



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER



Diocese
of **Portsmouth**

Church Schools Stand Together For National Holocaust Memorial Day 2020





“We’re all created at the same Mint – but are created as different coins” : this was a comment by Rabbi Daniel Goldberg during his wide-ranging and engaging lecture that I was privileged to attend at Winchester Cathedral after Evensong on Holocaust Memorial Day. This is an analogy I’ve never heard before, but unpacking on the way home, realised that it’s so appropriate on a number of levels! Pressed and created in the mint as different sized coins, different colours, different weights..... and through interaction and rubbing together in pockets and purses, they gradually, or dramatically through circumstance, become smoother or dented and sometimes change shades. All still valuable – all still worthy – all still having an impact.

37,000 children in all 160 of our schools, as well as thousands of adults working in those schools and parents visiting, stood together on 27th January and said the Holocaust Memorial Day prayer we had written. Those children, students and adults, each special individuals, Standing Together in all shapes, sizes and colours but created in the same ‘Mint’, made a collective physical and significant point. Standing Together to challenge xenophobia, holocaust-denial and anti-semitism on that day, while especially marking the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz impacted on children, families and communities.

I want to thank you for rising to what I know some of you felt was a challenge and somewhat outside your comfort zone when I launched our ‘Standing Together’ project last year. Equally, thank you to those schools who went far beyond the minimum request of saying the prayer, with the hugely creative ideas and activities, participation and learning that they generated. We celebrate a selection of those in this special edition Newsletter.

HMD was a central part of this year’s Diocesan Project, with many more activities, events and opportunities following throughout the next two terms. However, I’d invite you now to make HMD an annual event, as do some of our schools already, given its success this year, and the importance of keeping the memory alive. I’ll send a reminder and link to the 2021 HMD material during the Autumn Term and we continue to work closely with the HMD Trust. We will offer workshops for Year 6 children in Alresford and on the Isle of Wight again, but will also have a day for schools in the Bournemouth Area. In addition, we’ll be

running twilight experiential training for teachers, so the workshops can be replicated in schools, and I'm intending to host a HMD event for teachers, governors and ex-officios in the evening of HMD 2021.

My colleagues and I were pleased to be invited to worship at St Peter's, Bournemouth Town Centre, the day before HMD, where the Sunday service focused on HMD. Hearing a recording of Schubert's 'Ave Maria' played on a harmonica, before listening to *The Harmonica* being read to the congregation (the book we commended to all schools) engaged us. A true story of desperation and sadness but also hope and positivity, we were able to ponder on this individually when we joined a large gathering in the afternoon at Poole's Lighthouse Theatre for the regional HMD commemoration. We know that many of our parishes joined in saying the HMD Prayer that Archbishop Justin asked churches to embrace and pray, and led special services for HMD.

The mass planting of sunflower seeds is the achievable challenge I'm hoping you'll now embrace! It reinforces our *Bee Inspired*, eco-focused project in 2019, and brings lots of creative, nature-focused and educational and competitive opportunities – for all children even from Reception classes. Seeing lots of sunflowers 'Standing Together' will be great visual messages in our school and church grounds, particularly as we reflect on their significance on graves at Auschwitz. Giving children a seed and asking them to plant and nurture at home, instantly triggers a whole host of opportunities for fun, teaching, discussion and much more. Our parishes can equally embrace the challenge and options available. A great triangle of Home – School – Church engagement! I'll send ideas and prompts, complementing those in our Project Brochure, just before Easter. However, you may want to start sourcing seeds and ideas now so our combined thoughts can be made available to our schools.

As you turn these pages, enjoy the stories, marvel over the creativity, smile at the photos, hope that this isn't a one-off..... but recall that we have humbly asked all of our schools to participate as a result of the systematic and incredibly cruel murder of 6 million Jewish people. Help us spread the truth that this happened to counteract the denial and lies being promulgated. You might want to forward this Newsletter to your network and friends to inspire them?

With best wishes and thanks for all you are and do.

Jeff

Director of Education

A special prayer

AS 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, children in our church schools have created a poignant reminder of the need to learn from the past and to work towards a world of peace, reconciliation and unity in the form of their own special prayer. Please use the link below to see them praying for the world.

We hope our partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust '75 Flames' project will raise human consciousness that the need for change cannot be achieved individually or independently. This is why the title 'Standing Together' has been chosen for the Diocesan Education Team's focus for the next academic year. We are figuratively and literally members of The Body of Christ. We work and serve as influential and impactful individuals, but as part of a community and body.

