

Collective Worship – Monday 6th April 2020



Candle Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for being the light of the world.

May the light shine brightly in your world.

Thank you for being the light of our lives.

May the light shine brightly in our lives.



Trees are amazing. Not only do they clean the air around us but they give us wood which is used in so many ways: providing us with shelter, furniture and firewood to keep us warm. Do you ever look up at trees and think about all the things they have seen and heard? I sometimes do. At different points in my life, various trees have been special to me.

When I was young, I had a tree like this in my back garden that I used to climb. It gave me hours of entertainment. I don't remember falling out of it but my cat got stuck in it once. My dad had to use a ladder to rescue it.



At secondary school, the school bus used to travel through the countryside past a sycamore tree in the middle of a field. It was such a perfect tree. My friend painted it for me for my 18th birthday.

This tree is called a jacaranda tree. I have never seen one in England. When I first started teaching in Portugal, I discovered this beautiful tree with purple blossom. It reminds me of all the happy days I spent there.





My eldest son loved Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs. He had a bucket of them, just like Harry. At the local park in Hythe, we found a tree with leaves like this. They are from a ginkgo tree. These strange trees were around when dinosaurs roamed the earth. It seemed incredible

that we had the same species of tree at our park that a dinosaur would have seen. We made dinosaur landscapes using the leaves.

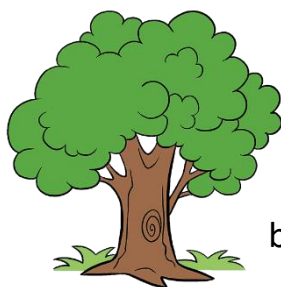
Cherry trees have pink, fluffy blossom. There is a row of them near my home and when my youngest son was in hospital, I used to drive past them when they looked like this. They had the pinkest, fluffiest blossom. These trees gave me such hope and always cheered me up.



Do you recognise this tree? This is my favourite tree in the school grounds. It is such an old tree it has been here far longer than the school. I sometimes wonder about all the things it has seen and heard as children have walked past its big trunk over the last 150 years.

Trees were important to Jesus too throughout his life. He was a carpenter and would have made things out of wood such as tables, stools and mangers. He and his disciples went fishing in boats made of wood. Palm branches were waved as Jesus passed on his way to Jerusalem. Finally, he hung from a cross made of wood before he rose again on Easter Sunday.

Reflection



Jesus' friends were sad that he died on the cross but were happy that he rose from the dead. Easter is a time of year when Christians celebrate new life and hope. Let us remember that even though life at the moment is quite hard because we can't do some of the things we enjoy doing, like seeing family members or our friends, things **will** get better.

Think about the things you are looking forward to when you don't have to stay at home. Give thanks to all the people who are working hard in hospitals helping patients to get better.

Prayer

Dear God,

Help us to remember the message of Easter:

That when things seem very difficult,

We can find new light and new hope.

Amen.

Hymn – Celebrate

Hymn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovUPYvJ22PY>

Why don't you find out about favourite trees in your family? And why they are so special to that family member.