Bishop's Study Day

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church

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10:00AM	Welcome
10:15AM	Worship with All Saints Primary School & iSingPOP
10:35AM	Talk 1 Bishop Martyn
10:55AM	Facilitated Q&A
11:15AM	Break Time
11:45AM	Talks 2, 3 & 4 - Nadine Weedall, Natasha Boyce & Lat Blaylock
12:30PM	Facilitated Q&A
12:45PM	Lunch Time
13:45PM	Talks 5, 6 & 7 - Tobi Omoloso, Fiona Brooks, & Lat Blaylock
14:30PM	Facilitated Q&A
14:45PM	Reflections
15:00PM	Refreshments, networking, leaving

Worship led by...

All Saints Church of England Primary School

iSing POP

CCLI #7136482

We're Not Alone

iSing POP

When the sun goes down...

CCLI #7136484

Just The Way You Are

iSing POP

Loved

iSing POP

Bishop's Study Day

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church



BISHOP MARTYN


Most of our childhood is stored not in photos, but in certain biscuits, lights of day, smells, textures of carpet.
Alain de Botton



Theological reflection on childhood

Martyn Snow



Childhood didn’t exist before Medieval times…

Know very little about Jesus as a child…

Some cultures today downplay the importance of childhood

Jesus was counter-cultural - put a child in the centre...
welcomed them...
blessed them...
told the adults to learn from them




What does it mean to be a child?
Not an imperfect adult...
Not just about age....
Not just about development...

Different cultural understandings of childhood

- In contrast to the West, many cultures have a relational understanding of personhood
- So, childhood is a period of negotiating new relationships
- Not simply about autonomy (freedom of choice) but about negotiating interdependence



- **Created in the image of God** – irrespective of age, background, gender, appearance, ability, belief or culture.
- **Created for relationship** – firstly in family; but also across ethnic and class divides.
- **Created for relationship with God** – this 'spirituality' is present from birth i.e. not dependent on speech or cognition.



Called by God, messengers of God





But the image of God can be marred…

Children suffer the worst of the evil of this world

Yet God shows particular concern for the orphan, stranger, foreigner

So what does it take for a child to be happy?



Parenting and guidance

Parents are themselves *in loco parentis* in relation to God

As the child receives the love of carers, so the child can express that love to others





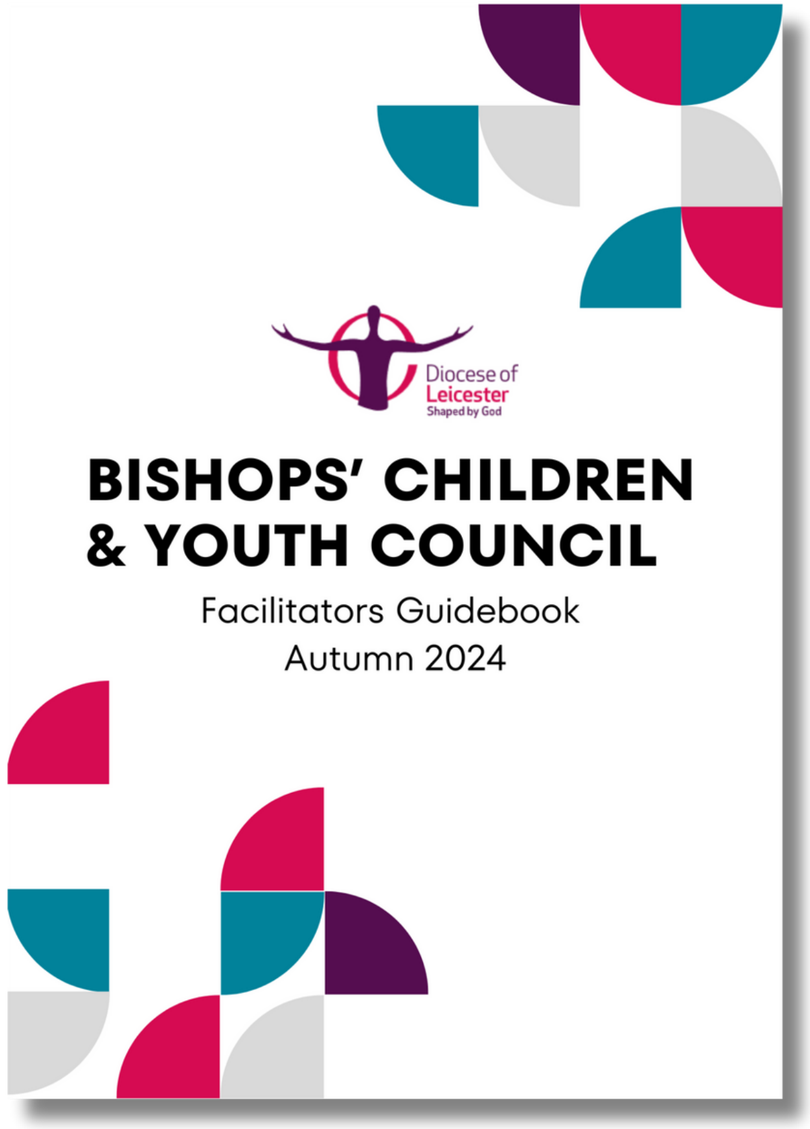
Jesus' Sermon on the Mount - what constitutes human happiness (in eight 'Beatitudes')?

- This is what brings blessing… and it's very different to what most people think
- Those who are at the bottom of the pile, turn out to be at the top in the kingdom of God
- If you run after riches, status, power – you will always want more
- Seek first God's kingdom and God will supply all your needs
- An integrated spiritual view of life
- Learn from children…

BISHOP'S CHILDREN & YOUTH COUNCIL

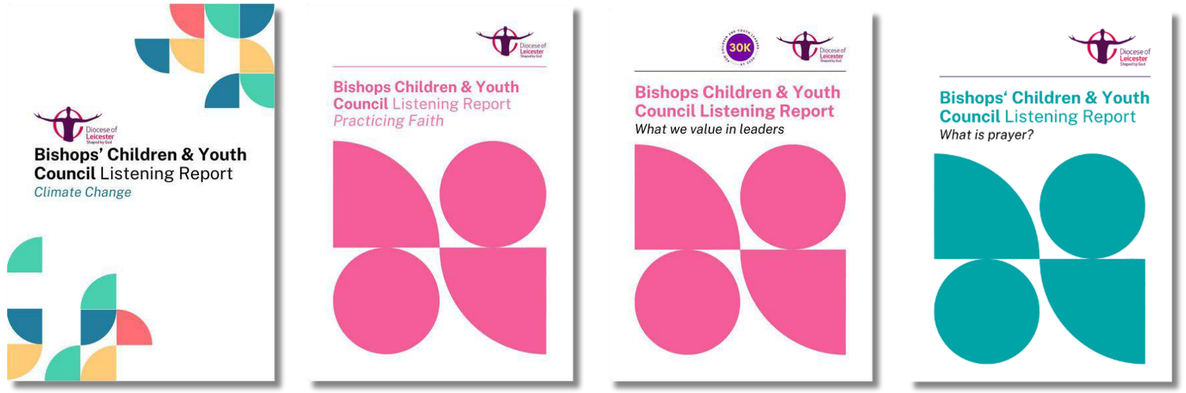
Diocese of Leicester
Shaped by God





LISTENING

We've heard from more than 750 young voices from across the city and county, via five termly listening exercises.




growing
faith

Break Time

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church

Bishop's Study Day

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church



NADINE WEEDALL

Learn-AT

Learning ~ Fellowship

How are we Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church: Through the lens of SEND Chaplaincy

The Bishop's Study Day

28.11.24

Overview:

- Introduction
- A vision for SEND Chaplaincy
- Isn't SEND an educational issue?
- Listening, learning, planning and doing
- 'Doing' in detail
- Next steps
- What impact could great SEND Chaplaincy have?



Introduction



How are we growing faith at the intersection of school and church: A vision for SEND Chaplaincy:

(Based on Hosea chapter 2)

For pupils, families and Learn-AT staff to see **their experience of navigating the SEN education system transformed from a valley of hardship and heartache to a gateway of hope;** where the learning, opportunities and outcomes for all pupils with SEND are directly impacted by the fellowship developed between families, staff and churches seeking to support them.

Key Areas:

- Children and Families
- Staff
- Networking and Spirituality



How has SEND Chaplaincy enabled greater connections between school and church?

- **Listening**
  - Pupil Voice
  - Staff Voice
  - Parent Voice

- **Learning**
  - National Statistics
  - Local Statistics
  - The challenges schools are currently facing

- **Planning**

- **Doing**









Why SEND Chaplaincy? Isn't SEND an Educational Issue?