<https://youtu.be/rCtPhSZS3CE>

Children taking part are pupils at St Bede's Church of England Primary School, Winchester; St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Old Basing and Longparish Church of England Primary School.

Dear God

We thank you that we live in a safe country where we can be ourselves without being hurt by others.

Today we especially remember people who suffered in the Holocaust, or have been hurt by others just because they are hated for being themselves.

We pray that they may feel brave because you love and care for them.

Please give us the courage to stand together when we know things are wrong.

We pray that people who are filled with hatred, especially against Jewish people, may have a change of heart and show kindness in the world instead.

We ask all this in Jesus' name.

Amen

The story so far.....

Each year the Diocesan Education Team develops a project to promote social action and community spirit, encouraging schoolchildren to explore their value to society. This year the project is called 'Standing Together'.

At a time of political, social and environmental turbulence, church schools are becoming places of social transformation. This year children in Portsmouth and Winchester church schools are learning from history, and developing new ethical practices that promote peace and unity for the future.

Many events and activities are planned this year, from the flying of peace kites to the creation of peace poles as last symbols of learning from the past to create a more peaceful future.

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz : a poignant reminder of the need to learn from the past and to work towards a world of peace, reconciliation and unity. The Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) Trust approached the Winchester Diocese to become the pilot diocese for the teaching of this challenging topic to schoolchildren to help combat holocaust denial, antisemitism and for the promotion of reconciliation, respect and peace. Many schools used the excellent resources of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, the '75 Flames' project and resources produced by the Diocesan Education Team to help with teaching and learning. Much of the work has been highlighted in the national and local press and attracted interest from other dioceses.

This booklet recognises the work of a selection of our schools and parishes to promote understanding and appreciation of historical events and the lessons that young people can learn from the past to shape their own relationships and actions.

Workshops led by the Diocesan Team

Some 150 Year 6 and 6 pupils from 19 schools across Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses took part in workshops at Old Alresford Place and on the Isle of Wight, to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The children were asked to bring a special object to the workshops. Many brought teddies or family photos, others items included a dancing trophy and a fountain pen which had belonged the child's grandmother. Pupils talked about what they might pack if they had to put a few items in a suitcase or backpack and leave home. Lively discussions followed with children placing items on a continuum line and discussing whether a first aid kit was more useful than a torch, or whether they'd rather have a woolly hat or a pillow for the journey. Children compared their responses with research about Syrian refugees and what they carried with them in their backpacks when fleeing the country.



Pupils took part in a detective activity, piecing together clues to find out what had happened to Susanne Flanter, a 13 year old who had escaped from Nazi Germany and started a new life in London. They discovered that Susanne had been part of the Kindertransport before she was finally fostered by a Jewish family. Susanne was keen for the world to know about the sacrifice people had made to give her a future, and that the story of the Holocaust should never be forgotten.



Pupils debated whether the events of 75 years ago should be remembered or whether it was more productive to look towards the future. Most of the children decided that it was important to keep alive the memory of the Holocaust and to learn from the mistakes of the past; some of them mentioned refugees from Syria and Afghanistan and recognised that atrocities were still taking place around the world today. They recognised

that there were pressing issues such as the climate emergency that needed to be addressed and they talked enthusiastically about changing the world to build a better future.

Finally pupils wrote poems to express ideas about standing together with others:

The important thing about standing together is that it accepts people for who they are.

It helps you have courage,

It gives you democracy,

It gives you that feeling that you can do anything and everything.

But the important thing about standing together is that it accepts people for who they are.

Lola, Waltham Chase



The important thing about standing together is that it gives you positivity.

It spreads the message of peace.

It changes our lives,

And helps you take on challenges.

But the important thing about standing together is that it gives you positivity.

Sasha, Four Marks



We are grateful for the energy and creativity invested by Jane Kelly in these sessions. . Dawn Casson, headteacher at St Lawrence Church of England Primary School in Alton, said: *'Thank you for a super afternoon. The children were buzzing with thoughts and reflections on the way back. A fabulous opportunity.'*

Artwork selected for national exhibition

A memorial flame created by children at Pennington Church of England Junior School, with the help of the local community was selected to feature in a national art exhibition to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Well done on this national accolade!

The artwork was one of 75 memorial flames art projects chosen to represent each year since the liberation. It was displayed at an exhibition unveiled at the UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day in London.



