See the good things of the Lord

Advent 2025



Editor's note

It is hard to believe we are almost at the end of the Autumn Term. As we continue at school in this season of Advent we have been able to experience the many joys that come at this time of year. We think about the significance of the Advent wreath each week as we countdown to Christmas.

We had **hope** in our hearts that everyone would remember their words for the Infant Nativity.

Felt **peace** as children took a quiet moment of prayer and reflection in our Advent Spiral.

The hall was full of **joy** as we listened to the community singing.

Our hearts are full of **love** and pride at how much the children have achieved this term.



Many thanks for your continued support and many blessings for a happy and holy Christmas break.



Heavenly Father,
As we find ourselves in the middle of December, we pause to reflect on the blessings of this Advent season. We thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, and for the hope and joy that His coming brings to our lives.
Help us to remember the true meaning of Christmas. May our hearts be filled with peace as we prepare for His arrival.
Help us to be mindful of those in need during this season. May we be a light to them. Let our actions reflect Your love and compassion.
As we light the Advent candles, may each flame remind us of the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus brings into our lives. Let us carry these gifts into the world around us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

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Advent @ SRR

Advent Spiral



As part of our Advent celebration and reflection, the children took part in the Spiral Walk on Thursday, December 18th.
This meaningful event marks the year's turning point, symbolising the shortest day and longest night, and invites us to come together to embrace the light within. At the centre of the spiral, a single candle was lit, representing hope and light. The experience was beautiful and reflective, with each child walking the spiral individually to reach the centre and light their own candle.



Travelling Crib

Children in each class have experienced a moment of quiet prayerfullness as they reflected on the long journey made by Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.









St Joseph the worker

Saint Joseph is a just man, a faithful spouse and father, a hard worker whose primary concern is for his family, a guardian and protector, an obedient servant. In addition to being the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the foster-father of Jesus, St Joseph was a carpenter. Through his work of manual labour, Joseph provided for the Holy Family, and shared in the divine plan of salvation.
His feast day is celebrated on both 19th March and 1st May.

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Reception Nativity



Reception class performed “A Wiggly Nativity “; it was a joyful performance with songs, actions, and lots of confidence. We retold the story of the First Christmas to let everyone know that Jesus is a very special gift, a gift from God. Thank you everyone for joining us in this wonderful celebration.

Key Stage 1 Nativity - The Bossy King



Year 1 and 2 had a wonderful time performing our Nativity play. A wonderful re-imagining of the Nativity story. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents, carers, and grandparents who came out to support our talented children. They truly relished the opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

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Year 3 and 4 community singing



Well done to Year 3 and Year 4 for their fantastic community singing! Both classes came together beautifully in the spirit of Christmas, performing with confidence, enthusiasm, and true teamwork. Their festive songs were delivered with joy and warmth, and it was wonderful to see the children supporting one another and sharing the celebration with the community. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication.

Year 5 and 6 Carol service



The Year 5/6 Carol Service provided a stunning and fitting reflection to our festive season. Held at St. James' Church, the pupils' dedication and hard work resulted in a wonderful performance that beautifully captured the spirit of the season celebrating Jesus' birth. Their commitment made the service truly memorable, and we are immensely proud of their efforts.

A special mention is extended to the Junior Choir and Schola members for their outstanding contributions, which made the service even more special. Thank you to all the teachers involved and to all the parents.

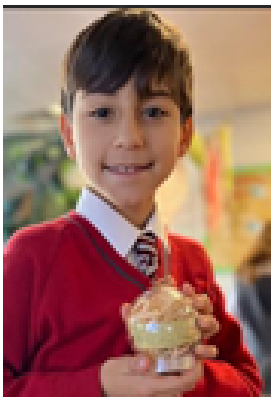
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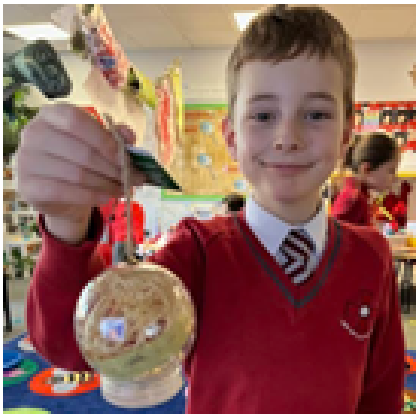
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Art and prayer group









It is always such a joy to come together with our Advent Art and Prayer group during both Advent and Lent. This season we have explored Christ's humble beginnings by creating an ornament to hang on our Christmas trees filled with straw and quote from Scripture. This week we created a light up decoration which featured the Nativity scene, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world and he brings hope in the darkness. Next week, in our final session, children will be creating crib figures. Those children who have joined us in previous years will be able to expand on the figures they have already created and those new this year will be able to start their own wooden nativity scene. We know many children have commented on the pleasure it is when they take out ornaments they have made with us before.



