

Light of Hope

A celebration of our church schools involvement in the Light of Hope project



The inspiration

The inspiration for this project was taken from the 'Light of Hope' art installation, a giant steel star shaped sculpture, with neon changing lights, suspended above Winchester Cathedral's nave between October and January.

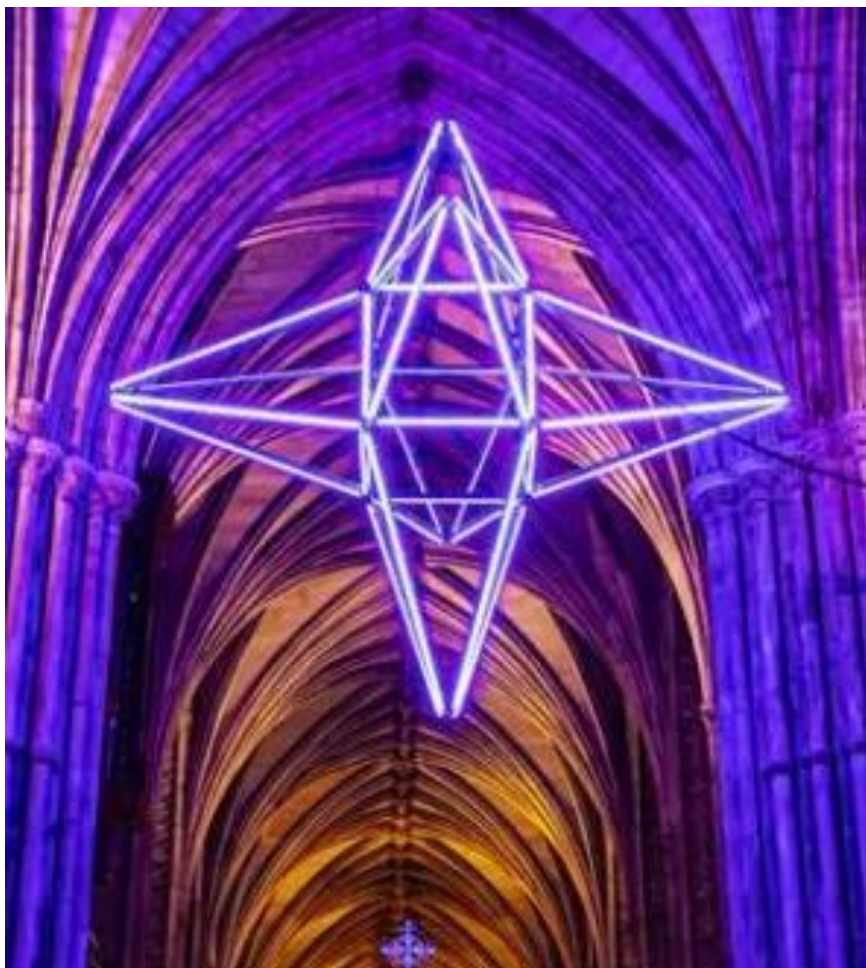
The Light of Hope Star, an illuminated five metre diameter steel piece designed to unify and represent hope, was created by artist Peter Walker.

The light was part of a wide-ranging engagement project which involved thousands of young people from Hampshire's schools and community groups creating their own miniature Light of Hope.