More than 300 groups from across the country registered to take part in the nationwide competition launched by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) to encourage more people to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

Revd Rachel Noël, Priest in Charge at St Mark's Church, Pennington said "I am so proud of how Pennington has worked together to make this artwork. I worked with the creative year 6 student Kiara-Lei Simmons on the design, featuring a variety of people from across the community, standing together. After our design was selected for the national exhibition, local craftsman Alan Doe offering to help us create the final design and local photographer Helen Renouf offering her support to the project. It is important to me that we can bring people together across the community, to work together."

The school marked Holocaust Memorial Day at St Mark's Church with songs, reflections and poems. Headteacher, Kirstie Richards said "Our school values are love, respect, perseverance and courage. This artwork helps us to show the significance of the whole of Pennington standing together, to value the gifts of everyone in our diverse community, and to help our students see the importance of respect for everyone. We are delighted that our students work will be part of the national ceremony."

The '75 Memorial Flames' competition was launched with the creation of a sculpture by artist and survivor of the Holocaust, Maurice Blik, who was liberated from Bergen-Belsen concentration camp as a child.

Characters featured in the artwork included:

Kirstie Richard - Headteacher, Pennington Junior School
Revd Rachel Noël - Priest in Charge, ST Mark's Church, Pennington
Kiara-Lei Simmons - Year 6 Student, Pennington Junior School
Alan Doe - Local Craftsman
Amy Wake - Acting Headteacher, Pennington Infant School
Amy Blake - Pennington PCSO
Brian Crouch - Lymington Fire Station
Anne Corbridge - Mayor of Lymington & Pennington
Andrew Gossage - New Forest District Council, Lymington & Pennington Town Councillor
Michael White - Hampshire County Councillor
Tizzie Drake - Manager of Pennington One Stop and Post Office
Cliff Cole - Landlord Musketeer Pub

St Mary's Old Basing holds annual commemoration

Pupils at St Mary's Church of England School, Old Basing have marked Holocaust Memorial Day for many years. This year every child contributed by drawing their face on an oval in one of the colours of the Holocaust flame logo. Children led special prayers in worship. School leaders followed up the children's learning throughout the week with a focus on the Good Samaritan story

During the day wooden poles were distributed to each class in preparation for the creation of peace poles.



The work of Sparsholt Primary School



House Captains represent school

The House Captains at Highcliffe St Mark Primary School went to the local Captain's Club Hotel to remember everyone who suffered or lost their lives during the Holocaust. They joined three other schools and many ex-soldiers at the event. The children were reminded that everyone should be allowed to choose which religion they follow and that events like the Holocaust should never be repeated.

