**Woodchester School Prayer Week November 2019**

Feedback from 4 members of Willow class (Year 6)

The children spoke about their understanding of the reasons for prayer, describing it as:

*A connection to God, a chance to speak to God*

*A quiet time with your thoughts*

*A chance to speak about your feelings without judgement*

Thinking about how the activities they had taken part in last week had helped them to understand why people pray, they spoke about:

*A chance to reflect on what God is saying in the Lord's Prayer*

*Understanding the prayer, making it easier to forgive and to appreciate what we have*

*A chance to get thoughts out of minds in the bubble blowing activity*

*A post-it note activity in class and church – if life on earth was more like heaven, would it be like*

*A chance to think about what **you** think God is*

*A realisation, looking at our daily bread, that what we need and what we want are different but that there are shades of grey depending on what we have and what we expect to have. Can be reduced to what we need to be healthy and survive.*

Thinking about memorable things said in Prayer Week, the children spoke of:

*Letting thoughts go and forgiving people – the bubble activity*

*Mrs Pouncey's words at the brick activity that we all need to be part of the structure and building the structure or it collapses, like Jenga!*

*Revd Francis focus on our favourite food and pizza – and that this is not what we **need** as our daily bread.*

Thinking about how prayer might help **them**, the children said:

*We can let our worries go to God*

*Prayer is like a diary – getting rid of a burden*

*Linked to the TSP thing!*

The section of the Lord's Prayer they found most difficult was *forgive us our sins*.

*The Prodigal Son – there was agreement that they identified with the older brother and would find it hard to forgive, found it hard to understand how the father forgives. They all linked this to relationships with their siblings.*

Why do people flood into churches in times of distressing events?

*To pray for the person who died or for healing of the injured.*

*Praying because if he (God) is real then he might bring peace.*

What did they learn about prayer last week?

*The Lord's Prayer – what it means rather than just remembering it.*

*Didn't know what anything meant beforehand.*

*All prayers have an aspect that link to the Lord's Prayer*

*A hope to forgive more easily and to be grateful for what we've got. We don't need what we think we need!*

Finally I did ask if they had expected to enjoy the week (a strong NO) and if they had enjoyed it (and equally enthusiastic YES)

Sally Bull 13th November 2019