which form the basis of how Muslims live their lives. The other pillars are faith, prayer, charity, and making a pilgrimage to Mecca.
4. Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends.
5. Most families have a meal (known as Suhoor) just before dawn and another (Iftar) directly after sunset.



Radi Reads from the Quran



The Hussain family during Ramadan, 2020.





# Peace Poles 2020

Joining in with Church of England Schools across the Winchester Diocese, Year 6 marked the end of our time at primary school by creating six Peace Poles for Sparsholt. This was a creative way in which we could symbolise the values of peace and unity that Christians in general, and our school in particular, stand for. The wooden Peace Poles were painted with symbols and images to signify the importance of our Core Christian values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity.

Some of the symbols we painted on our Peace Poles included: Doves to symbolise peace, Rainbows for hope, hand-shake image to symbolise friendship, the cross to represent the sacrifice Jesus made for us and fruits to represent the fruits of the Holy Spirit ( strawberry for love, cherry for peace, orange for goodness and water melon for Joy)



# Standing Together



Dear God, help us to shine your  
light of hope, joy and love to enable  
us to live together in peace.  
Amen.

Give to enable us to live, together  
us to shine your light of hope



# ***The Power of Parables***

Through the creative exploration of parables, we have had opportunities to think about how the teachings of Jesus can guide us through our lives. Exploring Parables has enabled us to develop a relationship with God and to reflect on what our own spirituality can mean to us as individuals and to our School community. As we leave Sparsholt C of E Primary School we would like to share the parables that are particularly meaningful and close to our hearts.

***"My favourite parable is The Lost Sheep because it shows how everybody counts and is precious to God, even if you are a worried small body lost in a big crowd, God will find you."***

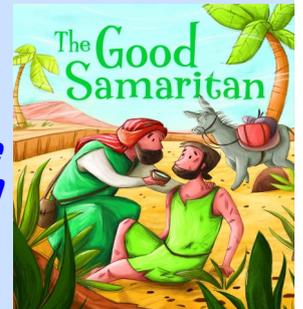
***Max***

***"My favourite parable is the Lost Coin as it teaches us that even if we do wrong God will love and forgive us."***

***Jess***

***The message in The Parable of The Good Samaritan is important to me as it has helped me realise that compassion has no bounds. You should be kind and loving to everyone you meet in life and not judge them or look down on them because they might be different to you."***

***Millie***



***The Parable of Talents teaches me that I should use The Talents God has given me, work hard and be the best I can be and live out our core Christian values to help others."***

***Flynn***

***"Ever since I enacted The Judgement of King Solomon with my friends in the Worship Team this parable has held meaning to me. It has taught me that the truth will always come out and God will help you through tough times even if you don't know it. It has helped me understand the importance of wisdom and how it is a gift from God. This teaching has enabled us to see God as He sees and to act as God wants us to."***

***Cara***

***"I have chosen The Lost Sheep as my favourite Parable. The story is of a shepherd who has 100 sheep, 99 are herded but one isn't in sight, so he goes searching for the stray sheep and finds it. This teaches us that if you fall, or choose the wrong path, Jesus will follow you, and pick you up onto your feet and lead you the right way."***

***Jenna***



# Which is Revd Jax's Favourite Parable ?

## Which is Revd Jax's Favourite Parable?

Gosh! That's actually a hard question to answer, because all the parables are important lessons for us about how we should live our lives. Jesus uses parables as a way to show us how our behaviour to one another is important to God - because the way we act with each other should be a mirror reflection of God's own love, grace and kindness to us.

Jesus used parables, to teach His disciples and all the crowds who used to follow him (often in their thousands) how God wanted them all to behave. These stories were based on the sorts of things and experiences the people understood in their own daily lives.



The parable of The Good Samaritan, for example, teaches people to be kind and compassionate to our 'neighbours' (or fellow human beings) in need. In Jesus' time, people didn't have cars or trains, so they would have been used to walking long distances between villages and towns along dry, dusty roads in the sweltering heat.

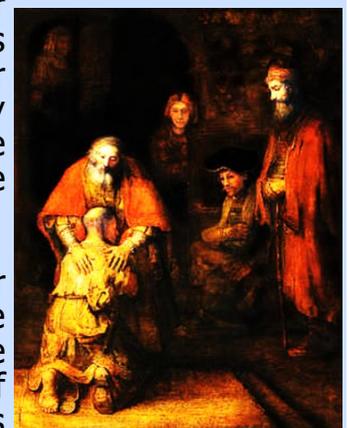
I expect a lot of them might have felt unwell along the way, so they would have understood the importance of Jesus' words, teaching them not to walk past someone who was sick because they were in a rush to get somewhere, or because they didn't know them or like them. Instead Jesus teaches them to put the needs of the poorly person first, whoever they are. That, Jesus says, is what kindness and compassion look like.

## So which *is* your favourite Parable, Revd Jax?

Probably, the story of The Prodigal Son because it teaches us what love and forgiveness look like. Also because the painting of The Prodigal Son by Rembrandt is my absolute favourite!