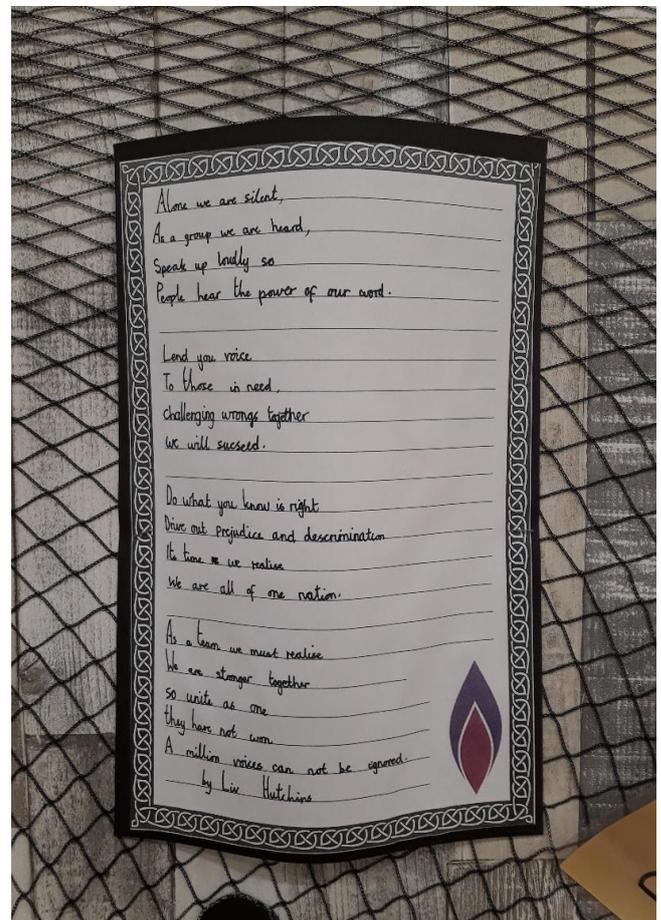
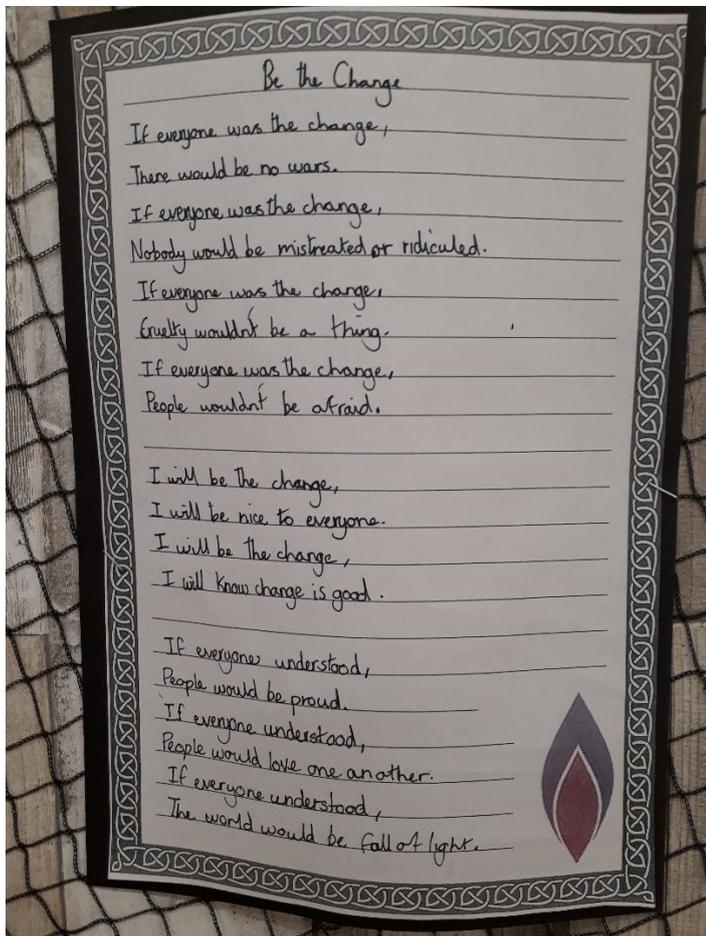


Island Schools leave their footprint

St Francis and St Blasius schools on the Isle of Wight focussed on shoes and footprints to dramatically, but simply and significantly, draw attention to children and adults whose names are not known but lives remembered. A display of footprints at St Blasius signifies the footprints of people who lost their lives surrounded by the footprints of children enjoying life in school today.

St Blasius principal Fiona Perkins said: 'It is about recognising that we will all leave a "footprint" behind and encouraging our children and staff to ask themselves "What footprint will I leave behind?" and "How can we ensure that the legacy and suffering of others is neither forgotten nor denied simply because it is sad or upsetting or happened to people who aren't like me?"'

The work of Overton Church of England Primary School



Children use prayer to inspire peace pole

Like many thousands of children across the Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses, pupils at Upham Church of England Primary School, joined in the holocaust memorial prayer:

Dear God

We thank you that we live in a safe country where we can be ourselves without being hurt by others.

Today we especially remember people who suffered in the Holocaust, or have been hurt by others just because they are hated for being themselves.

We pray that they may feel brave because you love and care for them.

Please give us the courage to stand together when we know things are wrong.

We pray that people who are filled with hatred, especially against Jewish people, may have a change of heart and show kindness in the world instead.

We ask all this in Jesus' name.

