



EXPLORE

EASTER 2022

NEW SITE

There was a sense of awe, wonder and calm learning when eight classes of primary aged children came to All Saints Church to "Explore Easter". Two hundred and forty Year 5 and 6 children from Primary Schools across Falmouth and the surrounding area came to learn about what Christians believe happened at Easter.

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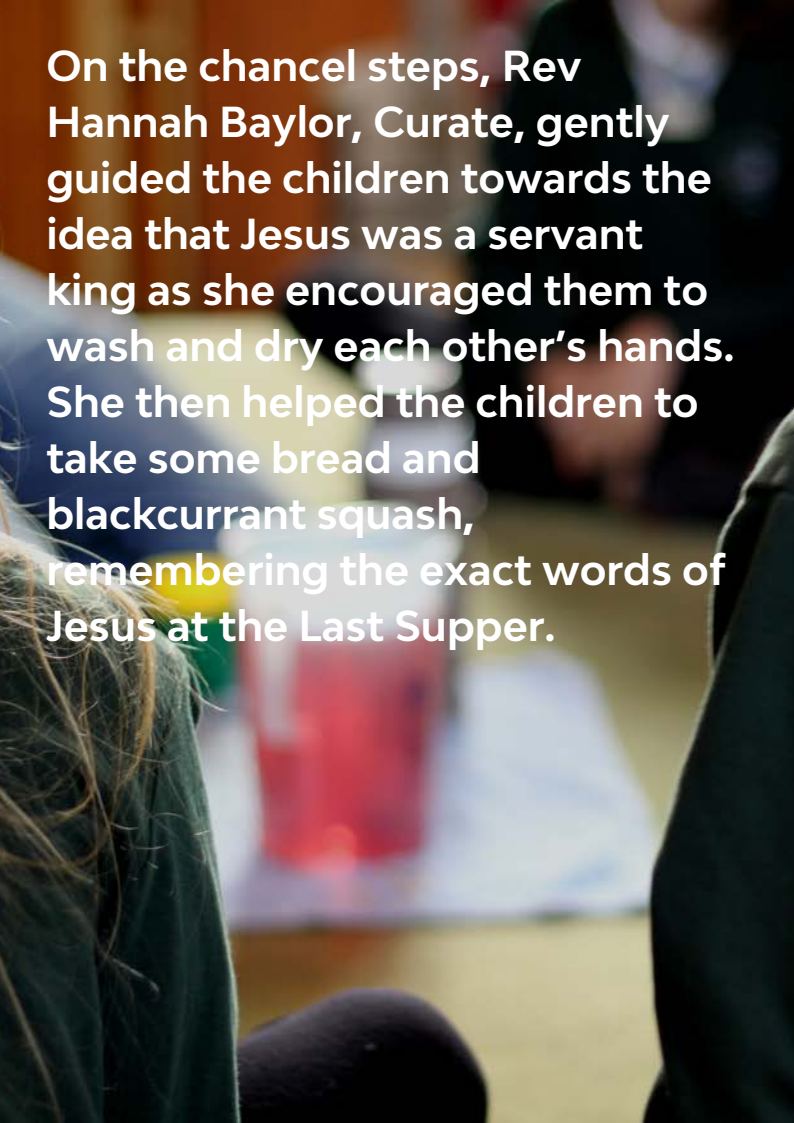
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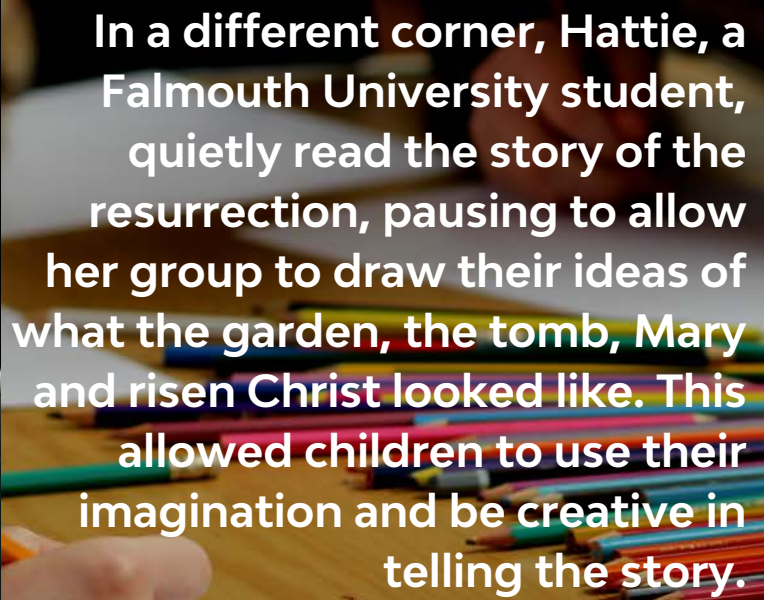
The Schools and Families lead for New Street Church, Jane Wheeler, together with an army of volunteers, led eight sessions throughout the week of 28th Mar – 1st Apr 2022. The aims were to help children experience the meaning of Easter, to help teachers to meet the objectives of the RE syllabus, and to have fun.

