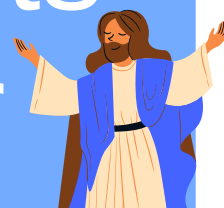




March 2021

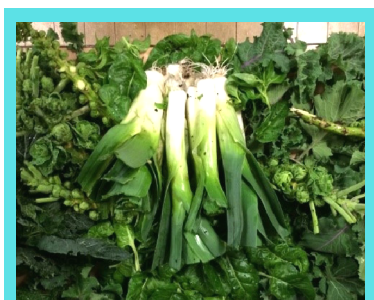
# Shining Lights Newsletter



*Celebrating success*

Although we have had only 8 weeks remote learning and 3 weeks back in school there is much to celebrate this term. From charity fundraising to mental health awareness, we hope you enjoy reading all about the activities and events that took place during this Spring Term. Once again, our pupils have shown their Brownedge spirit and continued to let God's light shine out through them. We are so very proud of each and every one of them.

## Brownedge Garden



"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God." - 1 Corinthians 10:31. Our school garden continues to provide us with food for our table! Mr Wilson has worked with some pupils when the weather has permitted

and extended the garden to 8 beds. At the beginning of December, two tonnes of topsoil were generously donated by a local businessman, Ian Elliot, which has been put to good use to improve the soil of the existing beds and to provide a good

foundation for future beds. We harvested the crops of leeks, spinach, kale, cabbage, brussel sprouts and seeds have arrived with continued support from Let's Grow Preston. We already have beetroot, peas, beans, garlic and onions growing in readiness for the coming months. It is hoped that once this virus is behind us, the garden is something that will be available to all pupils as an after-school activity.

## Outstanding Generosity

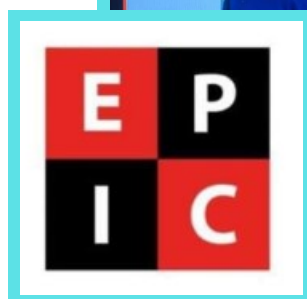
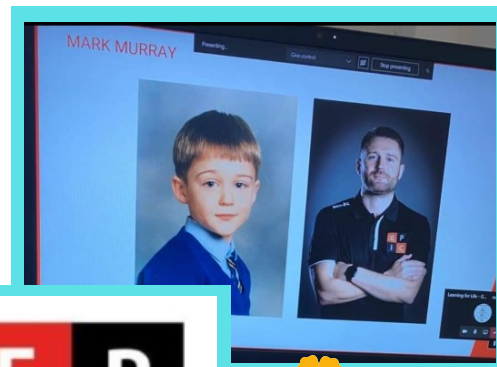
Over the course of lockdown we have been blown away by the generosity and kindness of parents and friends of the Brownedge family. From iPads and tablets to money for projects to support mental health and chaplaincy in school, we have been given donations from parents, grandparents, the local Knights of Columbia and parents of staff. We are truly humbled by their thoughts and humility. Thank you on our behalf.





## Learning for Life - Gambling Risks Speaker

During lockdown pupils in years 7-10 have been engaging in live Citizenship lessons which are a part of our Learning for Life curriculum. We were lucky to welcome from Epic Risk Management, Mark Murray, who ran a live session and shared his powerful personal testimony about the risks associated with gambling. The Gambling Commission highlights that 37 percent of 11-16 year olds have gambled in the last 12 months and 1.9 percent are problem gamblers. After the session one of our year 10 pupils said, "Mark was so good and interesting, I really enjoyed hearing his story, he was so honest. It is scary how gambling can become out of control. He offered lots of advice and definitely made me aware of the dangers of gambling, especially now it is so easily available and advertised all around us."



## Morrisons Community Champion

We have been so grateful to witness the generosity of our community over this lockdown! One of our incredible ex-pupils delivered food parcel donations to our school, to help some of our vulnerable families.

On behalf of our school community, we would like to say a huge thank you to Sophie and Morrisons for the way that they have supported our school.