Amen

In worship the children explored the theme of Holocaust and how some people in the past had given into hate. Pupils discussed what they might do to stand up to people who show hate. Children linked their thoughts to the school's core Christian values of love and care. Some of them include:

Don't say horrible things (Y3), We are all the same (Y6), Why hate someone who doesn't hate you (Y3), When people are rude or mean to someone, try to stop it (YR, If someone has done something to you, don't take it out on others (Y5, If someone is hateful, don't show them hate back but love (Y5), Comfort others and help people who are by themselves (Y6)



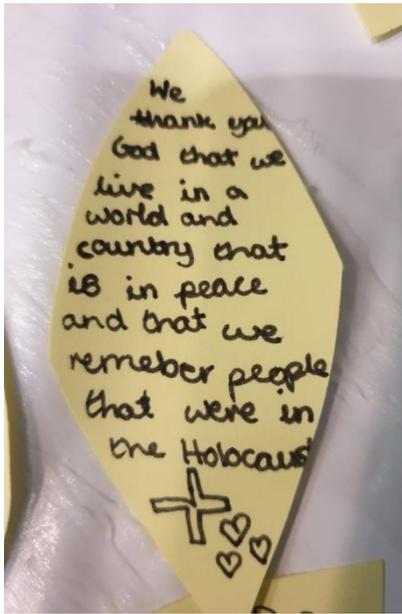
Heateacher David Woolley said: 'I was particularly pleased by the last comment; a child who realised people hate when they feel isolated or feel disliked by others.'

'In worship we said the HMD prayer together (all staff too) and focussed on the 'Please give us the courage to stand together when we know things are wrong' section and revisited these statements. The children then helped attach them to a pole outside (part of an old, unused structure) to create our peace pole.'



Children at St Matthew's Church of England Primary School, Blackmoor, paused to reflect and pray on Holocaust Memorial Day.





Hordle Primary School @Hordle... · 1d
WORSHIP - HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY
Team UJ remembered those affected by the Holocaust today and together we created our own flame of prayers and wishes for the future. @HMD_UK

Hordle Church of England Primary School share children's work on social media



Shining a light for peace at West End

Each year group at St James Church of England Primary School in West End created artwork based on the ideas of candles or other peace symbols to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Headteacher Michelle Marsh explained: 'We have been using the guidance from the diocese to encourage our children to think about how we can be a light and shine for a future of peace by Standing Together for all the goodness in the world. This is displayed in one of our connecting corridors and is a reminder to every year group about our theme for the year of Standing Together in preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day. Our children wrote a prayer for the Holocaust. Each class wrote a sentence and then it was all put together to form the prayer.' The children's prayer follows:



Our Father in Heaven,

Forgive us for the way people have been treated in the past. Help us to stand together in peace to show respect towards all, regardless of who they are. Help us to show forgiveness.

We promise to remember those who were hurt because of people's prejudices. Let it be our choices that decide who we are.

Let us Celebrate our differences

because we are unique

Thank you for making us all different. We like it that way. Help us to understand other peoples ideas and love and protect each other.

Let us be kind to each other, to love one another even though we are all different. 

Respect our people and make the world fun, exciting happy and different. Share your love!

Help us to stand up for what is right by including people even if they are different.