The Example of Jesus



Parallels in Scripture



The importance of the church in educational history

The Church of England vision for education

Body

Diocese of Leicester Board of Education

Leicester Diocesan Board of Education vision

- Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church requires an ability to **'minister in the margins'**

‘Doing’ in detail



Children and Families

- Local Authority Local Offer
- LearnAT Local Offer
- Sharing beyond LearnAT
- SIgnposting
- SEND Coffee mornings in school
- 1:1 family support request
- Developing charity connections
- Prayer Support- covert and overt

Staff

- Trust networking with Senior leader feedback
- SENCO network
- Family and Wellbeing network
- Schools Advisory Service
- Pastoral and Prayer Support
- Supporting to develop better systems and procedures
- SIAMs support
- OFSTED support

Networking and Spirituality

- Leicester DIocese
- Leicester Deanery
- Church Networking
- Growing Faith
- MAT links
- Local schools
- Listening Groups
- Chaplaincy connections
- Modelling Kingdom Values

Next steps to enable greater connection between school and church



- Strategic SEND Team Leader and SEND Chaplain
- Hope for Families Partnership- potential for other future connections (TLG, Growing Hope)
- Developing trust listening
- Potential collaboration with Blaby and Lutterworth PCN and trust school
- Continued relationship with the Local Authority via the Local Offer

How can you respond?



Listening



Learning



Planning



Doing



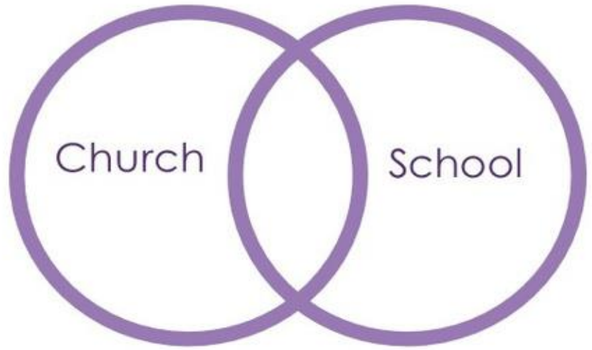


Targeted support:

- TLG
- Care for the Family
- Growing Hope

Starts by listening

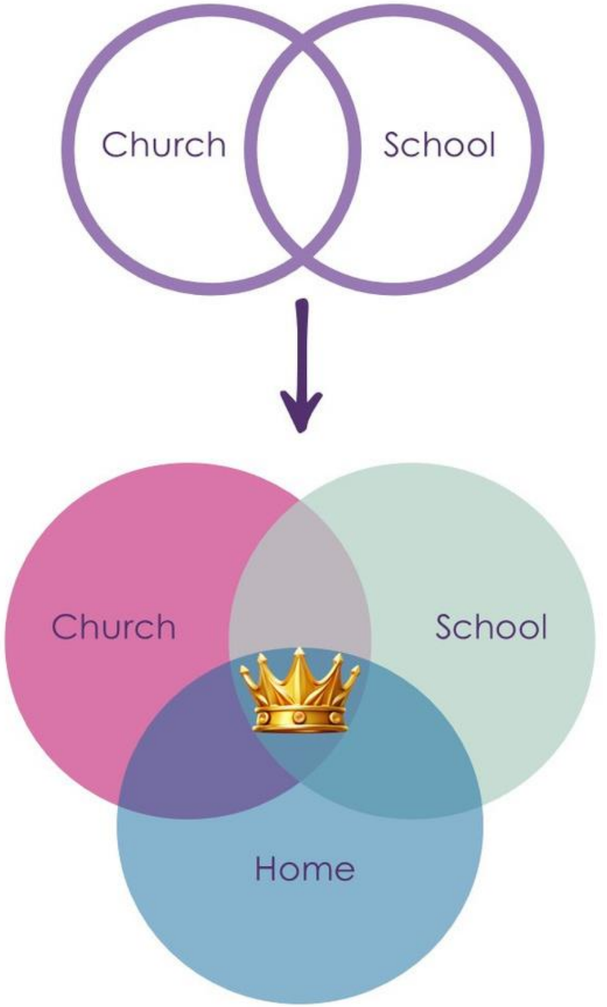




What impact could greater SEND Chaplaincy have?







Bishop's Study Day

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church



NATASHA BOYCE

The Winstanley School

Christ-centred leadership as the basis of an inclusive school culture

School Context

The Winstanley School

- Small school
- High percentage of disadvantaged students - 70% of students from North Braunstone
- Majority of students come from white British backgrounds
- Non-religious school
- Christian Headteacher
- Being a beacon of hope in our community



The Mission

The Winstanley School

"Transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope."

Hosea 2:15- NLT

The Church and School Partnership

The Winstanley School







Interfaith Relationships

The Winstanley School





Inclusion and Belonging

The Winstanley School





Bishop's Study Day

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church



LAT BLAYLOCK

Where is God?

- 24 000 schools
- 7 million learners
- 502 schools in Leicester city and county
- 97 Church of England schools – it's about 4400 across the country

"My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long 'Where is your God?'"

Psalm 42



Yusra – Age 6 Beautiful Places (Spoken to TA)
"God is in beautiful places that make us smile; in waterfalls, water in streams and rivers, and in the ocean water as well. In nature that gives us oxygen. God is in the morning dew in the wind to help the plants grow. God is in my family, blessing them every day. But most of all God is in our love!"

Copyright RE Today & NATRE



Yolande: 9.

‘My model is called ‘All you need is love’. Some people don’t believe in god, but they do believe in love. I am one of these people.’

Where Is God

God's in the snowflake that melted
But ~~not~~ in the snowballs you threw
She's ~~Gods~~ in the midnight shadow that might
have been there if the cloud only moved.

God is in the words of the story
But not in the book's printed page.
She's in every word that was shouted
But more in what you never dared say.

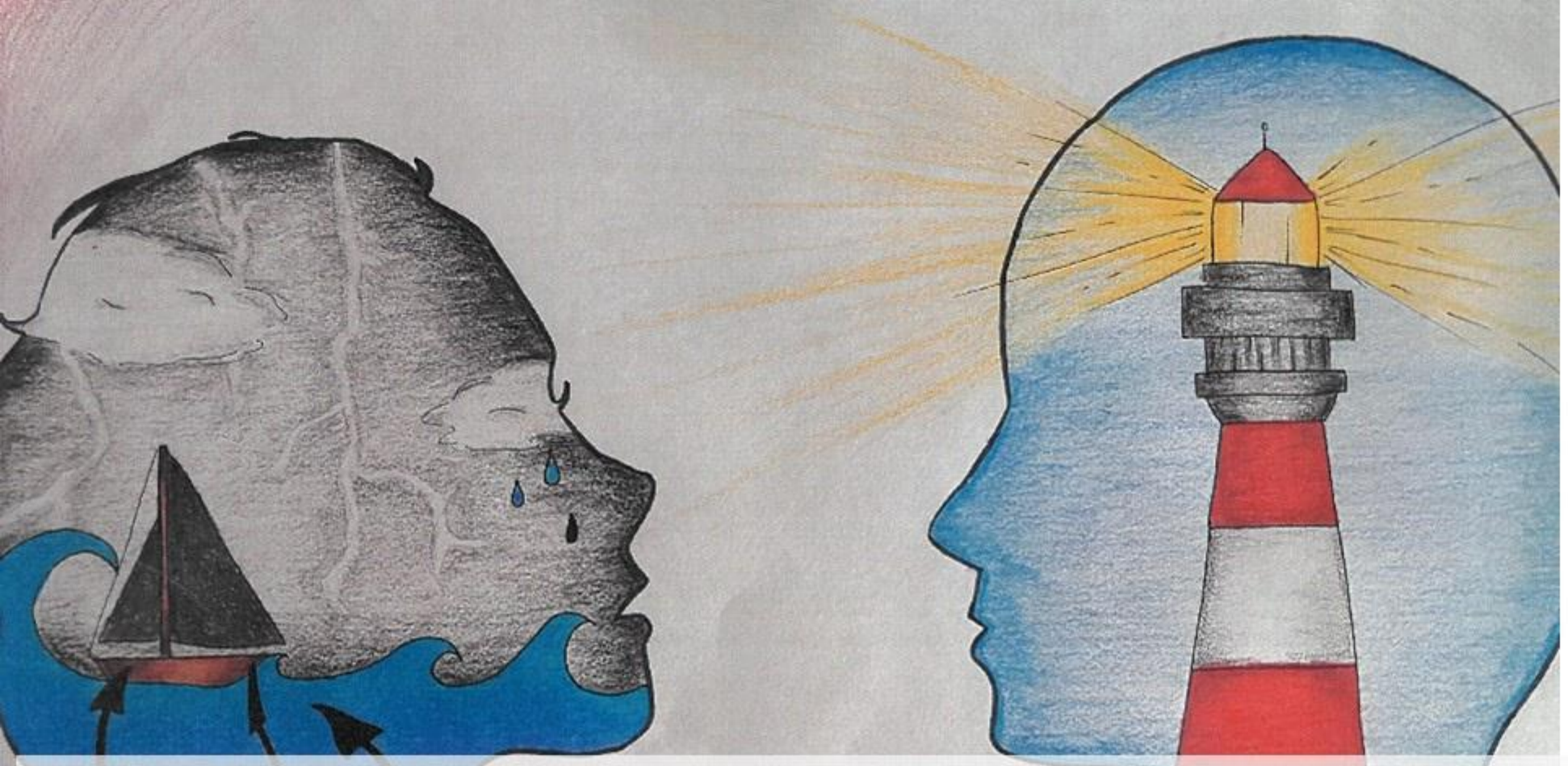
God's lives in the living furs touch.
But not in the leather punk boots
~~Or~~ He's in the cool stars of midnight
But more in the dawn's golden fruits

God's in the 1st fairtrade chocolate
But not in the millionth Kit-Kat
She's in the succulent pork meat
But more ~~it~~ Quorn and that's a fact!