## Sweet Friday!

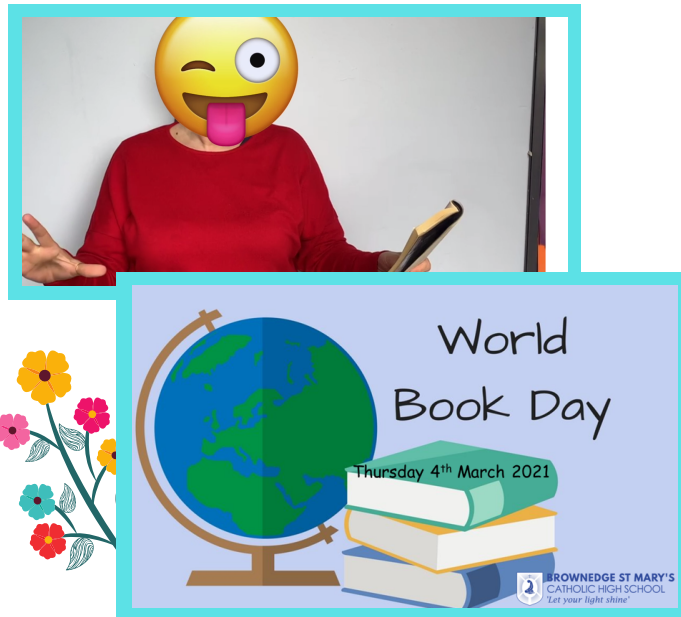
There were smiles all round from our key worker students who were in school over lockdown, when TJ's Scoop ice cream shop in Bamber Bridge made a special delivery! A huge thank you to this local business for their words of support and encouragement to our pupils and staff.

We also enjoyed home-baked cakes and cookies from some very generous families. It all tasted delicious and it brought us lots of joy!



## World Book Day

On the 4th of March, we celebrated World Book Day at Brownedge. To celebrate, our pupils and staff enjoyed three key events: *The Masked Reader* - like the masked singer but we put an emoji over the face of the staff member, altered their voice and gave clues as to who it was. *Favourite Book Share* - staff recommended some of their favourite reads for us to enjoy! *Books Behaving Badly* - Students sent in photos of what mischief their books had been up to during lockdown. The funniest images were given the chance to win one of our World Book Day prizes!



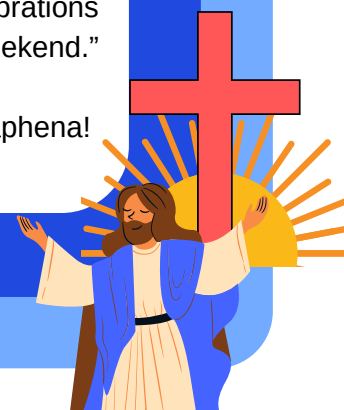
## Saphena's Virtual Mascot Reward

Year 10 student Saphena was the Preston North End virtual mascot for one weekend's "Level Playing Field" matchday as a reward for her progress on the programme. Saphena is enrolled on our alternative provision programme with Preston North End Community and Education Trust which provides the alternative and aspirational environment of Deepdale. In this our students can work towards qualifications in sport and enterprise while also enjoying sporting enrichment opportunities during their days of study with the Trust. Saphena attends Deepdale on a Friday as part of a group of students who first enrolled on the programme back in September 2020.

Darryl McNicholl, PNECET Secondary Education Tutor, said; "Saphena has made fantastic progress since she enrolled on our education programme in September last year. She first joined us and was quite shy and reserved, but she now enjoys a great rapport with staff and classmates alike, and is also making excellent progress with her classwork. Saphena is a bright and likeable

individual and she is fully deserving of the chance to be the club's virtual mascot for the Level Playing Field fixture, and we're really thankful to the club for donating the package as part of our themed celebrations this weekend."

Well done Saphena!