At each session, the children started by watching parts of a film called "The Miracle Maker" to learn about the story of the Passion of Jesus. Lots of questions helped the children to put themselves inside the story: why did Pilate wash his hands, why was Jesus silent and why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus 3 times?

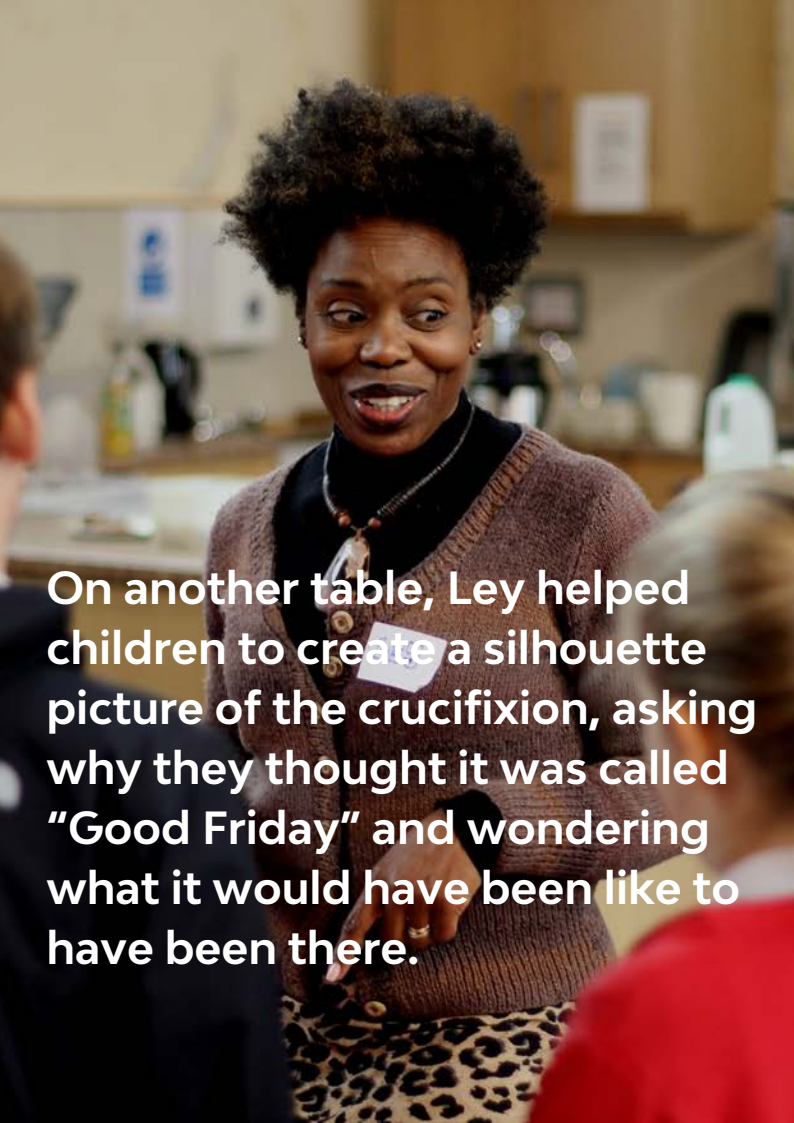
After this introduction, the children worked in smaller groups doing some art and craft activities, taking part in a drama and having time and space to reflect on the Easter story.