God's not always in my head
Or even in ~~the~~ my head
But He can be right every ~~t~~ step of
the way
Even when he's just 1 step ahead

by Rose
8 Fisher
English Martyrs School

Rose is 12



Nick is 13. Lighthouse

"The drawing represents 'looking for God' through two people and their minds. A small boat in a storm and a lighthouse, symbol of salvation. Think of a person going through a difficult time and then looking for God and salvation.
The waves and the lightening show difficulty in the atmosphere around a person.
The creature in the ocean represents a problem in a person's life that may be more specific: your biggest trauma.
The boat trying to escape all the chaos symbolizes reaching out for help from God
The rays of light reaching towards the person on the left represent hope and faith in God.
Black and dark blue represent the darkness in the mind and life. Yellow and sky blue represent light, hope and salvation."



Where is God?

“Newspaper clippings from today’s news with barbed wire. My way of symbolising war and suffering for the world. In the top left there’s a big tear in the fabric; underneath is bright gold. This is where I think God is, forever growing larger in the world and in our hearts, biding his time to cover the whole image in gold.”

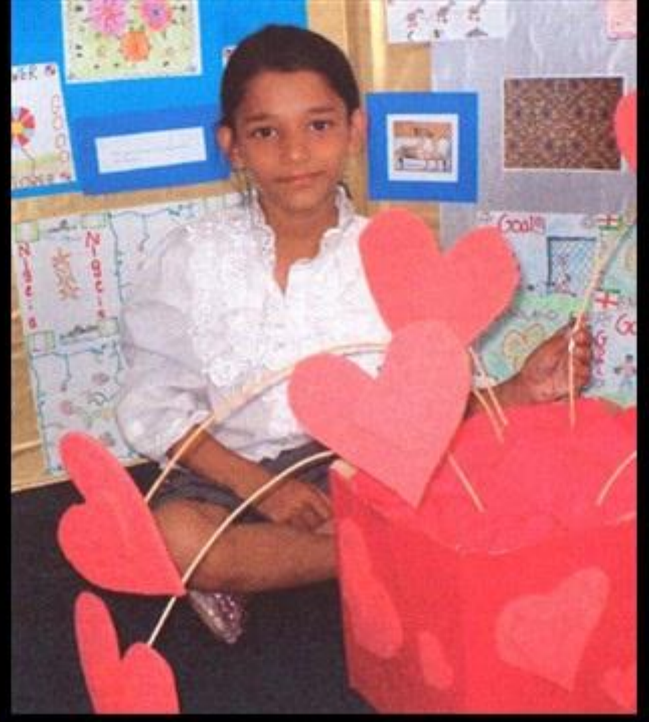
Nicky is 13

Where is god? I've got him

I have god tied up in my basement
I have tied him up using ordinary string
I have tied him to an ordinary chair
Doesn't seem so great now, does he?
Never mind why I have him.
If he got himself into this mess,
Don't you think a great lord could get out?
If you ever want to see god again
Send me £100 000 in an unmarked bag
Or alternatively
£5 a viewing
£10 a picture
£50 a punch!

Jon Ord, Age 16





Where Is God

God's in the snowflake that melted
But not in the snowballs you threw
She's Gotta in the midnight shadow that might
have been there if the cloud only moved.

God is in the Words of the story
But not in the book's printed page.
She's in every word that was shouted
But more in what you never dared say.

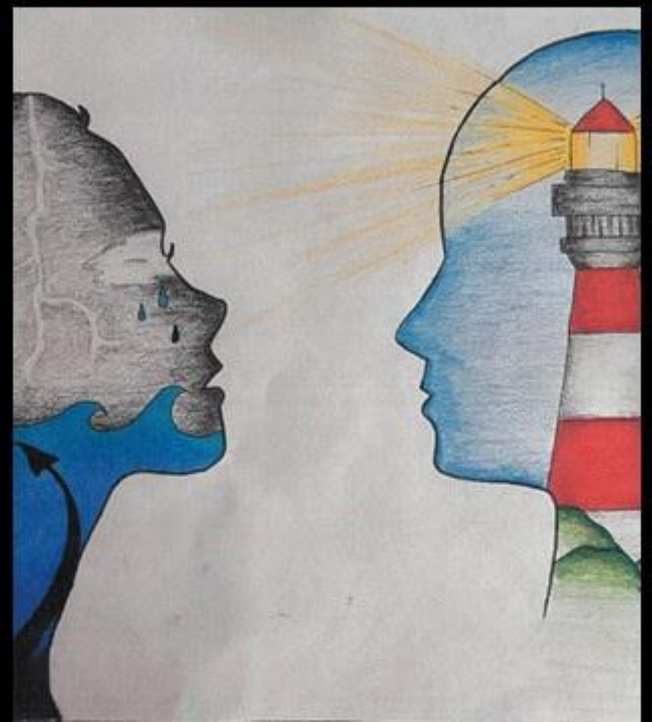
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Jon Ord, Age 16





Six theological examples of young spirituality

Each may be 1 in a thousand

But one writes or draws like this: 1000 think about it.

What do the examples say cumulatively about the space between church and school?

RE Today / Lat Blaylock

Spirituality is a very significant idea for schools, not least because OFSTED inspections assess how well schools provide for pupils' spiritual development.

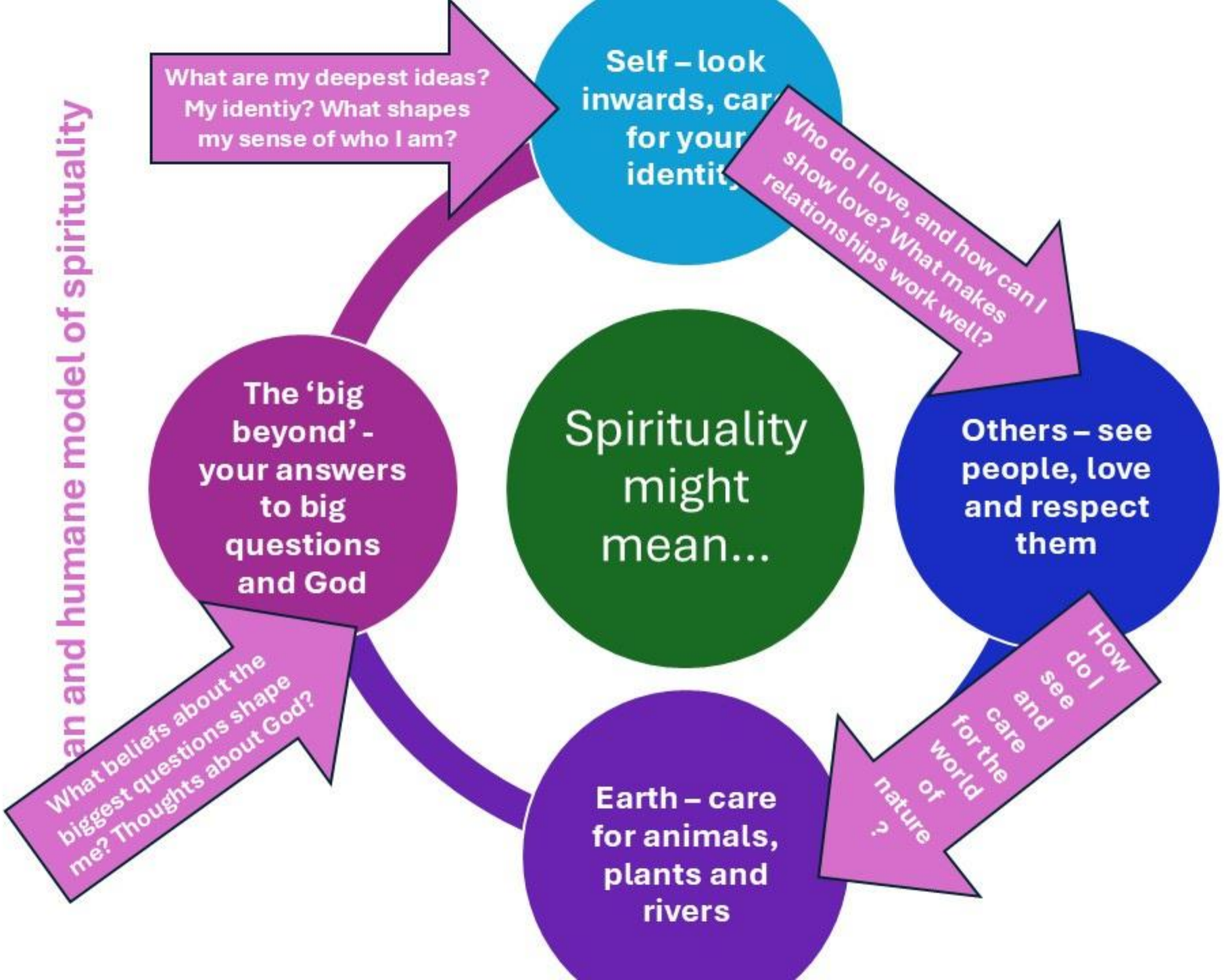
The concept is **contested**, and different visions of spirituality are found in different communities. For example, **Christian spiritualities** centre on Jesus' teaching and example, and on forgiveness and faith. Buddhist spirituality makes space for awareness, detachment, meditation and compassion through visions of the **Buddha's Dharma**.