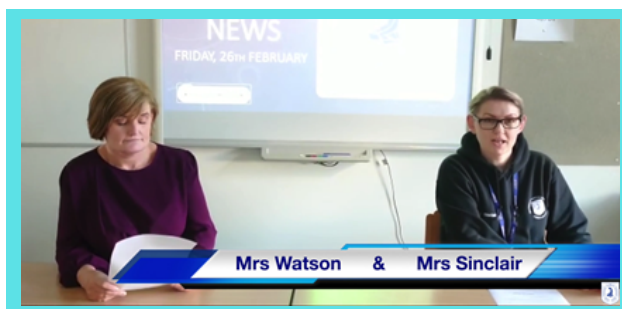
## Mental Health and Wellbeing Day

On the 12th February, we held a Mental Health and Wellbeing Day for students and staff at Brownedge. We began the morning with students meeting virtually in their forms to socialise and catch up with their friends. This was followed by an assembly from Mrs Oddie, with fun and laughter from staff members to put a smile on all of our faces. For the rest of the day, pupils accessed sessions based on strands supported and promoted by Mind and the NHS. These sessions included: *Get active! Get closer to God! Get creative! Get confident! Get safe! Get helpful!*

Students completed a fun task from at least three of the sessions over the course of the day. We were very happy to see so many families getting involved and taking some time to take care of their mental health!



## Watson's Weekly Wellbeing



Our pupils' mental health and wellbeing is a top priority at school and throughout lockdown we have endeavoured to support pupils in a variety of ways. Our fabulous Intervention Team of Mrs Watson and Mrs Sinclair hosted a wellbeing weekly blog that strived to reach out to pupils and give them tips and advice on how to survive the challenging times they were facing. Goodness, did they make us smile! Every Friday, we waited for the week's edition of "What's Watty been up to this week?" Every Friday, we were not disappointed! Each week a member of staff from our wonderful family joined Mrs Watson and gave tips on how to keep active, learn new skills and have a little fun. A huge thank you Mrs Watson and Mrs Sinclair for making us smile – inside and out. If you would like more information on how to look after your wellbeing, please visit our website for further advice and to find agencies available for support.



## Brownedge Resource Bus

To support our pupils with their remote learning during lockdown, the Browndge St Mary's Resource Bus made two trips around Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall, Hoghton, Walton-le-Dale and Clayton Brook. The bus was visited by over 100 pupils over the four weeks, where we handed out stationery, exercise books, paper and reading books. It was a huge success in supporting our fantastic family and keeping them going with their learning. Thank you Mrs Watson, Mrs Oddie, Mrs Sinclair and Mr Wilson, for helping make it happen.



## Costa Coffee Reading Agency

A chance phone call that turned out to be from the Reading Agency resulted in 700 gift packs being given to school with one being handed out to every pupil on the last day of term, before Christmas. Each pack contained a book for parents, a children's book, a can of coffee, a jar of instant coffee and a bag of chocolate coins. Mr Wilson said, "I have dealt with the Reading Agency over the past 7 years and they do a fantastic job of improving literacy across the country. I wasn't going to answer the phone as it was an unknown number. It just goes to show how things can turn out!"



## Time for Lent

During the season of Lent, we have been joining together each week for a special time of collective worship. In these 'Time for Lent' videos, our GIFT Team students and Lay Chaplain have led us in prayer and reflection, to help us enter fully into this season. Throughout Lent, we have also challenged our school community to partake in a daily act of generosity!

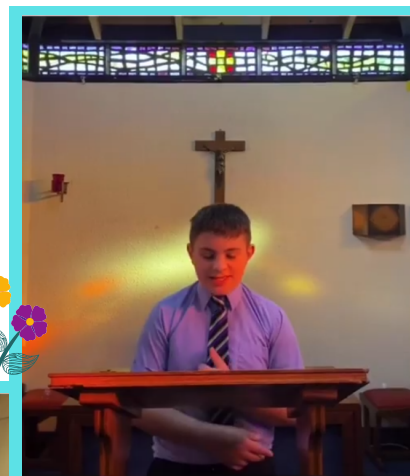




## Lent Liturgy

On 17th February, the Church entered into the season of Lent which marks the 40 days of journeying towards Easter. Lent is a season in which we are called to pray, fast and give alms. In prayer, we get to know who God is and how he cares for us. In fasting, we give something up in order to make room for what really matters. And in almsgiving, we give what we can to those who are in need.