Be kind to your friends and always show Love to everyone 


We give peace to you all that have died

Amen

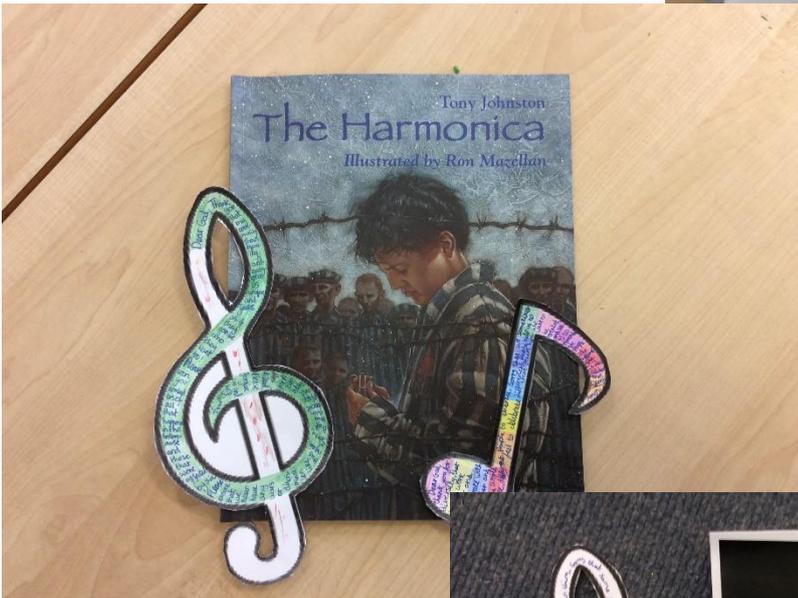
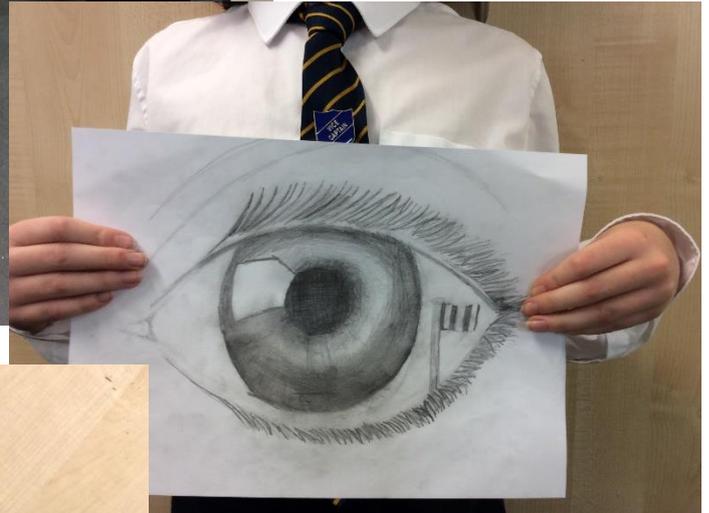
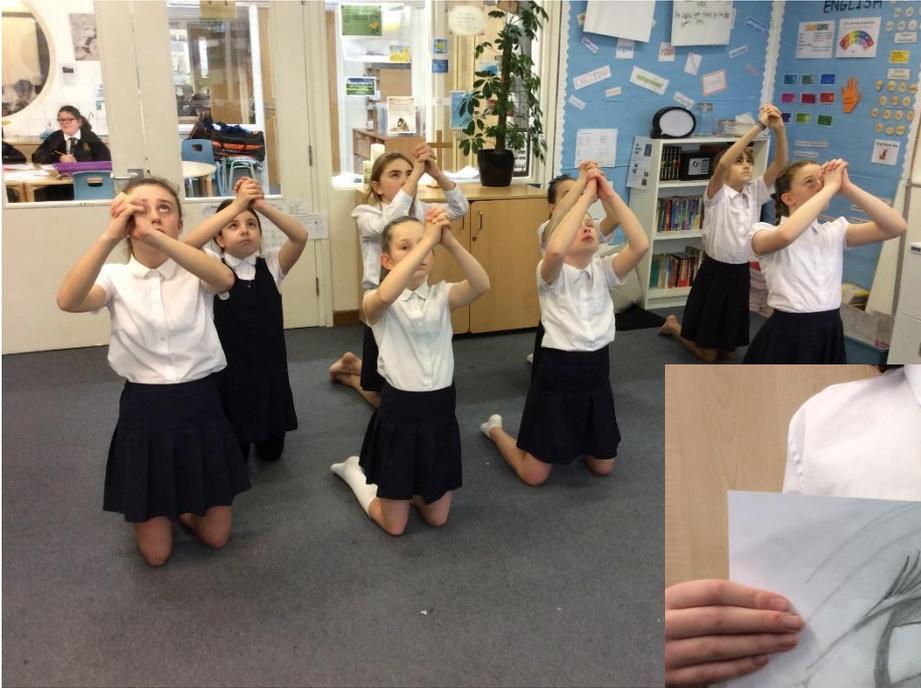


Children at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Bentworth, made flames from wire structures which they displayed in church.

Different art forms used to mark event

At St Katharine's Church of England Primary School near Christchurch, children reflected on diversity, discrimination, tolerance and peace. The Standing Together theme inspired responses in different art forms including dance, music and art as well as prayer, poetry, computer design and ethical debate. 'We were amazed at how engaged the children were with the theme and took part in higher-level thinking and debate – they even wanted to learn more about the Holocaust the next day!' said headteacher Nikki St John.





School communities mark HMD

A service focusing on the purpose of Holocaust Memorial Day and led by pupils started a week of commemoration at Moordown St John Primary Academy.

The academy then joined with nearby St Luke's Primary Academy to hold multi faith services. Some children from each of the school's parliaments went to the other school to participate in the special worship.

Sister Tama from the local Muslim Faith Community; Lynda Forde-Horn from the Jewish community and the Reverend James Sharp from the Winton, Charminster & Moordown Parish led the activity which focused on being of different faiths but still accepting each other and showing mutual respect. The faith leaders shared some of the difficulties faced

by people of different faiths in their everyday lives but also how it is possible to disagree on issues, but still remain respectful and friends. The services concluded with the visiting children from each school presenting a peace pole to



the school for them to decorate as a reminder of the future world we want to live in. Discussions carried on after the services with the Year 6 children delving deeper into the idea of injustices and how they could help stop them by speaking out and other year groups holding discussions in their classes.