These and many other different visions are all interesting. But in the context of the school, descriptions of spiritual life and growth that transcend a single religion and can be seen as **human and humane** are especially useful

The model we use here is inspired by the work of Dr David Hay and Dr Rebecca Nye, and suggests spiritual life is understood in terms of four kinds of relational consciousness.



A human and humane model of spirituality



Dr Rebecca Nye studies spirituality at Cambridge university.
She says there are four aspects to spiritual life – it's different for everyone, like your fingerprint.
These four aspects of spiritual life are simple in a way: it's about how you relate 'in, out, down and up'
Demonstrate this with four arm actions:

- **In,** put your hands to your chest.
- **Out,** throw your arms out wide.
- **Down,** open your palms to the earth.
- **Up,** push the sky upwards.

“Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.”

Psalm 43:5

4 propositions to consider…

1. There is hope for our engagement with the next generation in relation to life’s deepest questions.
2. The spaces between parishes and our schools can be good places to grow creative engagements.
3. Models of spirituality which are human and humane may help us more, initially, than those which are distinctively Christian.
4. Visons of God from young people may show the Spirit at work more than anything older ‘leaders’ say or do.

Lunch Time

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church

Bishop's Study Day

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church



TOBI OMOLOSO

Bishop's Study Day – Diocese of Leicester

How are we Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church?

National Society for Education

Church of England & Church in Wales

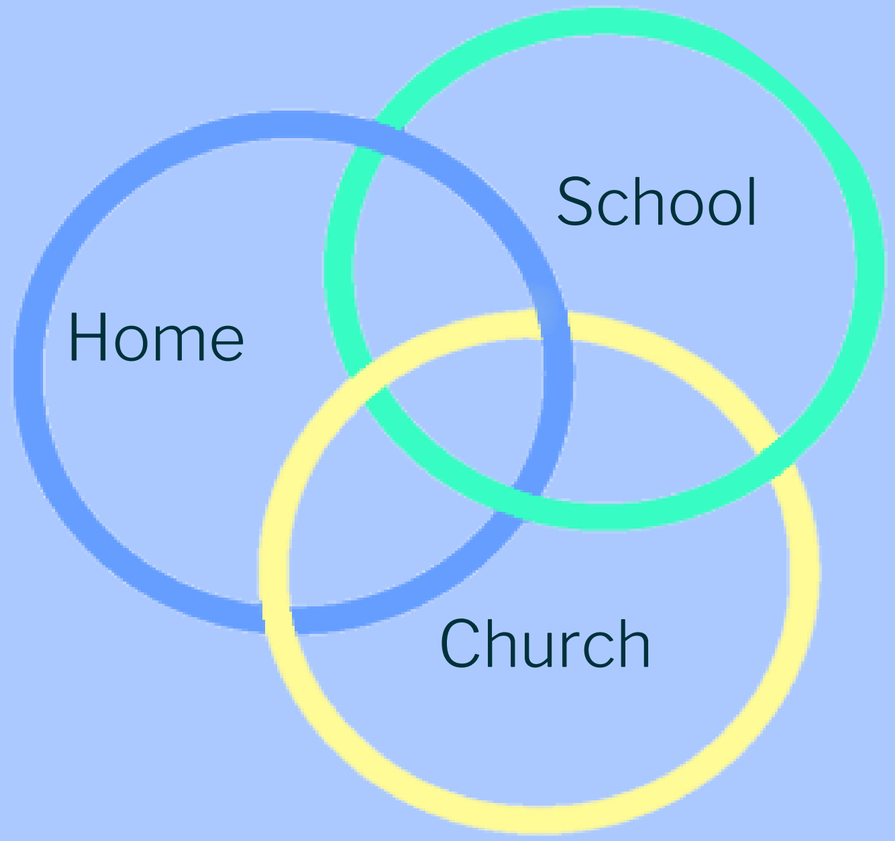
Who am I…

- Tobi Omoloso
- Growing Faith Foundation
- Coordination Specialist



National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

Growing Faith



Research

Networks

Hubs

Programmes

National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

How are we Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church?

- Listening as a tool for Growing Faith
- Creativity as a tool for Growing Faith
- Meeting children and young people where they are at.
- Young people are part of the church ***now***
- *"We might not know the answer"*

How are we Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church?

- Listening as a tool for Growing Faith.



"Because I was here..."

National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

How are we Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church?

- Creativity as a tool for Growing Faith





"You need to, yeah, you need to even make it fun and like interactive to make sure that we're still listening and have not fallen asleep."

National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

How are we Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church?

- Meeting children and young people where they are at.



"Just because young people aren't coming to church doesn't mean they're not religious."

National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

How are we Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church?

- Recognising that young people are part of the church *now*



'I want them to know that young people are definitely part of the church just as much as like older people.'

National Society for Education
Church of England & Church in Wales

"When you ask us questions, sometimes we might not know the answer, but we know that we want something different than what's happening."

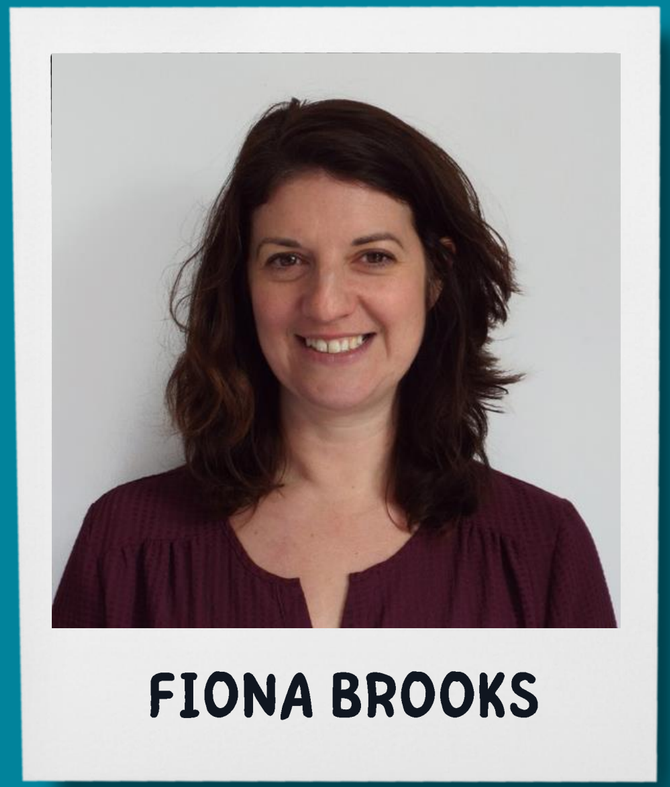


National Society for Education

Church of England & Church in Wales

Bishop's Study Day

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church



FIONA BROOKS

Hope Hamilton CE Primary

Who are we?

What are we doing here?





- Primary
- North-east of Leicester city
- 454 children nursery to year 6
- 24 different languages
- 33% Muslim, 10% Hindu, 8% Christian, 7% Sikh





- Church meets in the school
- Partnership began when the school was built
- It has succeeded two headships and three incumbents
- ‘Frictionless’

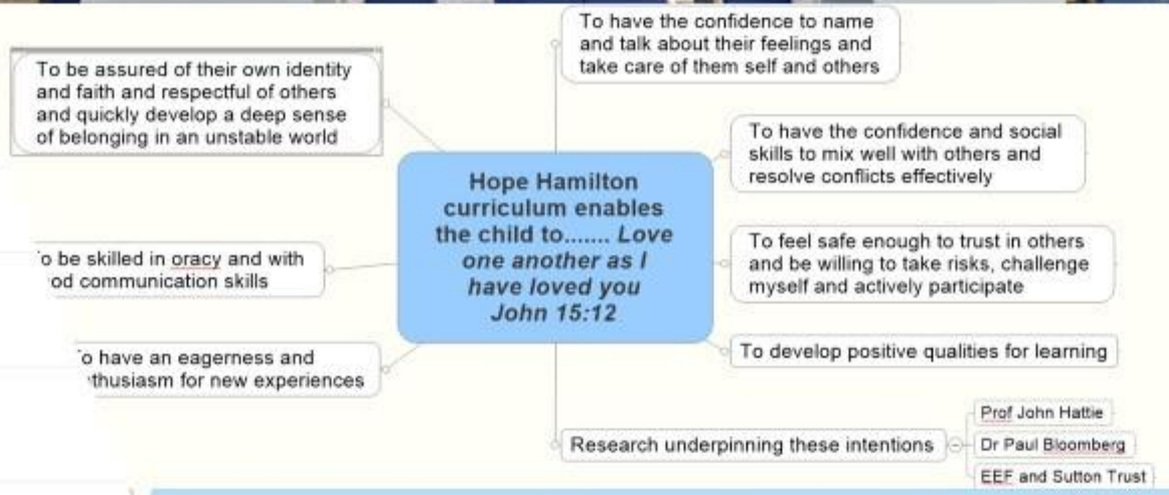


- How are we growing faith at the intersection of church and school?