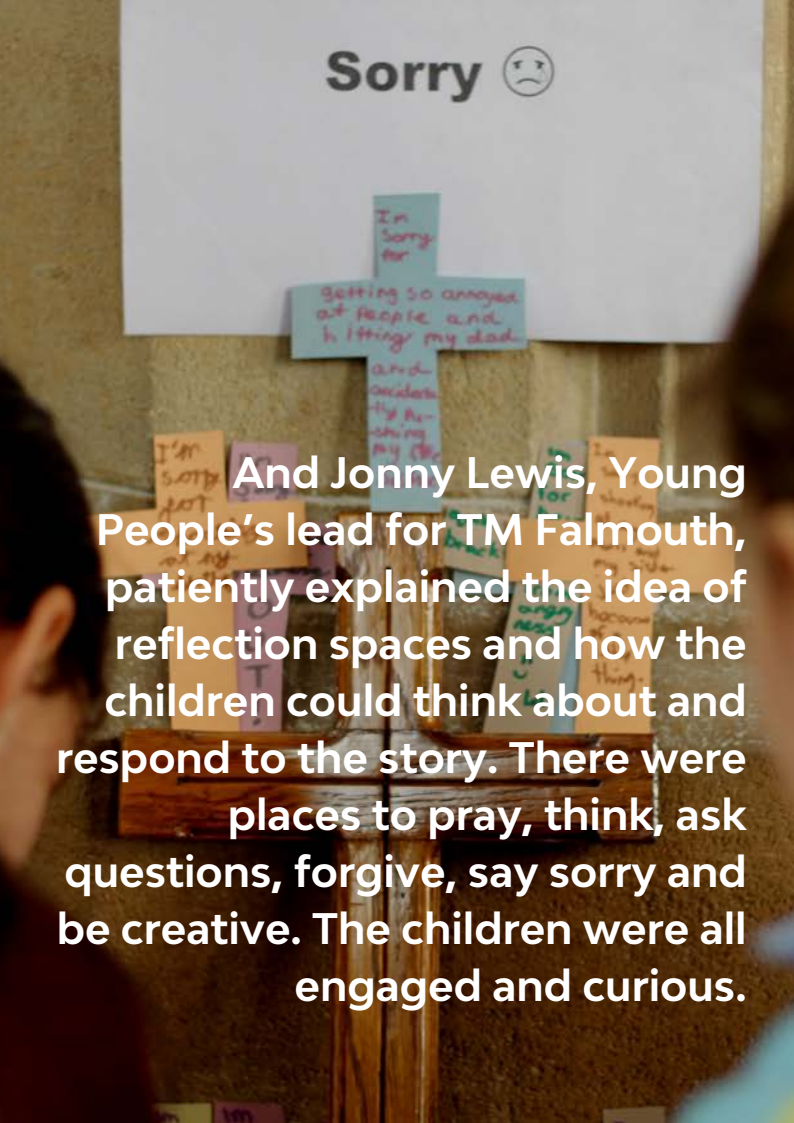
On the chancel steps, Rev Hannah Baylor, Curate, gently guided the children towards the idea that Jesus was a servant king as she encouraged them to wash and dry each other's hands. She then helped the children to take some bread and blackcurrant squash, remembering the exact words of Jesus at the Last Supper.



In a different corner, Hattie, a Falmouth University student, quietly read the story of the resurrection, pausing to allow her group to draw their ideas of what the garden, the tomb, Mary and risen Christ looked like. This allowed children to use their imagination and be creative in telling the story.




On another table, Ley helped children to create a silhouette picture of the crucifixion, asking why they thought it was called "Good Friday" and wondering what it would have been like to have been there.

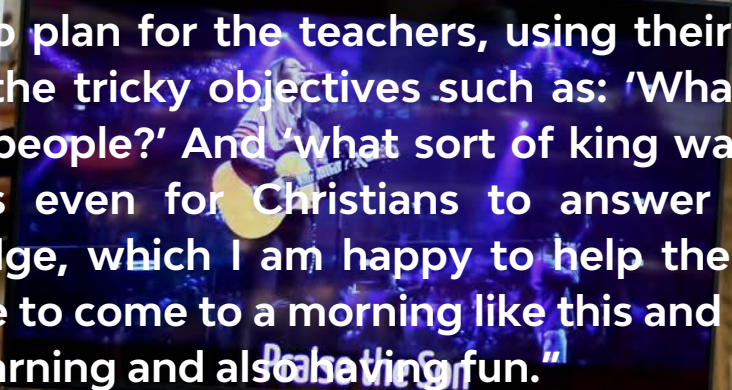


And Jonny Lewis, Young People's lead for TM Falmouth, patiently explained the idea of reflection spaces and how the children could think about and respond to the story. There were places to pray, think, ask questions, forgive, say sorry and be creative. The children were all engaged and curious.

To round it off, Jonny and Jane took some of the children's written questions and answered them in a way that 10 and 11 year olds would understand. Some were about creation, "If God made everything, who made God?" Others were about the Trinity, "Is Jesus still alive today?" And then there was "Does Jesus forgive all sins?" and that was an opportunity for Jonny to explain something of the magnitude of God's love and of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.



Finally, they then listened and watched a worship video of "King of kings", an appropriate way to end a wonderful session of learning and reflection. This in itself amazed the children – seeing so many young people in a church worshipping God, was something of an eye-opener for them.



Jane said, "I like to plan for the teachers, using their RE curriculum and tackling some of the tricky objectives such as: 'What do Christians say Jesus did to save people?' And 'what sort of king was Jesus?' These are difficult questions even for Christians to answer and require some specialist knowledge, which I am happy to help them with. I want the teachers to be able to come to a morning like this and relax, knowing that the children are learning and also **having fun.**"

They certainly were learning and having fun. Afterwards, one teacher from St Francis School said, "This has been great because the children love to come out of school to learn and the activities were pitched just right - they were varied and interesting. The class has been really engaged for the whole session and I know they have all learned a lot".