Youngest children learn about peace

Some of our youngest children, enjoying education at one of the diocese's pre-schools, have created their very own peace pole.

The Launchpad pre-school in Appleshaw is part of the Church of England's Early Years Southern Network, a network of settings that promote Christian values and strong links with their local parish church.

The Peace Pole activity was introduced to the children by explaining that it is a symbol of hopes, dreams and silent prayer for peace on Earth. Staff spoke about the Earth and all the people who live on the planet before discussing the Christian values of joy, care and friendship that each of the Launchpads settings share. The children talked about how to show care for others, how to make good friendships, how to support and encourage each other to be kind and show respect for people in the community and the world. The children chose the green to represent the grass and the trees, blue to represent the water and sky and yellow to represent the sunshine as this is what they understand the earth to be.



Manager Gemma Cosgrave said: "The staff chose to take part in this year's diocesan project so we could be part of the wider community. This activity has had a big impact on the children as the following days of completing the Peace Pole the children have taken great pride in their work by talking about what they have done at hello time and discussions with their parents.

We have explained to the children that their work will be seen by lots of people everywhere and they are very proud."

The pole will be displayed in Winchester Cathedral at this year's leavers services.

Child-led prayer space

The Diocesan Education Team's 2019-2020 annual theme of 'Standing Together' was the backdrop to a special morning worship led by headteacher Hannah Beckett at Twyford St Mary Primary School near Winchester.

Pupils stood together with thousands of children in schools across the Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses to say a specially written prayer for those affected and learnt about how everyone can speak out against hatred and discrimination. The school's spiritual ambassadors held a prayer space during lunchtime for children to reflect and say their own personal prayers through weaving and bubble blowing.



In the afternoon, teachers tailored lessons for their classes around the theme and some children from Year 6 attended one of the special workshops led by the diocese. Pupils then shared their experience with the school in collective worship.

The school is planning to return to the theme of 'Standing Together' as part of a 'Team Afternoon' next half term.

Powerful voices in Wickham

Holocaust Memorial Day at Wickham Church of England Primary School started with worship based on resources from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. The video 'Your Voice Is Amazing' (linked earlier) resonated with the children with the message that their voice is incredibly powerful when they speak out against prejudice and discrimination. Year 6 followed up by taking part in the 75 Flames project and worked together to produce a display which now features in the school's main entrance



As a class, the children decided that they wanted the focal point of the display to be the Star of David, the symbol for the Jewish faith. They each painted candles, with a thumbprint in the flame, to symbolise that we are all the same inside and that difference should be celebrated, not punished, as it was during the Holocaust. The 75 candles displayed represent each year since the liberation of Auschwitz. "Our children were moved and inspired by the struggles that those as young as themselves went through just for being different. This beautiful project enabled the children to pay respect but also to work to ensure a tragedy like this will never happen again" said headteacher Graham Cutter

In English, the children studied the book, 'The Harmonica' by Tony Johnston which depicts the events of the Holocaust through a Jewish child's eyes. Using this story, and those of people who suffered at this time, the children wrote remembrance poems inside candles.

I Will Remember You

I will remember you for showing resilience during those sleepless nights

For the deep sorrow you felt when your family were torn away

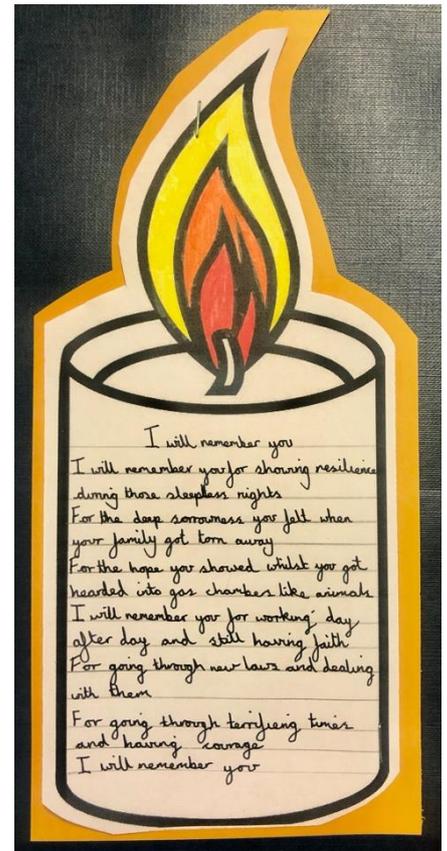
For the hope you showed whilst you were herded like animals