Vision

- The main thing is the main thing
- Drives inclusion in the school – deep sense of belonging and investment
- Drives <u>everything</u> we do – policies, staffing, curriculum, finance, relationships etc.
- Constant drive to know and understand it better and to explain it better
- Love One Another Day







Prayer

- Daily prayers in class
- Multi-faith prayer room at lunchtime
- Thy Kingdom Come week
- Praying for specific things
- Staff ask for prayers









Spirituality





Intercultural worship and singing

- *No one opts out*
- *Presentations of Jesus*
- *Songs*
- *Photos of Christians*
- *Prayers*
- *Links with church and Diocese*

Bishop's Study Day

Growing Faith at the intersection of school and church



LAT BLAYLOCK

Young Voices

A Collage Cathedral, created for today

As part of the engagement in Minster Community development, about 500 children, 8-11s, from a lots of our schools were asked to think about hope, the church of the future, their prayers and wishes, where they see God at work…

Lat Blaylock: “this is remarkable and significant material. It’s not a proper research project, but it is evidence of some hopeful spiritual life in our schools. What do we do with it?”



Children have been thinking about...

> How do you imagine the church in 15 years time?
> Where do you see God at work?
> What do you think Jesus meant about love...
> ‘Many Rooms’ in the mansions of heaven?
> What are your prayers and wishes?
> What question would you like to ask God?



I can imagine the church in the future being brilliant. I think it will be...

Nice to have a church become for everyone and a dance hall

I can imagine the church in the future being brilliant. I think it will be...

When I walk in it will be full of Love, Hope, Peace, Joy, Kindness and Faith

— Ava Sood

I can imagine the church in the future being brilliant. I think it will be...

Extraordinary, with animals, a chior spot, colourful, have a spot to remeber those who died and a praying area.

I can imagine the church in the future being brilliant. My imagination tells me...

It will be a colourful place where people sing and all be kind.

I can imagine the church in the future being brilliant. I think it will be...

unforgetable and beautiful and very comfy and welcoming like its my home.

I can imagine the church in the future being brilliant. I think it will be...

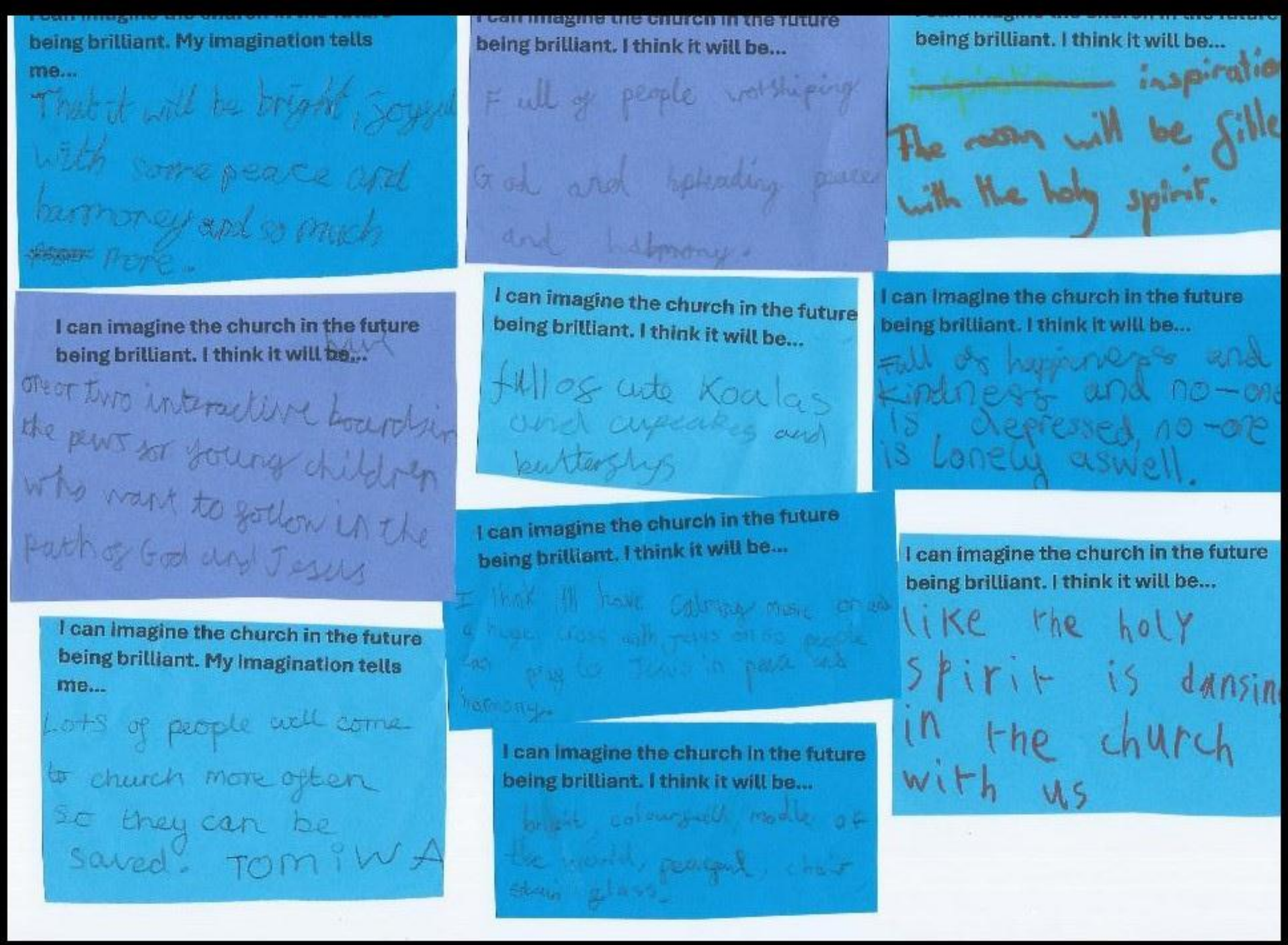
I can imagine the church in the future being brilliant. I think it will be... a place of healing and peace where the holy spirit lives.

I can imagine the church in the future being brilliant. I think it will be...



I can imagine the church in the future being brilliant. My imagination tells me... I imagin in church People every one is hap

Welcome for everyone... a dance hall... full of love... extraordinary... a spot to remember those who died... colourful... brilliant... we will see the Holy...
Comfy and welcoming, like it's my home... a place of healing... where the Holy Spirit lives...
Kind... everyone is happy...



Bright... joyful...some peace and harmony... full of people worshipping... room filled with the Holy Spirit...
interactive boards in pews for children who want to follow Jesus...
Koalas, cupcakes, butterflies... no one depressed or lonely...
model of the world...
Lots of people come more often so they can be saved...
Calming music... huge cross, pray to Jesus...

Where do you see God at work? Where do you see peace, love, joy, prayer, faith or hope?

I see peace, love, joy, prayer, faith or hope at school with my friends and class.

you see peace, love, joy, prayer, faith or hope?

With my friends and and family when I'm at my drama accandy! when I'm at School.

Where do you see God at work? Where do you see peace, love, joy, prayer, faith or hope?

I see this at home, because it is somwere I can rest peacefully, and it is full of people I know I can trust.

Where do you see God at work? Where do you see peace, love, joy, prayer, faith or hope? I see god everw her because her's all was by our sides even if we don't bel eve in him

Where do you see God at work? Where do ou see peace, love, joy, prayer, faith or ope?

At home. while at dinner we chat, laugh and have fun. when we are out. in the car we play games.

Where do you see God at work? Where do you see peace, love, joy, prayer, faith or hope?