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Class updates

Reception

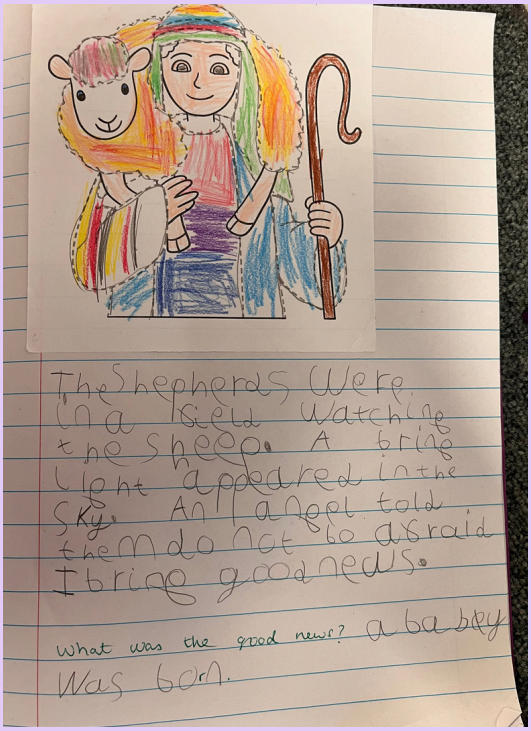


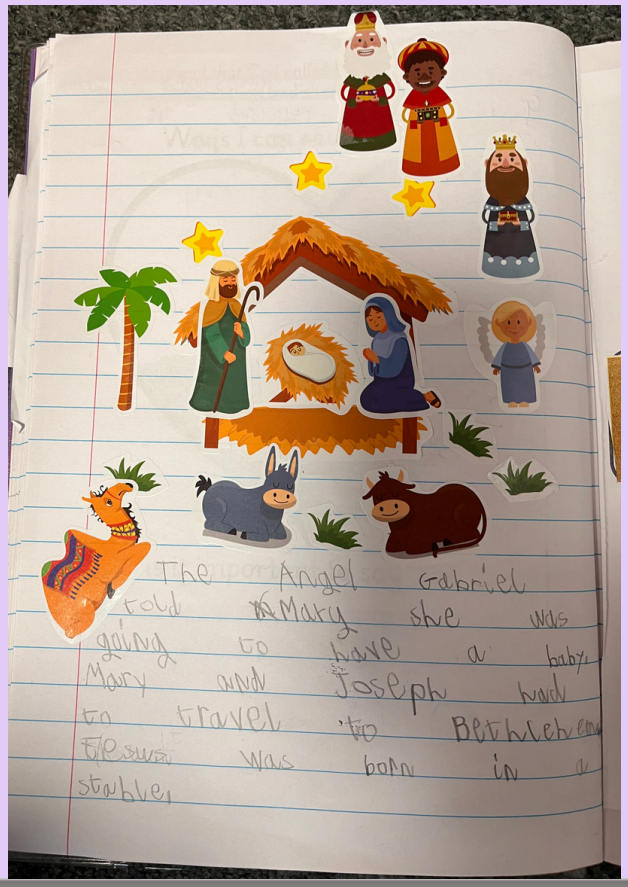




We started our topic by understanding that Mary was chosen by God. We enjoyed exploring how Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem and hearing how Jesus was born in a stable.

Year 1





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Class updates

In RE lessons, Year 1 have been learning about the important role that angels play as messengers of God. They have heard scripture of the Angel Gabriel coming to tell Mary that she is going to be the mother of God, using some of the words that we hear in the Hail Mary. They have retold the story of the birth of Jesus, recounting Luke's gospel. They then heard again how the angel's came to visit the Shepherds.

Year 1 enjoyed being the angels and stars in the Year 1 and 2 Nativity to share the story of the Birth of Jesus.