The parable is about two sons and their father. One son takes his inheritance and goes off and spends the lot! The other brother saves the money he has been given and stays at home to help run the family farm. Eventually, the first brother realises how stupid he has been. He has no money left and he is starving hungry. So he goes home to say sorry. When his father sees his lost son coming, he is so happy that he throws a big party to celebrate! But the other son is not happy! He is jealous about the way his dad has been so kind and forgiving to his irresponsible brother. He becomes bitter and resentful.

What Jesus is teaching us here is how God is like a loving parent or friend, and is always happy when we come to Him, even when we have made mistakes and got things wrong in our lives. The parable shows us how God cares for, and worries about, each and every of us. When we hurt each other by the things we do or say, Jesus is showing us how to forgive each other and not be like the unforgiving brother. If we refuse to forgive each other, we are not loving each other as we should. After all, which one of us has never made a mistake? **Revd Jax**



# Letter from Revd Jax to Year 6

## **'Shine like stars in the night sky'**

(Philippians 2: 15)

Right at the end of the bible there is a wonderful book called Revelation! Just when you think the story of God coming to earth as the baby Jesus, growing up to teach us all how to love God and love one another, and then His death and the joy of His empty tomb and resurrection was amazing enough ... could there be any more??

Well, yes! The book of Revelation was written by the same person called John, who wrote the Gospel of John, and who was a very close friend of Jesus. He had some amazing visions about the glory of Heaven and how the church and its people should live their lives – like a tree rooted in the rich soil of God's love.



This last chapter of the bible is also the beginning. As Year 6, the end of this school year is also the beginning of something new, At Sparsholt Primary School, you have learned many important things and have had your imaginations opened to explore the wonders of our world. And most of all, you have made deep and lasting friendships – learning together how to flourish with courage, compassion and creativity as Christians in our world today. You have been rooted in the rich soil of God's love for you all.

A few weeks back, I asked you to share one word which summed up your feelings about your journey through Sparsholt School. This is what you told me:

- |                        |                        |                          |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| * Jess – wonderful     | * Claudia – supportive | * Oli – nurturing        |
| * Max – encouraging    | * Flynn – awesome      | * Millie – unforgettable |
| * Elliss – fantastic   | * Cara – incredible    | * Jacob – enjoyable      |
| * Lyla – fun           | * Jenna – adventurous  | * Anya – educational     |
| * Gracie – interesting | * Livvy – exciting     | * Elin – joyful          |
| * Cecily – memorable   | * Tom – caring         | * George – happy         |
| * Joe – Friendly       | * Riley – rewarding    | * Emily - inspiring      |
|                        | * Grace – motivating   |                          |

All these wonderful words, which together describe the experience you have had at primary school, also describe your characters, as you have grown together shining out God's love to each other. They are important words to take into your brilliant futures!

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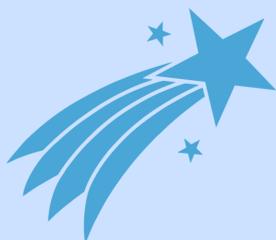
So, as you come to the close of your career at Sparsholt Primary, I want you to think about what John's visions might mean for your future. John heard Jesus telling him: *'See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.'* What Jesus meant, was that if you keep living your lives as you have learned to do at Sparsholt School, being kind and compassionate, thoughtful and wise, shining like stars in the night sky, the doors to life in all its exciting and rich fullness will be open to you forever.

Part of the point to us living faithful Christian lives is our need to love others and care for our world. The other point is to know that you are deeply loved, valued and respected by your families, your friends ... and most importantly, by our Father God. With Jesus' love in your hearts, you will never be lonely. With the Holy Spirit to guide you, your path forward will always be bright.

I hope some of you will think about being Confirmed in Winchester Cathedral next Easter? Please ask your parents to contact me if so. It would be fabulous to do that as a year group!

May God's blessing go with you into your bright futures! My love goes with you too. Thank you for all your many kindnesses to me over the years we have known each other. It has been a joy for me to watch each of you flourish and grow into the most extraordinary young people. Keep shining!!!

Revd Jax



George, Cara, Claudia and Elliss With Revd Jax. In our last service before lock down.

# Blessing From Year 6

We would like to share a blessing with our school community as we say goodbye and wish you a relaxing, fun-filled and happy summer holiday!

**I arise today  
Through the strength of heaven;  
Light of the moon,  
Splendour of fire,  
Speed of lightening,  
Swiftness of wind,  
Depth of the sea,  
Stability of the earth,  
Firmness of the rock.**

*You Shine Like a Star in the Universe  
With Courage, Compassion and Creativity*

Our Outstanding Oak Class Leavers'

*Thank you for being a brilliant Year 6!*



*Congratulations on graduating  
Sparsholt C of E Primary School 2020*

shine  
like stars  
in the universe

Philippians 2:14-15