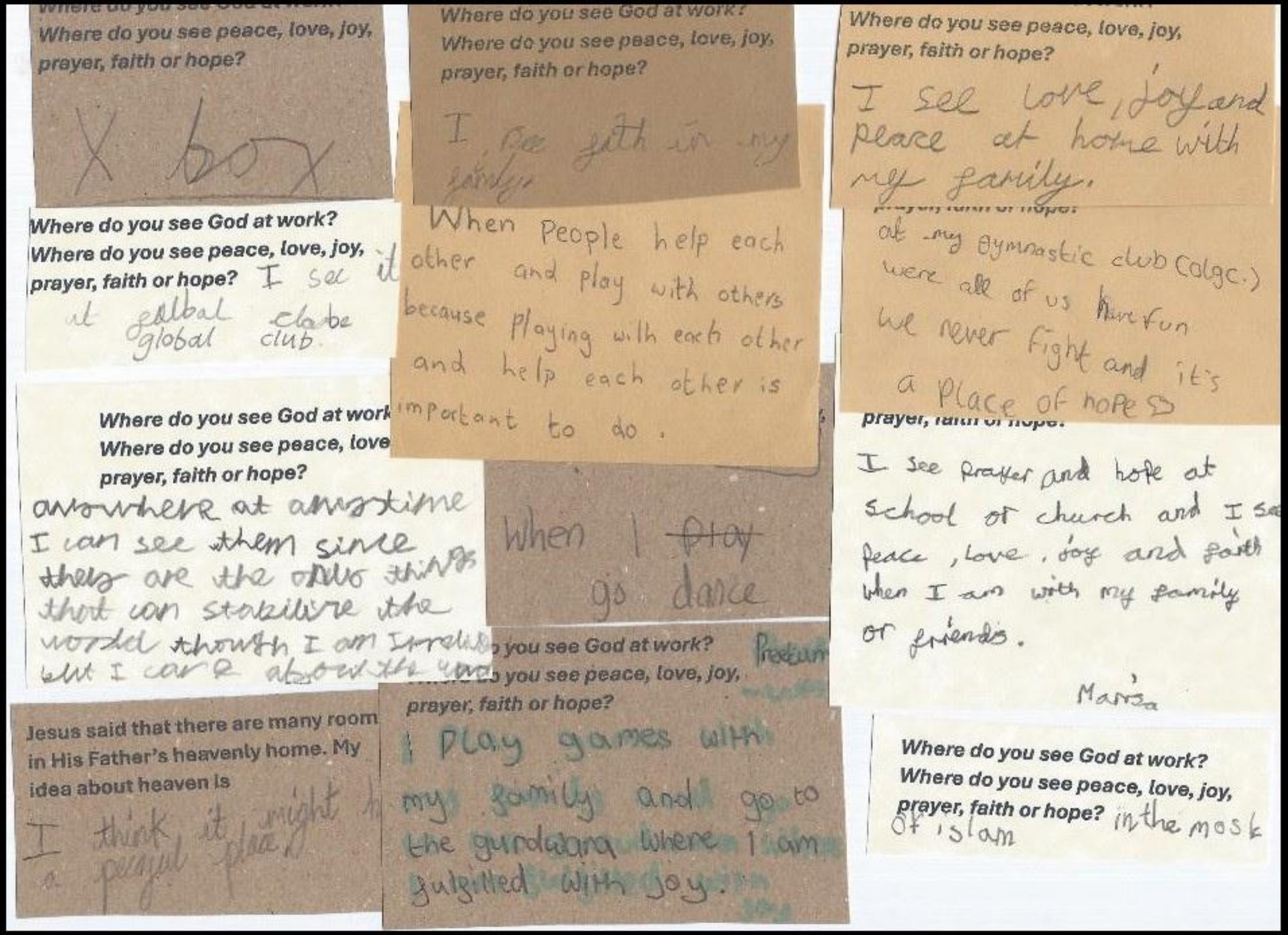
At school. Children make friends and have fun. They learn and get educated for their adult hood.

Where do you see God at work? Where
you see peace, love, joy, prayer, faith o
hope?

I See love when people he each other with there wo

Where do you see God at work? Where do you see peace, love, joy, prayer, faith or hope? I think god works st make peace and fo Fthink all that Jo depends what has happe in life and some people dont want to be happy.

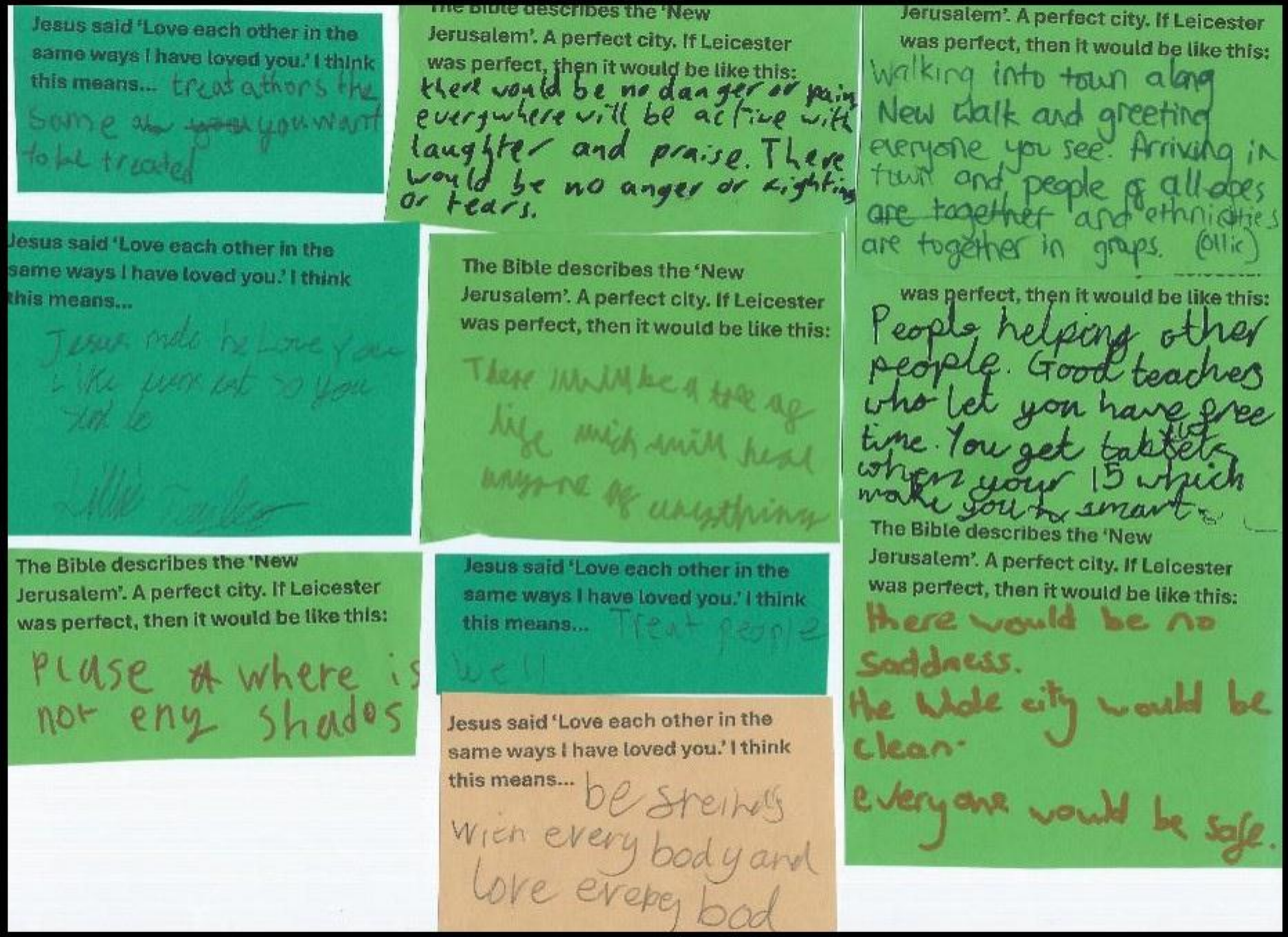
Seeing God at work… At school… with friends and family… at my Drama Academy… at dinner – we chat and laugh… in the car, we play games….
When people help each other… home where I can rest peacefully, full of people I know I can trust…
I see god everywhere because he's always by our sides, even if we don't believe in him…



Where do you see God at work?
At home, with my family, when I dance, anywhere and anytime, the things that stabilise the world – I am irreligious, but I care about the world...
School, church, family, mosque, gurdwara, where I am fulfilled with joy...
Gymnastic club- we have fun, never fight, it's a place of hope

Jesus taught... treat people well... be friendly with everybody...

In the New Jerusalem, or the 'Perfect Leicester'... a place where there is not any shadows...
a tree of life which will heal anyone of anything...
good teachers who let you have free time...
you get tablets when you are 15...
walking along New Walk and greeting everyone you see... no sadness, the whole city clean, everyone safe... everywhere active with laughter and praise...



Jesus said to his followers: 'In my Father's house, there are many rooms. I'm going to prepare a place for you!' In heaven, I imagine... Everyone is invited to a room. Everyones room reflects their personality. no ones room is the same. They are all different and wonderful

Jesus said to his followers: 'In my Father's house, there are many rooms. I'm going to prepare a place for you!' In heaven, I imagine...

A ~~place~~ castle with Krispy kreme beds so I can have a midnight snack. I can see everything I ever dreamed of. Lots of friends around me!

Jesus said to his followers: 'In my Father's house, there are many rooms. I'm going to prepare a place for you!' In heaven, I imagine...

Kindness for all and equality so everyone is treated the same and faith. faith that something good will happen hope the will be no more wars.

Jesus said to his followers: 'In my Father's house, there are many rooms. I'm going to prepare a place for you!' In heaven, I imagine...

a room full of light - glass walls that allow me to see all the beauty and people I love. But also curtains so that I can be close to Jesus alone.

(Allie, age 37)

Jesus said to his followers: 'In my Father's house, there are many rooms. I'm going to prepare a place for you!' In heaven, I imagine... a big castle where the important people live, in the streets globes which you can press and visit the part of the earth you tapped.

Jesus said to his followers: 'In my Father's house, there are many rooms. I'm going to prepare a place for you!' In heaven, I imagine... a glorious Paint-Job, a main hall with a banquet full of the finest foods and Jesus at the end with his diciples and prophets like a grand galactic palace

The 'many rooms' of the Father's House...
Everyone's invited...
all the rooms are different and wonderful...
A castle with Krispy Kreme so I can have a midnight snack...
everything I ever dreamed of...
Light glass walls to see the beauty...
curtains so that I can be close to Jesus alone... glorious paint job... banquet of finest foods, like a grand galactic palace... kindness for all and equality and faith...