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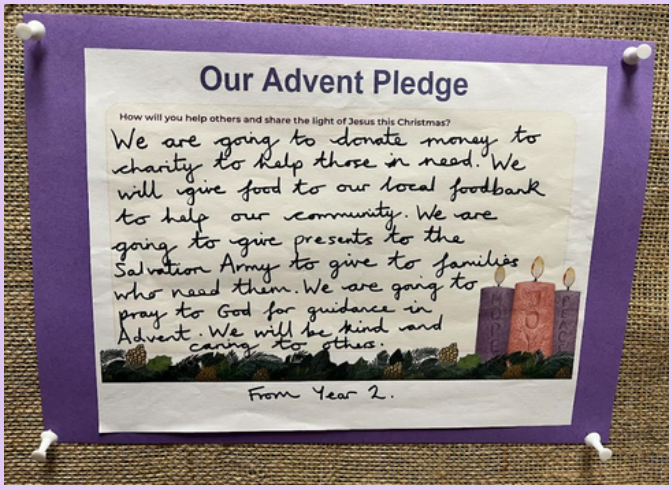
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Class updates

Year 2

In our Religion lessons, Year 2 have been learning how Advent invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. As part of this, the children created an evergreen Advent wreath by tracing around their hands to form its shape, helping them understand how the wreath symbolizes the everlasting love of God, which never fades and is always present in our lives.





The class also made an Advent pledge, committing to live out the values of hope, love, joy and peace in their daily actions. Through prayer, discussion and reflection, the children are being encouraged to show kindness, patience and care for others as they prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



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Class updates

Year 3

As part of their learning about the different parts of the Mass, Year 3 had the opportunity to attend a truly wonderful ‘Talking Mass’ in the Chapel with our College Chaplain, Mrs Walker. During the visit, Mrs Walker carefully guided the children through each part of the Mass, helping them understand not only what happens, but also why each element is important. She showed them the tabernacle and explained its significance, and gave the pupils a chance to see up close some of the sacred objects used in worship.

The children actively participated throughout the liturgy: they sang hymns, read the scripture passages, brought up the gifts of bread and wine and asked thoughtful questions about the rituals and symbols they observed. Mrs Walker encouraged them to reflect on the meaning behind each moment, making the experience both spiritually enriching and educational.







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Class updates

Year 3 has had a wonderful half term, engaging in some truly beautiful, reflective, and spiritual RE lessons.
One of our main focuses was exploring Joseph's trust in God. The children were encouraged to put themselves in Joseph's position when the angel came to him, telling him "Do not be afraid." We imagined what that must have felt like for Joseph and the many thoughts that would have been running through his mind.
To bring this learning to life, Year 3 participated in a Conscience Alley. Each child took a turn to 'play' Joseph, walking down the alley and deciding whether or not to trust in God despite the daunting circumstances. The children gave incredibly thoughtful responses, considering the difficulties and challenges he faced, but ultimately accepting the word of God and agreeing to accept Mary as his wife.
Well done, Year 3! Your maturity and insight during this topic were fantastic, and I am looking forward to progressing further on our spiritual journey together!







