

Christmas Journey Day 2024

On Monday 16th December 2024, the whole school community joined together for Christmas Journey day. Each Key Stage explored a focus of the Christmas story. Our day concluded with a glorious Christingle Service in St. Chad's Church. Throughout school, the children each handmade their own beautiful Christingles to take with them to Church.

Early Years

In Nursery and Reception, the children considered what it meant to have traditions at Christmas. They thought about some of the Christmas traditions they have in their own homes and why some of these happen. The children were invited to think about drawing something they did at Christmas, reflecting on where they were, what they were doing and whether they were at home or elsewhere.





Key Stage One

In Year 1 and 2, we focused on the idea of journeys held at Christmas time, in particular those completed by the people or groups of people in the Nativity story.



The children started their day by thinking carefully about who each of the main characters were within the story. They reflected on who Mary and Joseph were and the reason that they were called to Bethlehem; then talked about the shepherds and the wise men that visited. They thought about how the characters might have travelled and why their journeys were each so important. In small groups, the children then created story maps to track the journey of each group, before coming together to retell the whole story.



Key Stage Two

After some initial reflection on the roles of the main characters of the Christmas story, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 focused their journey day on the role of the Shepherds, asking the big question: why were the shepherds the first ones to be told of the birth of Jesus and what message does this send about the treatment of all people? The children considered what



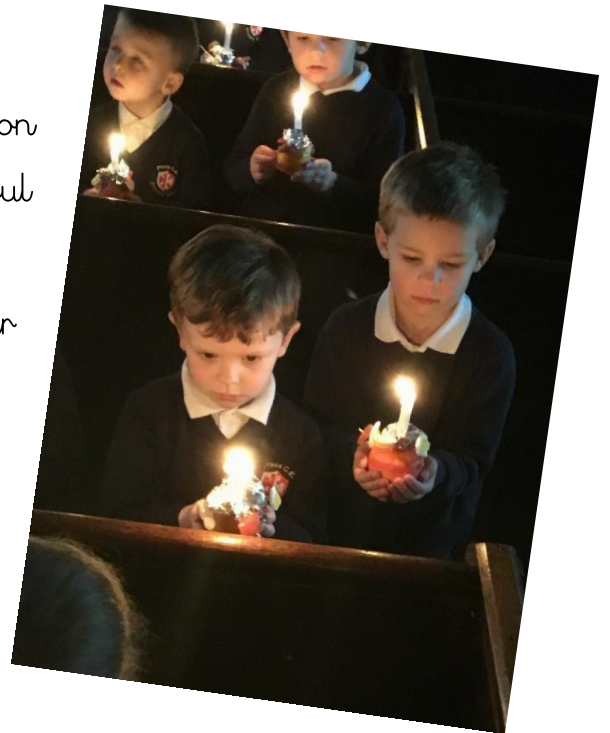
characteristics the shepherds might have had and why they were viewed as 'lowly' by some. We explored how Jesus' birth as the 'saviour' heralded God's message of 'salvation for all' with all groups of people being treated fairly and respectfully regardless of status. As a result of exploration, the children created job adverts for the 'perfect shepherd', developed art work, role play and character profiles.



Our Church Service

Through songs and readings, we reflected on the origins of the Christingle and its beautiful symbolic messages. The children thought about the gifts given by God across the four seasons of the year; the importance of the rich, fruitful World we live on; how God's love embraces us all year round, and how Jesus was sent to be our message of hope

- the Light of the World.



We concluded by singing by candlelight.