Praying or wishing for...
My best friend, to get something she deserves... so kind and understanding when someone I loved sadly passed... I'm so grateful...

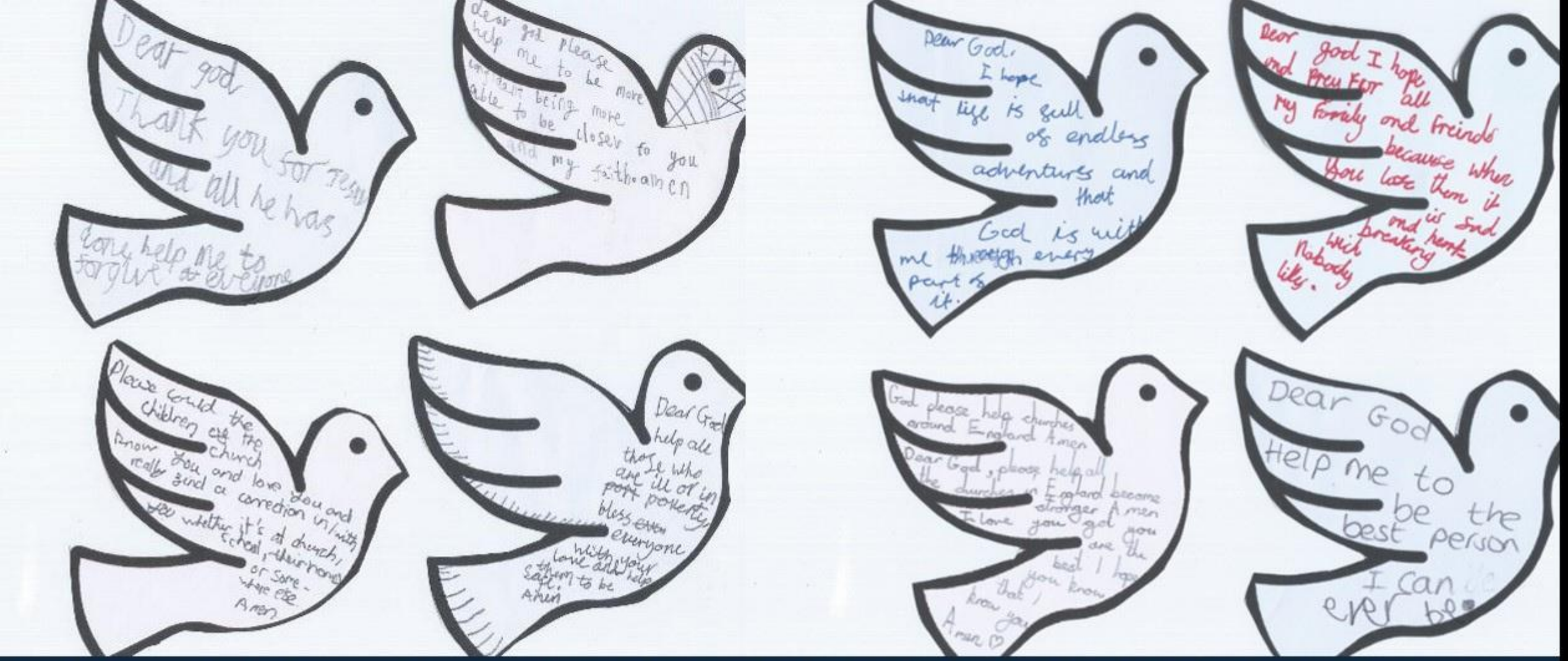
Water and food for people in poverty... cure my friend's leg... thank you for family and friends... thank you for always being by my side...

Dear God, you are yourself, and you are great...



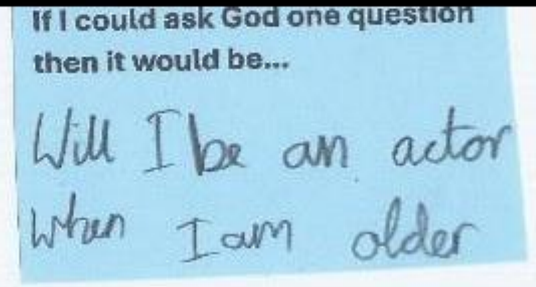
Praying or wishing...
I wish that everyone likes me – I have my BFF but I am lonely...
that my mum can find a new husband and a new job... please forgive...
Teach us to love each other not to make fun of people or make rumours because it's not nice...
Thank you for this joyful and happy life... everyone to be kind and honest with no vaping and pollution...

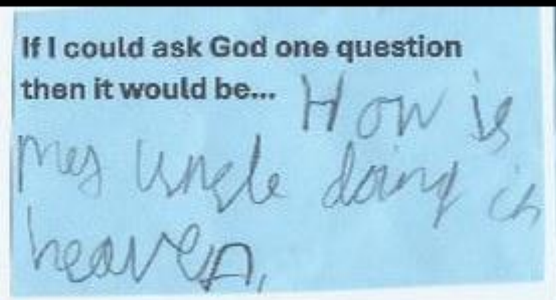


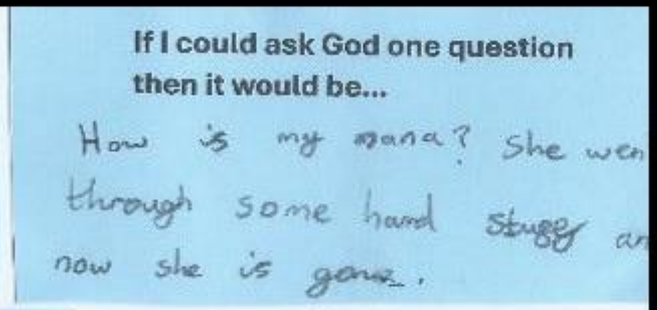


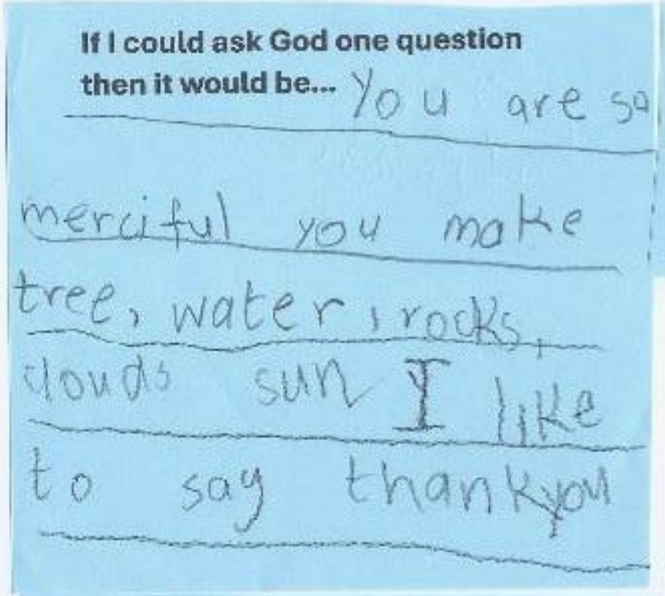
Praying or wishing... thank you for Jesus and all he has done... help me to forgive... please help me to be more confident in being closer to you... I hope that life is full of endless adventures... pray for all my family and friends because if you lose them it is heartbreaking... please could the children of the church know you and love you and really find a connection in/with you...

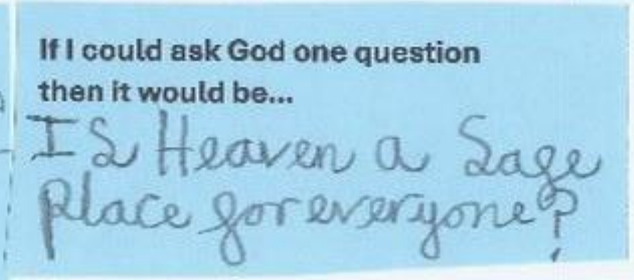
Bless everyone in poverty with your love... help churches around England become stronger... I love you god, you are the best, I hope you know that I know you... help me to be the best person I can ever be...