We marked the beginning of our journey through this beautiful season, as one school community, through the celebration of our Lent Liturgy. Each form joined together virtually for a time of collective worship. We took part in various prayers led by our Chaplaincy GIFT Team students, a preach and a song from Fr. Mark Harold and a reflection from our Lay Chaplain, Rachael.



## E-Safety Day

On the 9th February, we celebrated our annual eSafety day. At a time when so much of what we do is taking place virtually, it was more important than ever to support our pupils to think carefully about what they are doing to ensure that they and their loved ones were staying safe online.

Activities took place in pupils' computing lessons and assemblies were delivered on key tips for pupils to follow. eSafety also had a place in our Mental Health and Wellbeing Day, with activities considering how to *Get Safe with Mrs Dudaniec*.



Pupils were encouraged to design an eSafety desktop screen for the school network, an assembly to raise awareness about eSafety, posters, raps, poems about keeping safe online and to check their social media security settings.



## Headteacher Awards



When Mrs Oddie challenged pupils back in December to win our next Assessment Challenge, she did not expect the sheer numbers of pupils to step up, accept the challenge and meet it with such determination and resilience.



Last term, we had 6 superb pupils. This term we have an astounding 32! Yes, 32! A huge, HUGE congratulations to all these pupils. They have shown a truly outstanding attitude to their learning throughout lockdown and on their return to school by being awarded grade 2s for their behaviour and participation in all subjects – some of them in as many as 14 subject areas. In addition to this exceptional achievement, they have gained no negatives and have had 100% attendance.

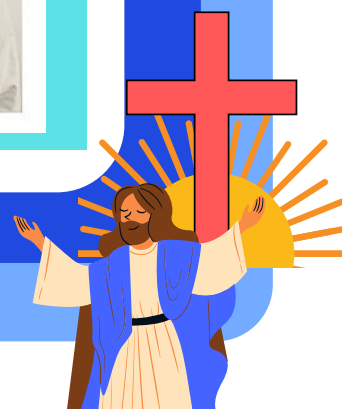
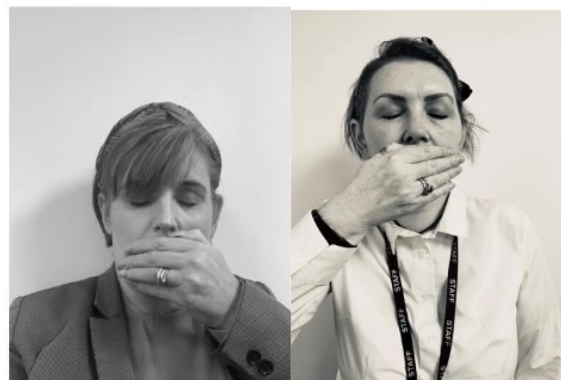


In recognition of and as a thank you for their hard work, they will receive a £50 gift e-voucher. The question again is, who will win the Assessment Challenge next term? Will it be you?

The winners of the Headteachers Award are: Charlotte Duke, Carly Johnson, Sophie Duffy, Zara Holden, Ben Rainford, Iris Singleton, Aysha Jones, Joshua Holland, Gracie Chambers, William Rainford, Anya Mcloughlin, Phoebe Henderson, Ayriya Dadpour, Harvey Rain, Libby Arnold, Keira Nightingale-Turner, Madison Preston, Gabriella Michalakakos, Amy Rudek, Beverley Onyesi, Jasmine Shorrock, Caitlin Massie, Scarlett Howarth, Joe Bibby, Amy Knight Garcia, Mysha Newma, Madeleine Hughes, Marcus Standing, Varissa Surti, Martina Marciello, Morgan Sekowski, Angela Tolentino.

