As a school, we were introduced to the **Threads Through Creation** Exhibition when **Leominster Priory Priory Church**, invited us to join other local schools in exhibiting our own interpretation of the Bible Story of **God's Creation**.

Further to this, we also visited the **Priory Church** to view the original exhibition by artist **Jacqui Parkinson**, and to see our (and other school's) finished art panels.

On the day, we were involved in dance and movement pieces exploring the many wondorous elements of God's creation of our world. We also took part in the decorating of story stones and retellings of the story.

We were also pleased to accept the invitation to join other choirs in the diocese to create and perform an **original performance piece** celebrating the Creation Story.




**Travel with us now, through the incredible and faith affirming journey we have made.**

**We hope to remember this experience with pride and a deep warmth and connection towards God and his world.**

## In the beginning...

Our faith being a very important and present aspect of our daily experiences, we were both excited and humbled to be introduced to the work of Jacqui Parkinson and her vision.

As a school, we held an assembly to explore her beautiful panels and were in awe of how she celebrated each day of God's creation. We were also inspired by her use of colour and detail and her capturing of the smallest to the greatest of living things that we might sometimes take for granted. Her love of the world and her connection to God was clearly shining in each panel and we hoped, in taking part in this wonderful exhibition, we could emulate that love with a St. Michael's voice.

We took pause and considered how we, as a community, could share our love of Earth and celebrate its wonder, whilst drawing on the uniqueness and beauty of our local world.




**We thought that we would shine a light and celebrate the joy that the Herefordshire countryside brings us each and every day.**

Each class took on an element of the seven incredible days of creation, before the parts were brought together in one complete panel.



**Buttercup Class:**

Created the skies, land and waters, emulating the fields, rivers and lakes of the nearby villages and towns.

They also created images of the sun and moon before adding fingerprints to represent the stars. Adding each fingerprint was also a symbol of indiviudal connection to God and his plan for planet Earth.



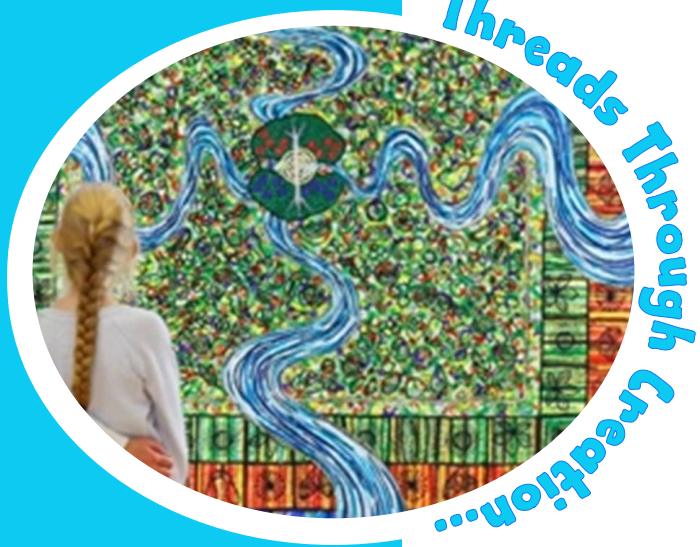


**Bluebell Class,** shared their ideas and experiences of walking in the local area to give them inspiration for the plants and flowers that grow in our land.

To deepen our connection with the Earth and to celebrate our own school parable of the **Mustard Seed**, we took this time to stop and give thanks for the beauty and growth of plants around us. We considered how the plants feed us as well as other living creatures of the air and land. Being surrounded by arable farming, this was also a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for the produce, that farmers working God's land, give us.



It was decided that a further way to share and celebrate our school community and its place in God's plan was to incorporate each of our class flowers in the final art panel. Children from **Bluebell** and **Rose Class** were excited and enthused to gather ideas and research each flower before sketching and painting these.





Following the creation of the Earth and its growing plant life, next came the creatures of the land.

Much like the children in our school, who are all unique and come in many shapes and sizes, we felt it was important to celebrate the many different and amazing creatures that traverse our land - even those so small, that we might often take them for granted.

With this in mind, we began with researching and investigating minibeasts before moving towards the larger, four-legged creatures.




**Throughout this experience, we reflected on the importance of celebrating God's hopes for the planet and to recognise our part in protecting the land, ensuring that the natural world continues to bring joy to us and others, now and in the future.**

As well as creating interpretations of Adam and Eve, Sunflower Class created beautiful representations of creatures of the air and water. Focusing on our local river and lake life.



## The next part of our journey...

After completing our art panel, we visited the Priory Church.

Here we are celebrating the story of a seed, moving through its own life-cycle to travel, settle and grow, much as we do within our school.

For our school community, this was particularly poignant as it linked to the **Parable of the Mustard Seed** as well as providing us with an opportunity to **"learn and grow together."**

Being in the Priory Church, further deepened the opportunity for God's love and power to be with us as we moved through and in His lands in response to the beautiful music being played for us.

The altering music carried us, allowing us to consider the many ways that the winds move the seed and that the water and light feed and help all living things flourish.



Our journey with God continued as we visited the art panels of Jacqui Parkinson. We were able to look closely at the immense detail and care she had sewn into each work of art and were able to offer our thoughts and interpretations about the many elements. We also enjoyed sharing our ideas about what in the artwork gave us joy and allowed us to feel connected to God. Many of us looked deeply at the panels, noticing more and more details (such as plants and leaves) that on first discovering the panels, had gone unnoticed.

We then enjoyed visiting our own art panel and also spent time exploring the artwork of other local schools. We found it very interesting that there could be so many different ways to interpret, celebrate and give thanks for the world we inhabit.