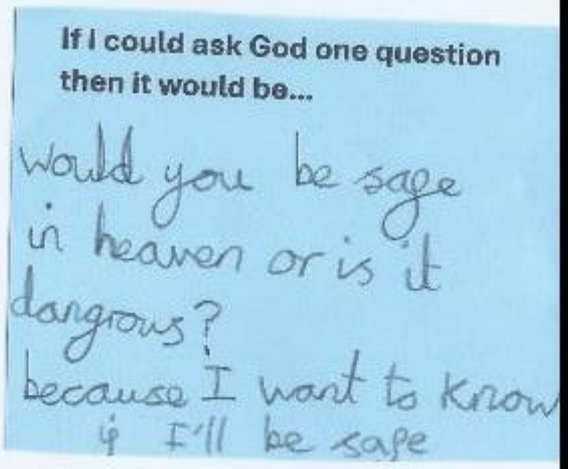


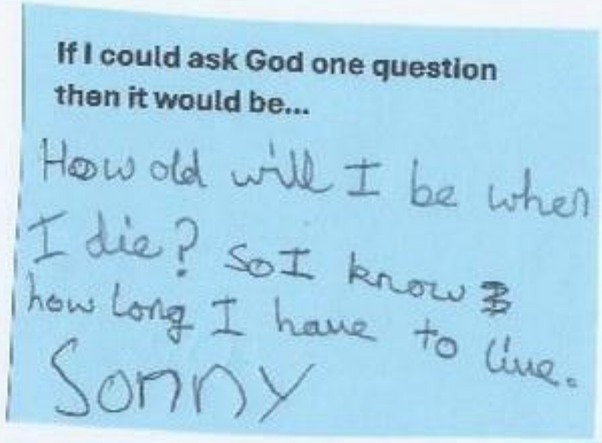


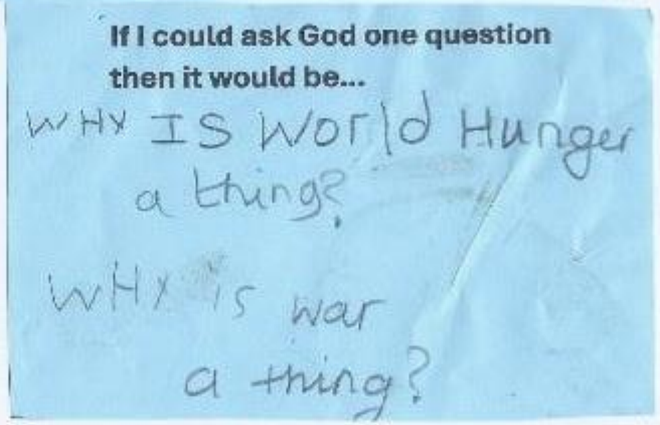


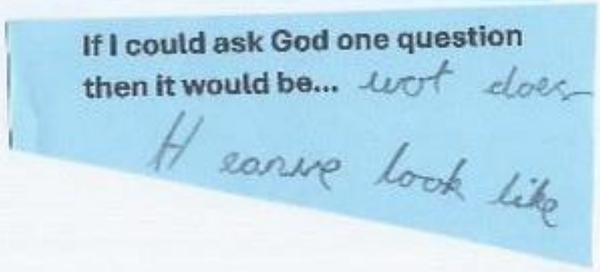


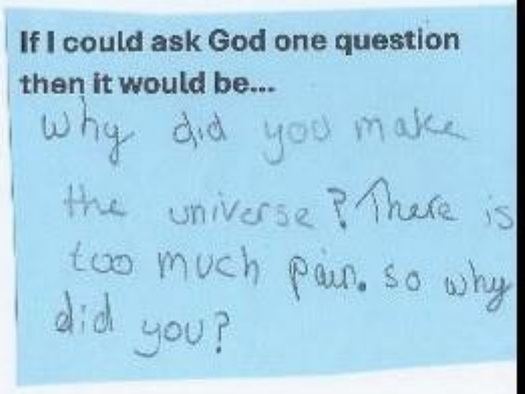












Questions for God...
Will I be an actor / footballer / lottery winner
You are so merciful, you make trees, water, rocks, clouds, sun. I'd like to say thank you...
How is my uncle doing in heaven? Is heaven safe?
How long have I to live?
What does heaven look like?
Why did you make the universe – there is too much pain, so why...?

What are we to make of all this?

- **Not a research project, but lots of evidence. How will you interpret?**
- **I see hope here. And the questing faith of the young people. And the yearning spirituality. I see God at work by the Spirit…**
- **Where will you share – with your young people? At your local schools? With your whole congregation? In another community group?**
- **Could you replicate? (I'll share the prompts. Make your own collage? A creative project to enjoy?)**
- **I want the ideas of the young to have a place in leading the whole church – to pray, to unite, to put our yearning and our hope into words… Jesus said 'Let the children…'**
- **Massive thanks to schools, teachers and pupils at Hallaton, Tugby, St John's Clarendon Park, Great Glen, Syston, Billesdon, Church Langton…**

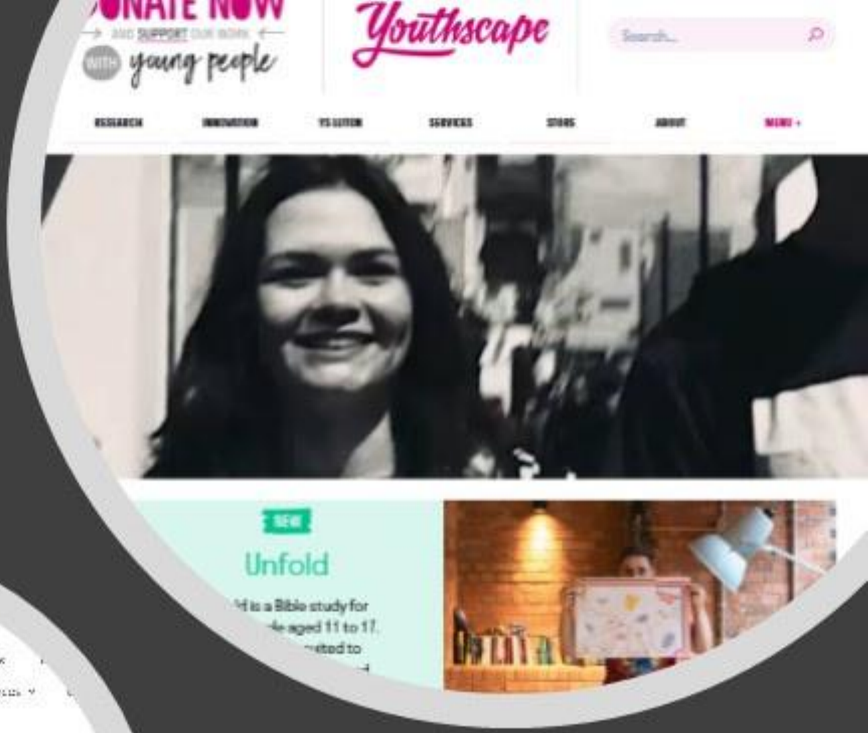
Youthscape / Open the Book / Prayer Spaces in Schools

- Three examples of - many – national offers, well worked out, plurally alert, Gospel focused, never manipulative.
- Team based ways for any enthusiasts to commit to more and better work in the intersection between church and school.
- Energising, exciting, educating and enthusing children and young people. Inspiring volunteers teams of Christians to work together.
- Yearning for ‘more and better’ together

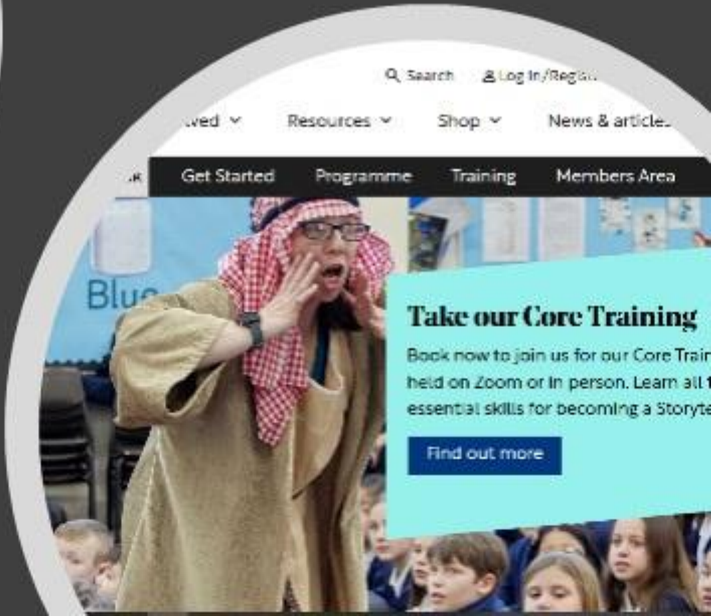


Youthscape









Where is God?

Penny, 15: **“Your request has been denied”**

“This expresses the feeling that God, if he exists, is unreachable and hidden. When we need God most, such as the peril the girl is facing, we reach out. No one grabs our hand. The masses of paper falling from the sky suggest that our prayers never reach anyone. The phrase ‘your request has been denied’, written on every piece, suggests that I can’t reach God. I feel there is no personal response to my prayers. All we receive is a weak cover up, an automated message: your request ~ to be happy, to be alone, to do well, to get better ~ has been denied. I feel it is very unlikely that God exists. This is what my paint and ink expresses.”



Rebecca, 15:

“Seek and you will find him”

“Where is God? Seek and find! I depict a girl looking at her shadow. Newspaper cuttings in the shadow speak about the everyday: terror, murder, death. Jesus stands behind her, surrounded by light and colour.

The newspaper cuttings in the shadow are what you see and hear about on the news every day: terror, murder, death, tension, crisis. It’s easy to focus on the shadow in life, as it’s presented so frequently. If you think of God, it’s in the situations when good things happen. But in the shadow, God is there.

In the most war torn area people’s lives can be transformed because of him. The image of Jesus behind the girl and the colour that surrounds them both illustrates that even where things look dark, God is working there. There is light even in the shadow.



Between these two expressions, our young people find themselves. How can our Christian communities do more and better to enable the problem Penny so eloquently identifies to be in dialogue with the response Becca so profoundly expresses?





Thank You

Grab a drink ~ Chat with others ~ Beat the traffic