## Children's Mental Health

As part of our lockdown 'Watson's Weekly Wellbeing' blog, the Intervention Team put together a range of resources to raise awareness of Children's Mental Health Week. This included a touching video, put together by Mrs Watson, called 'Speak the change you wish to see', encouraging our students to open up about their mental health and seek support.

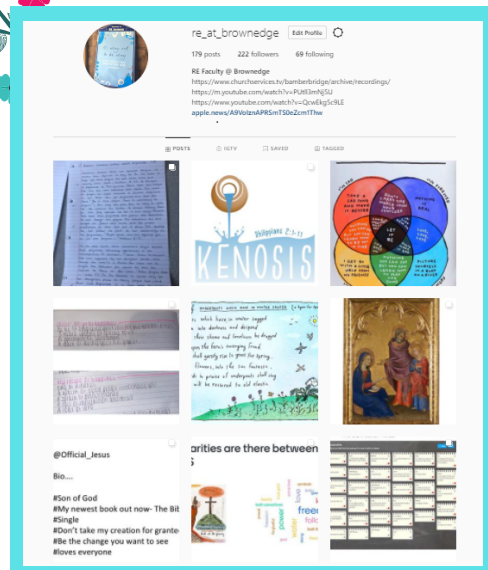




## RE

Another busy term! Our students rose to the challenge of remote learning with great resilience and enthusiasm, and we have enjoyed exploring some new online teaching and learning tools. We have had some very competitive quizlet and blookey games, embedding key learning, and students were quick to get to grips with online whiteboards and interactive collaboration boards (far quicker than the teachers I fear!...) It has been great to have everyone back in school though for the last 3 weeks.

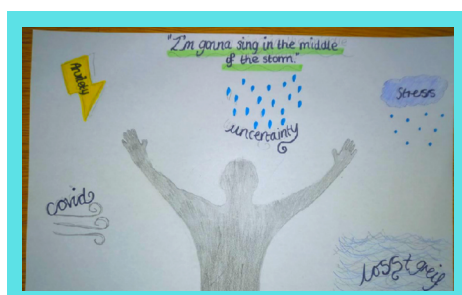
Year 8 continued their journey through the Big Story of Salvation – we are reaching the grand finale as we begin to look at the events of Holy Week.



Year 7 have been exploring the question "Who is Jesus?" - we thought the story of him, aged 12 lost in the temple and then being told off by his Mum and Dad, brilliantly showed his humanity! As one of the students said "so Jesus was a naughty teenager too?"! We love the painting by Martini which shows Jesus with his arms folded, sulking! Our GCSE students have been exploring the concept of forgiveness, and thinking about the aims of punishment. We were fortunate to be able to send some questions to two prison chaplains, Emma and Pearce, who sent back a brilliant video answering the students' questions and telling them about their work as a chaplain. Follow us on Instagram to see what else we are up to! @re\_at\_browndedge

## Lent Reflection Day

For this year's Lent Reflection day, our students gathered together virtually to take part in a day of fun, creativity and prayer. Led by staff and the Chaplaincy GIFT Team, students spent their sessions reflecting on the ways that we can grow closer to Jesus this Lent.



Students began their day by building their own den, reflecting the words of Psalm 27: "For there he keeps me safe in his tent." They then reflected on Mrs Hall's story of her journey on pilgrimage, before going on their own reflective walk. Students were invited to write their own poems and create an artwork based on some worship music. They finished the day by writing a letter of encouragement to their future selves. We received so much beautiful work from the day - thank you everyone!

## MFL – celebrating 'la Fête de la Chandeleur'

The languages department didn't let lockdown get in the way of some cultural appreciation. Our challenge was to follow a crêpe recipe in French and then send photos of our creations.

La chandeleur commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the temple, 40 days after Christmas. It is also a time when crêpes (pancakes) are made, symbolising the end of winter and the return of sunshine and lighter days.

The shape and golden colour is to represent the sun. The tradition is that you must hold a coin in your left hand whilst flipping the pancake with your right hand for good luck for the rest of the year!

Here are some of our yummy crêpes!