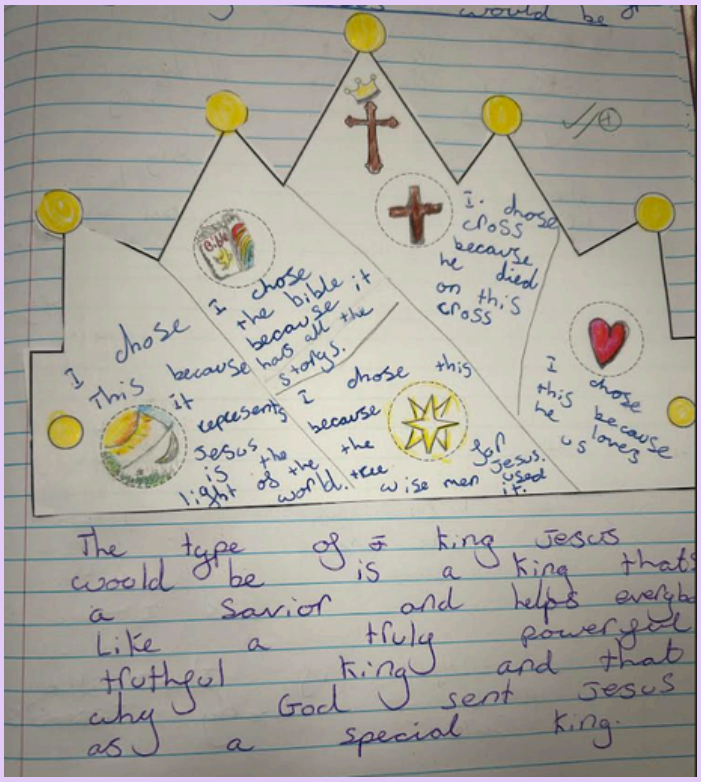
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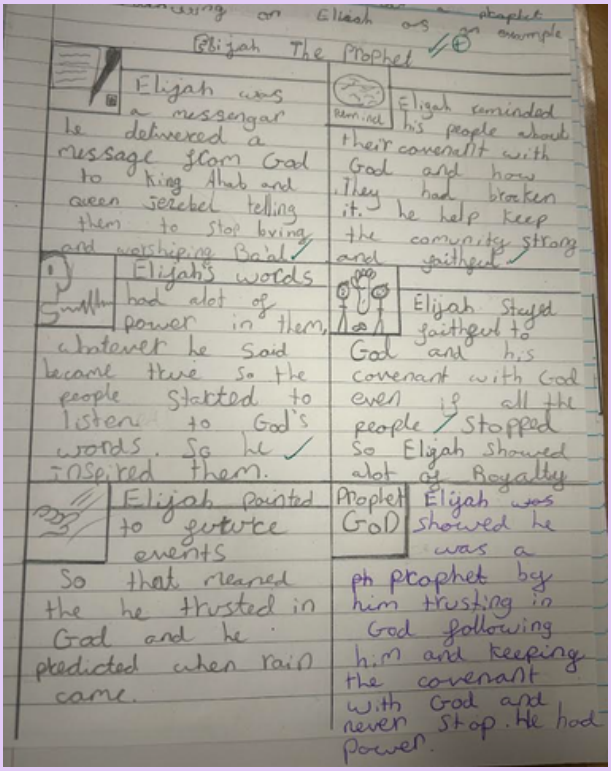
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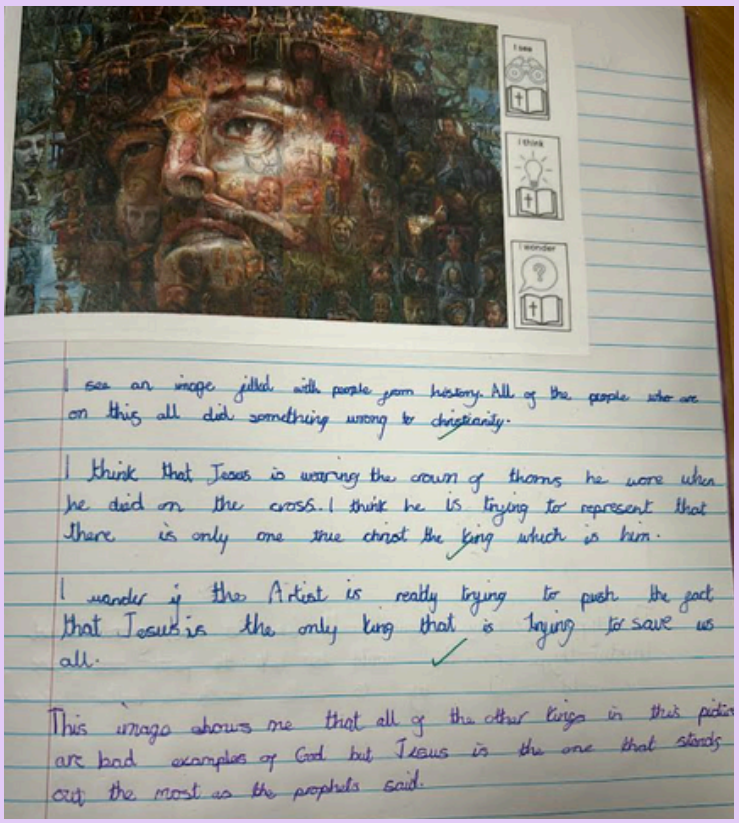
Class updates

Year 4

In Year 4 R.E, we have been learning about Elijah the Prophet and the important messages he shared with God's people. We explored the five key roles of a prophet: messenger, speaker, reminder, follower, and pointer. We also explored the kind of King Jesus is, how He is a rightful and just King showing love, fairness, and guidance. We looked at a wider range of art, including how different artists, both traditional and modern, have portrayed Jesus. As part of our learning, we designed crowns that Jesus might wear, thinking about what His teachings show us about being a good and caring King.