I will remember you for working day after day yet still having faith

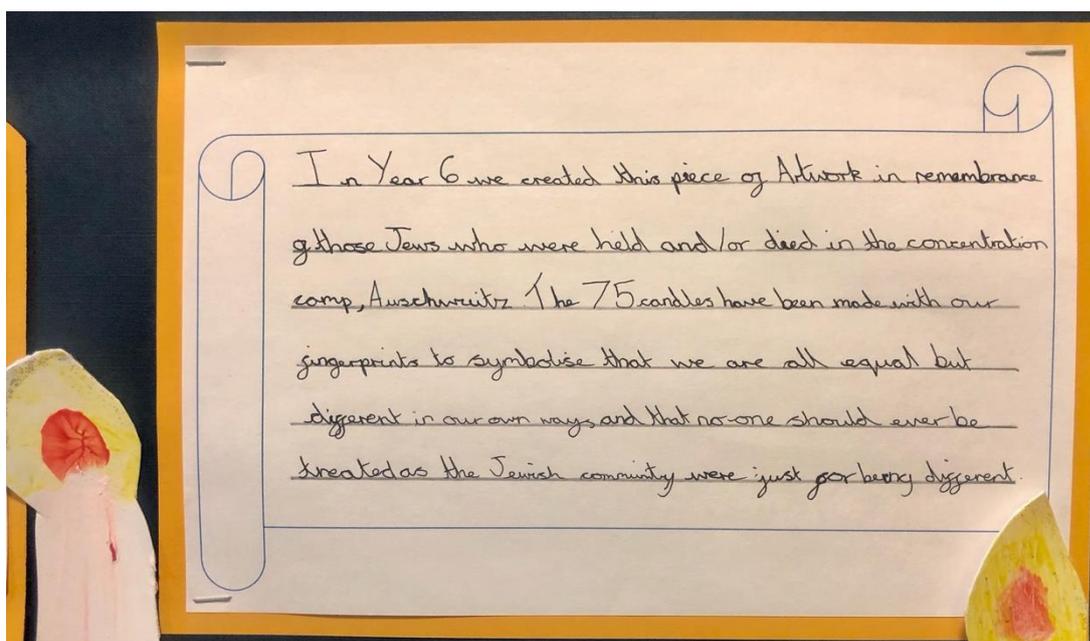
For persevering through terrifying times

For having courage when it felt as if all was lost

I will remember you



By Hattie Broadbridge





Working together at St Francis, Chandlers Ford

Teachers at St Francis Primary School in Chandlers Ford have been talking with their children about the Holocaust for some weeks and explaining what is meant by the word discrimination. Books were read on the theme of 'Standing together' and respecting all people regardless of their religion, colour or culture. Each class then worked together to create a piece of art work which was then combined on the hall board, creating a backdrop for a worship on the theme 75 flames and 'Standing Together'.

Children thought about the millions of Jews who died and how these events should never be allowed to happen again. They acknowledged other religious and cultural examples of discrimination that continue throughout the world today. Children read poems from Holocaust survivors and played musical instruments while we had time for reflection.



Pebbles on a beach

The week at Swanmore Church of England Primary School began with worship focussing how people are like pebbles on a beach, all similar but



very different. Over the week each



year group had a particular focus related to respect and differences- from each other in class to an understanding of the holocaust. Children in Key Stage 2 visited the church for worship with Jill Phipps, the school's ex officio governor. At the end of the week, all 420 children came together as a school to leave a pebble (in the way you may see on a Jewish grave) to create a point for reflection to share a special value and remind each other that people are different but the same.

HMD 2021

If you have any questions about resources to mark Holocaust Memorial Day next year, please email enquiries@hmd.org.uk or call 020 7785 7029.

Available in boxes of 50, booklets can be used handouts at an HMD activity and help explain what HMD is to attendees. They contain information about the experiences of individuals who faced persecution.

HMD Poster Pack

The site also offers a free poster pack for schools which helps activity organisers facilitate their own activities.