## Preston North End's Joe Rodwell

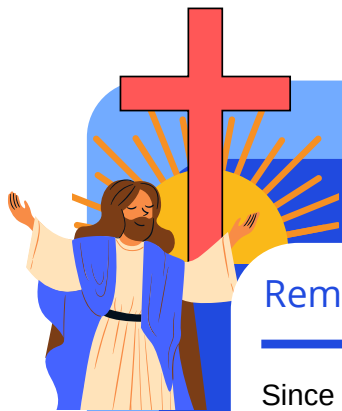
We were delighted to see Joe Rowdell-Grant, a former Brownedge student, playing recently for Preston North End! Joe, a second year academy scholar, was on the bench for the first time and played forward. We are very proud of our Brownedge family - well done Joe!

## Students Return to School

On the week commencing 8th March, we were so happy to welcome all our students back to school! It has been a joy to see so many smiling faces and have laughter filling our classrooms again. Welcome back everyone!







## Remote Learning

Since January, and the start of lockdown 3, as a school we have worked hard to develop our Remote Education and our efforts have paid off. No one wanted the announcement that schools would close to all but the vulnerable and key worker children, but in true Growth Mindset spirit we showed determination and perseverance that even COVID19 would not stop our learning. Everyone in our school family has risen to the challenge: staff, pupils and parents and guardians. The engagement of pupils has been excellent in live lessons and pupils have found new ways to participate in their learning through use of the chat function in Teams, emojis and polls and shared working on OneDrive and Nearpod. Staff have worked hard since lockdown 1, a year ago, in improving their practice in Remote Education. They have spent a lot of time training themselves and each other on the use of technology to engage pupils and improve teaching and learning.



Teams has proven to be a fantastic platform for our Remote Education, and we have made significant gains in its use. This is something we hope to continue moving forward. Since September, we have used Teams as a Home Learning platform and this will continue after Easter. Through the use of online quizzes such as Quizlet, online educational resources such as GCSE POD and GCSE exam-based websites such as Seneca, we have been able to ensure that the possible gaps that could have developed due to COVID19 have been minimised. The news is often negative about the gaps in learning pupils have experienced but due to the engagement of all our community these gaps are nowhere near as large as they could be. Much of this has happened when people have been juggling other responsibilities such as Home-Schooling children and working full time. We thank everyone involved in making our Remote Learning a success: staff, pupils and parents and guardians!



## Steps for Sanctuary

For our almsgiving this Lent, we have supported a group from St. Mary's Brownedge Parish, who are currently fundraising to allow a refugee family to find a home and a place of sanctuary in Bamber Bridge. We have fundraised for this amazing cause through selling wristbands and taking part in our 'Steps for Sanctuary' event, in which students have taken part in a sponsored walk around the school grounds. Thank you everyone for your generosity!



## Lenten Poetry Competition

As part of our Lent Reflection Day, we invited students to take part in an interhouse poetry competition, where they could write a poem on the theme of 'Lent' or 'sanctuary.' Many students chose to focus on how we can fully enter into the season of Lent, as we reflect on our lives and prepare for the joy of Easter. Other students chose to focus on what the word sanctuary means to them, looking at places where they feel the most loved, safe and at home.

### A WALK IN THE PARK BY JOSHUA, 9D

As a brisk wind  
swirls  
Around my ears,  
Underfoot  
Crisp leaves  
Crunch

The golden sun  
smiles,  
A pair of swans  
Smoothly glide  
Alongside  
Ducks

That waddle and  
chatter  
That spring is  
coming;  
A time for new  
Reflection,  
A time for Lent.



We had so many amazing entries, and it was very difficult to choose just three of them to be read at this year's Easter Liturgy!

In 1st place was 'A Walk in the Park' by Josh Holland, 9D, in 2nd place was 'Lent' by Ella McLoughlin, 7B and in 3rd place was 'Sanctuary' by Caitlin Wikberg, 8T.