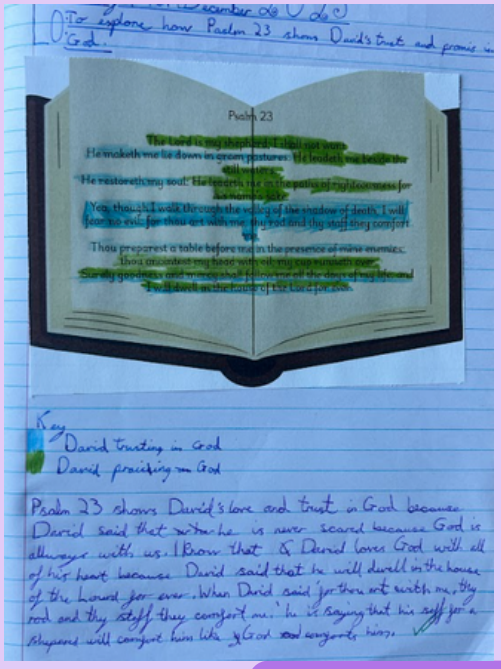
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Class updates

Year 5





Over the past few weeks Year 5 have been learning about 'Prophecy and Promise' through the story of King David. In this topic we have learnt all about the story of David, what he was like as a king and how he used music to pray to God. Year 5 have done some amazing work for this unit including writing their own antiphons and making a storyboard of King David's life.

Year 6





Year 6 enjoyed an inspiring composition afternoon with our College Composer in Residence, Amy Bryce, exploring the power of music and words together. The children began by reflecting on Mary's beautiful hymn of praise, the Magnificat, and then rewrote it in modern language, carefully capturing its radical message of justice, humility and hope. They then set their new texts to music, experimenting with melody, rhythm and mood to bring their words to life. The afternoon was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to engage deeply with RE through creativity, collaboration and musical expression.

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Fundraising







Thank you very much for your generosity during our Wellbeing Week. All your donations will help Mind, the mental health charity, to provide support and assistance to everyone in need.





We had a visit from CAFOD to explain to us about our world gift fundraising during Advent.

Loved, Listened to, Challenged, Inspired

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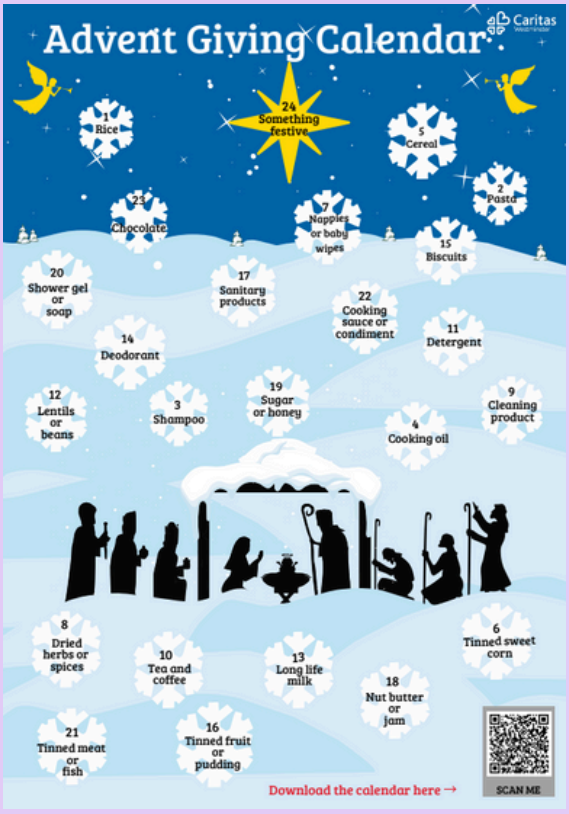
Caritas Ambassadors



Caritas have been meeting to continue exploring the Catholic Social Teaching in preparation for our project planning in the Spring Term.

The Caritas Ambassadors have also been putting their faith in action by leading on the Caritas Reverse Advent Calendar and supporting with our Art and Prayer group.

Caritas took the lead on organising the reverse Advent giving calendar.



CARITAS

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Mini Vinnies

In November, we remember



Mini Vinnies have been busy selling poppy memorabilia. Thank you for your support in helping The Royal British Legion. This charity does a remarkable job and is dedicated to helping the victims of war and their families. The poppy is a reminder to each one of us to say thank you to all those who died: during both world wars, and in more recent conflicts across the world.





turning concern into action

i'm one of the SVP MINI VINNIES

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