



At Stanion Church of England Primary School the whole school and wider community have come together to create a visual and meaningful version of 'The Lord's Prayer'.

The newly-established Ethos Committee has representation from all stakeholders, and also includes the vicar, Reverend Heather Lowe. Everyone agreed that 'The Lord's Prayer' is an important part of daily Collective Worship and it was felt that we could help our children to deepen their understanding of each part of this prayer, ensuring that it is relevant and meaningful to all of the children.

Reverend Heather has been delighted to welcome the children back into the church building and she planned a range of prayer stations within the church for each age group. The children were so engaged, and impressed all the adults with the depth of their responses and understanding.



At each prayer station the children could consider a line of 'The Lord's Prayer' in active and meaningful ways, to ensure that they would then understand the meaning behind the words rather than just recite them.

In the photograph, the children are considering the line, 'Give us this day our daily bread'. The activity for the children was to eat a piece of bread and, whilst doing this, to thank God for their food and for everything which makes their life good. They were also asked to consider other types of sustenance and support that God provides to our lives.

As part of the line, 'Forgive us our sins', the children watched a tablet 'disappear' in the liquid to remind us that when we say sorry and someone forgives us we are forgiven. It's all finished and we can have a brand new start. The children also wrote some of the things that they felt they have done wrong, and these were then shredded- again to show that are sins can be forgiven and we can start again. They wrote onto green paper, and these shredded pieces were taken back to school to use on our own display.



As they considered the line 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven', the children had the opportunity to think about ways in which we can help to make life on earth as good as it is in heaven. They showed such depth in their responses, and showed understanding of the need to care for one another, to show love for each other and to look after and respect our wonderful planet.

Back at school, the whole community came together again to add further impact to the prayer activities that had taken place in the church. The Ethos Committee worked together to plan visual and creative activities for each year group, with each of the classes considering a section of The Lord's Prayer in depth. The children had the opportunity to build on the work in the church and consider their own section of the prayer, with the opportunity for all year groups to explain the meaning and relevance of their section in shared Collective Worship at the end of the day.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

The children thought about how God cares for each of us as a father, and that we are all unique and special to him, as He is to us. They decorated their own names to confirm how unique and special we are.

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

Our children considered the importance of caring for one another. The school's vision of Love came through strongly within this activity, with all talking about the importance of looking after one another and showing love and care for all. They created hearts for the shared display as part of this activity.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS,

AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.

The children built on the activity in church where they had shredded the things that they felt they had done wrong. We used the shredded paper to create the trees in our display, to show that we can learn and grow from our mistakes. The children also thought of positive responses to their mistakes, and actions that we can take to show that we care. They displayed these on flowers around the trees.



LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, THE GLORY ARE YOURS, NOW AND FOREVER.

The children discussed the importance of trying to do the right thing- even if it is not always easy! We put a few temptations in their path during the afternoon, and we were proud that everyone tried to do the right thing. They also thought carefully about the values that should be central to any kingdom, and their responses showed recognition that a good kingdom is not built on wealth and power but on core values. Here, the children made links to the core values of their own school:



At the end of the afternoon, all of the classes came together to share their unique responses to 'The Lord's Prayer'. The children confidently shared the work that they had completed during the afternoon, and made links to the prayer stations that they had experienced in church earlier that week.

After school, the wider community came together again to combine all the reflections, recorded work and creative responses from the children. The display was created that evening, providing such a visual impact of the importance and meaning of 'The Lord's Prayer', adding depth to every act of Collective Worship.



The work has had real impact at every level. It has brought the whole school and the wider community together, with involvement from every child, all staff, parents and the Ethos Committee. It has re-ignited the positive, influential relationship that the school has with the Church, and all have appreciated the chance to work together after the restrictions of Covid.

Comments from governors and parents have reflected the positive impact of the work at every level:

"It felt like a really special afternoon with so much effort and energy from everyone- and such positive responses from the children."

"The children absolutely loved doing the prayer stations at the church. It was a lovely day- thank you, Heather."

"The display looks amazing. It will add depth and meaning to every time we say 'The Lord's Prayer'."

Reverend Heather is delighted to see such a vibrant display, and feels so happy to have worked so closely with the school:

"I have absolutely loved the last few days in church and school. The children were fantastic on both occasions and the work looks fabulous. The display looks so vibrant and alive, which is exactly how The Lord's Prayer should look- too often it looks dusty and dull and grey. I'm sure that God is loving it and that it is making him smile."

Mr Jones, Head Teacher, is extremely proud of the children for all their work and the contributions they shared.

"The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed thinking about The Lord's Prayer and reflecting on what it means to us all. The activities in church and school supported the children in understanding the meaning of the prayer. Our wonderful display takes pride of place in the school hall and the children enjoy looking at their work."

The impact on the children is summed up by their responses

"The activity in church helped me by sharing something I have done wrong and it enabled me to move on."

"We looked at temptation in school and I resisted temptations that evening at home. Our school display is important as it shows us what everyone can do and shares our talents."

"I liked having a deeper insight about what the words of The Lord's Prayer mean to me. It stays with me and I think about it often. The activity in school was fun and meaningful as it helped me to remember that God loves us all. The display helps us by bringing us all together as a proverbial family. We recite the prayer and it helps us understand there is faith in everybody and that God is with us all of the time."

The Chair of Governors of the school has summed up the impact:

"A truly inspirational morning in the Church for the children culminated in a wonderful display, depicting The Lord's Prayer. The 'Our Father' has come alive for our children and they now pray with a deeper understanding of the true meaning of the words and petitions."

The work on 'The Lord's Prayer' has shown that the vision of Stanion School is at the heart of the whole school community:

"Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."