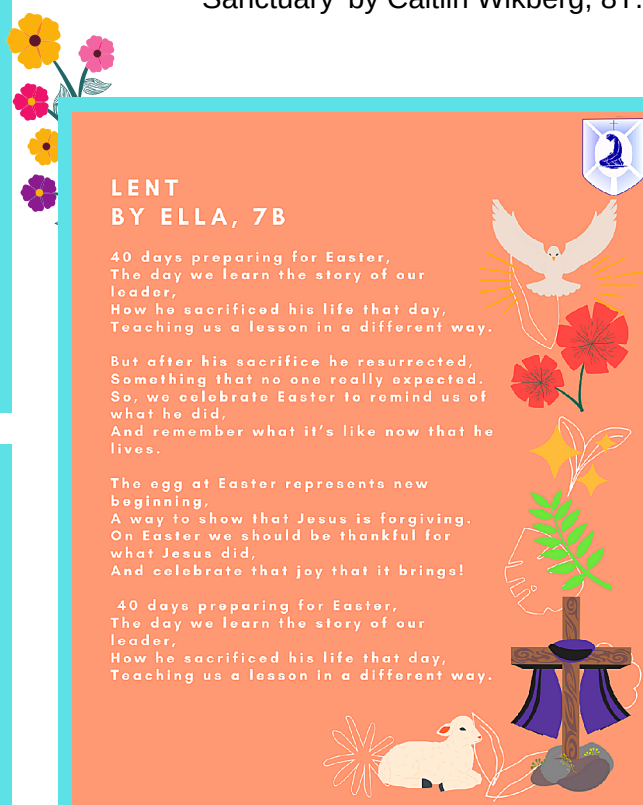
### LENT BY ELLA, 7B

40 days preparing for Easter,  
The day we learn the story of our  
leader,  
How he sacrificed his life that day,  
Teaching us a lesson in a different way.

But after his sacrifice he resurrected,  
Something that no one really expected.  
So, we celebrate Easter to remind us of  
what he did,  
And remember what it's like now that he  
lives.

The egg at Easter represents new  
beginning.  
A way to show that Jesus is forgiving.  
On Easter we should be thankful for  
what Jesus did,  
And celebrate that joy that it brings!

40 days preparing for Easter,  
The day we learn the story of our  
leader,  
How he sacrificed his life that day,  
Teaching us a lesson in a different way.



### SANCTUARY BY CAITLIN, 8T

Sanctuary - a word we all know,  
It's a place where love and  
happiness flow,  
A place of refuge,  
A place of calm,  
A feeling of safety is in your  
palms.

A place of safety,  
A place of rest,  
To be with Jesus and know you  
are blessed.  
He is your friend and will listen  
to you,  
A friend to trust and someone  
to turn to.

So, in your sanctuary,  
Do not be afraid,  
For you are with Jesus  
And he will be your aid.



You can read these beautiful poems above!  
As well as being read at this year's Easter Liturgy, these poems will also be published on St. Mary's Browndedge Church website, as well as being shared in their weekly newsletters. Well done to all those who entered!



## End of Term Liturgy

This year we gathered together virtually for our end of term liturgy, where we reflect on the season of Lent and look towards Easter in hope. This year's liturgy focused on the theme of 'God is our Sanctuary.'

Our time of prayer included scripture readings, drama, poetry and song. If you would like to take part in this celebration at home, you can watch our Liturgy video on our chaplaincy Instagram page:  
[@bsm\\_chaplaincy](#)



## Emilyrose's Giving

We have been blown away by the generosity of one of our Year 7 students, Emilyrose, in Drexel House. During the first lockdown Emilyrose raised £300 for the NHS. Since then she has not stopped giving, raising funds for Wish Upon a Star and creating a variety of food hampers for those in need in the local area.

This inspiring student has now taken the initiative of organising a raffle in school, to raise money for our Lenten refugee cause. On the last day of term, Emilyrose will be raffling a fluffy white rabbit and two Easter eggs. Emilyrose, thank you for letting your light shine through your kindness and generosity!



**SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY 12TH APRIL 2021**



Brownde St Marys



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