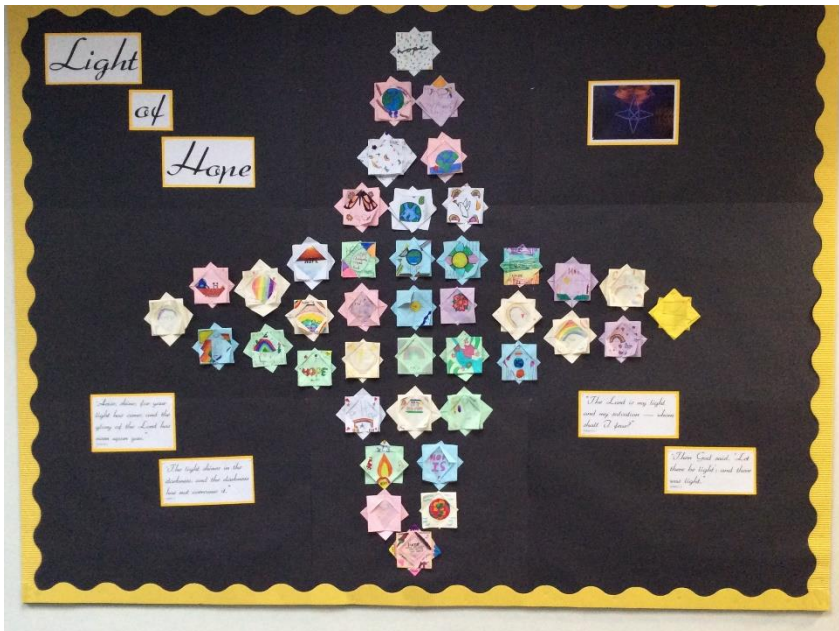
Children in church schools across the diocese were invited to create their own lights of hope as a way of thinking about Hope as a Christian value through their RE learning and collective worship. A range of resources were created by the Diocesan Education Team to support schools, including reflections and art appreciation activities.

Schools and parishes embraced the project and created their own stars of light. Some were taken to the cathedral, others were placed in churches or formed beautiful displays in schools.

This booklet shows a selection of the work of schools.



Children and parishioners work together



Pupils from St Mary's Primary School, Old Basing, helped parishioners with a dramatic installation in their church. All of the children made stars which hung around a recreation of Peter Walker's star, made by a parishioner. The artwork came to life once night fell.



United in prayer

Children at The Priory Church of England Primary School in Christchurch enjoyed a special 'prayer buddy worship to celebrate their lights of hope. The children sat in pairs with someone from a different year group and for a candle reflection. Pupils then lit their lights, reminding themselves that even a small light can penetrate the darkness, but together they can make a big difference.



Developing spiritual understanding

Each child at Alverstoke Junior School created a lantern and discussed their hopes for themselves, others, the world and beyond. Teachers used the opportunity to further develop the children's spirituality understanding. The lanterns were hung on the school's Christmas tree in school and the school's entry in the St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival.



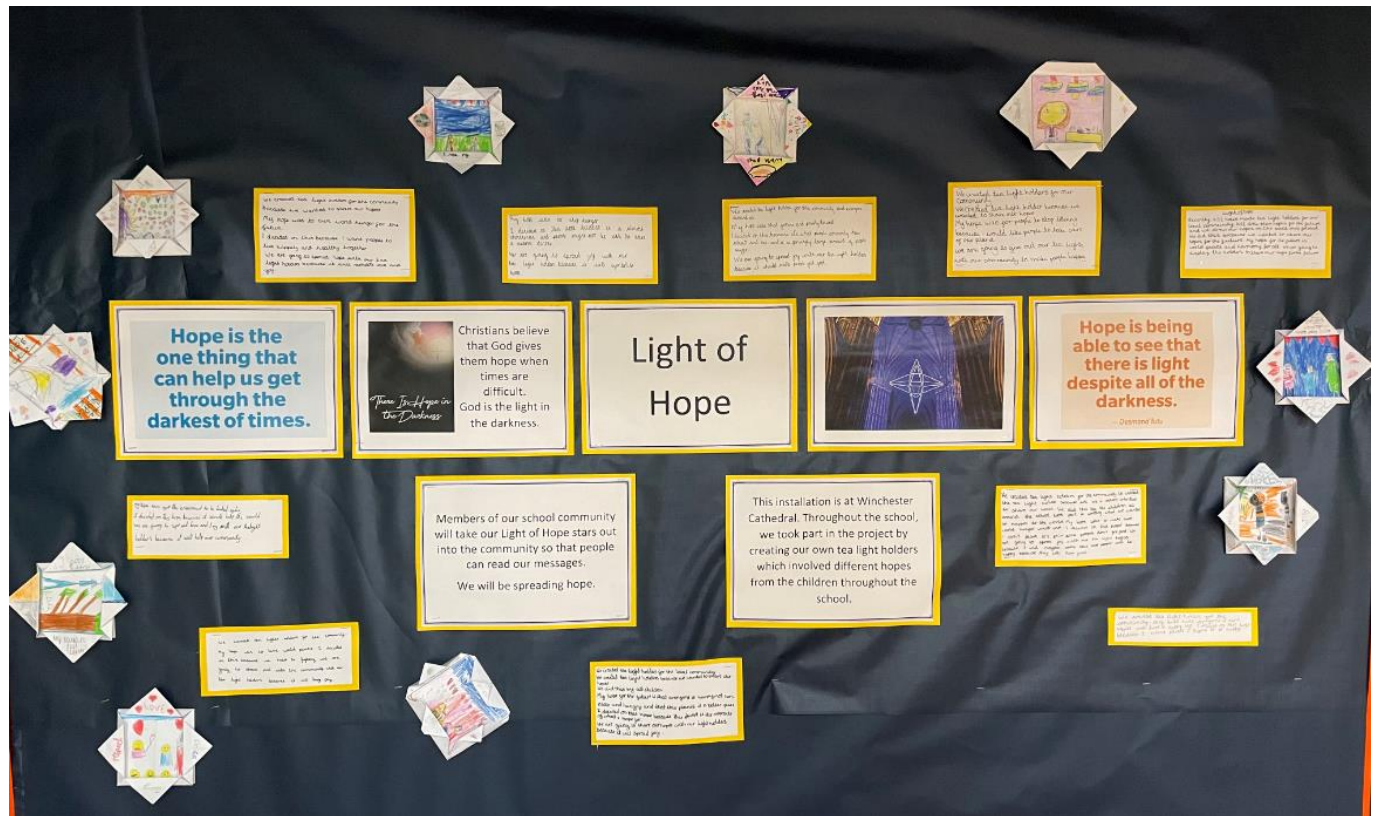
At a special Collective worship, each child brought their light and placed it in the school's spirituality garden (see next page).





Beyond the school gates

As part of the Light of Hope project, children at Wickham Church of England Primary School were asked to create their own star-shaped origami tea-light holders decorated with messages of hope. Years 1 and 2 drew pictures of hopes for themselves, Years 3 and 4 drew, or wrote, about hopes for others and Years 5 and 6 added their hopes for the world.



The Light of Hope stars were sent out into the school and local community. Some were presented to members of staff, including minibus drivers, school cooks and the admin team. Some were presented to the church community at the Patronal Festival at St. Nicholas Church and others were taken to the Wickham Christmas lights 'switch on' in the village square. Even Elsa and Ana from 'Frozen' received a Light of Hope!



The Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt Rev'd Dr Jonathan Frost, who attended the Patronal Festival, was very pleased to receive a Light of Hope from the children. He took the time to say a special prayer and to bless the lights. Teacher Nicky Portlock said: 'I have to say it was lovely to be involved and the response from children and from members of the community has been really positive. The lights have truly brought a little extra joy and hope.'



Shining for others

The Worship Council at Cornerstone Church of England Primary School made light holders as part of the project. The children thought about the great power of light over darkness; how light can bring new colour, brings new life, and always bring hope. The children said that, as well as thinking about hope and light, the project had encouraged them to be the light, and to make light too!



Spelling it out



Pictured is the result of the Light of Hope project at St Mark's Church of England School in Basingstoke.

Assistant Headteacher Jo Rosso said: 'Every child in Key Stage 2 made a lantern and groups were made by each class in Key Stage 1. We completed them following a worship about Light and Hope using the diocesan resources. We had great fun making them and some lovely discussion around the theme. Our Christian Voice Ambassadors wanted to display them using the word 'Hope'. Many children wanted to take them home but a number of them will also be displayed at the Crib Service lead by our church on Christmas Eve. Thank you for the fun and thought provoking activity.'

Light of Hope candle holders from across the Federation of Shalfleet and Yarmouth primary schools on the Isle of Wight.



Oakfield Church of England Primary School in Ryde held a Lights of Hope tealight making workshop. Families arrived to make the light holders with the children.

