



A RESOURCE FOR CHURCHES & LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Praying with Pilgrimage Art

Outdoor art inspired by and using nature

*Created by the pupils of St Issey with
Caroline Bailey*

We investigated land art by Richard Long and Andy Goldsworthy. We saw how they used the natural world and symbols like the spiral or circle to create art works.

This piece is by Richard Long.



Right are two pieces by Andy Goldsworthy. The spiral is a motif which can represent life, creation, birth, rebirth, evolution and eternity. The circle can also represent infinity as it has no beginning and no end.



The Scallop Shell is the earliest iconic 'pilgrim badge' worn by pilgrims to the shrine of Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain, the alleged burial site of Jesus' disciple St. James. If you were to walk the Camino de Santiago, you would follow the sign of the yellow scallop shell.



We walked part of our local pilgrimage route – The Saints Way.

The sign for The Saints Way is a Celtic Cross. However, just like in Northern Spain, we have plenty of scallops around our Cornish coast too.



We created these large ceramic shells by pressing clay into real scallop shells and decorating them with patterns on the interior.

They were bisque fired, then glazed on the inside with a shiny turquoise glaze inspired by the Cornish Ocean.

We coated the exterior with a solution of red iron oxide, which highlights the natural textures of the original shell, and then they were fired again.



We arranged the shells in different ways to create different images.

We tried placing them in size order in a spiral, and flipping every other one.



We tried the yinyang sign, showing balance and connection.



One of our class lay on the floor and we put the shells around their body to create a person.



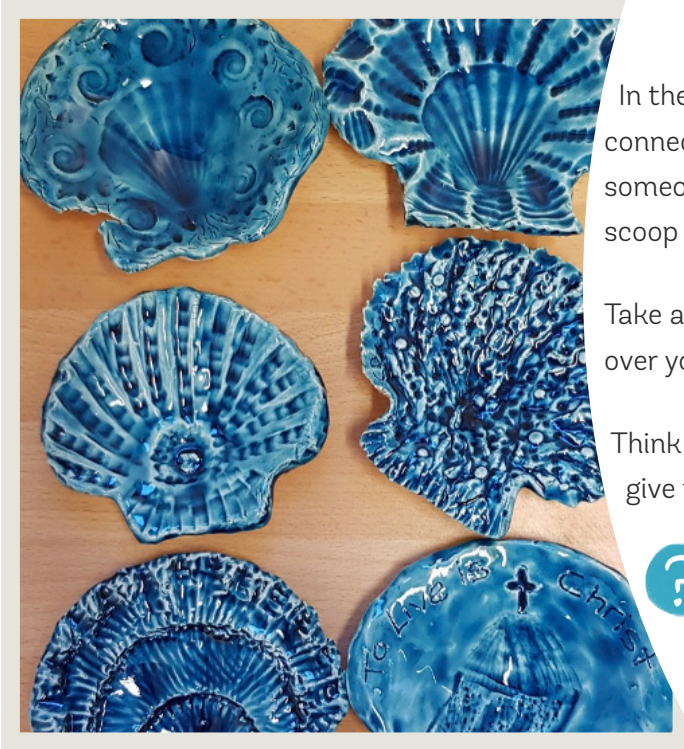
It looks a bit like a person walking along now, as we did when we walked from Little Petherick to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Monument outside of Padstow.



Extra

What shapes could you create?





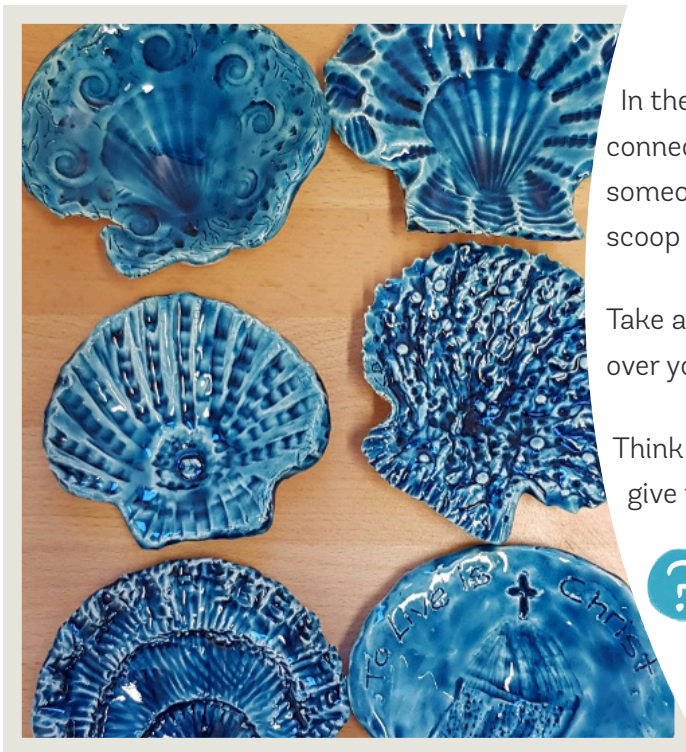
In the Christian faith, the scallop shell is also connected to Baptism – the sign of the start of someone’s faith journey. The shell can be used to scoop and pour the water of Baptism.

Take a shell, scoop some water and pour it carefully over your hand.

Think about a time you started something new, and give thanks for fresh starts.



Have you been baptized or christened?



In the Christian faith, the scallop shell is also connected to Baptism – the sign of the start of someone’s faith journey. The shell can be used to scoop and pour the water of Baptism.

Take a shell, scoop some water and pour it carefully over your hand.

Think about a time you started something new, and give thanks for fresh starts.



Have you been baptized or christened?

REFLECTION



Pick up a ceramic shell.



Notice the patterns showing through the shiny turquoise glaze.

They were made by an individual child, special and unique.

Remember that you are unique and special too.

'I thank you, High God – you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvellously made! I worship in adoration – what a creation!

You know me inside out, you know every bone in my body; you know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing to something'

Psalm 139: 14-16



Turn the shell over and feel the imprints left by the original scallop shell.

The shell protected a growing animal.



Extra

**How can we care for and protect others and our world?
What 'imprints' might we leave behind?**



The scallop shell is a symbol of pilgrimage – a special journey to a special place for a special reason. People go on pilgrimages for many reasons:

- To grow closer to God
- To journey with others
- To spend time thinking and focusing on something important
- To grow stronger physically, mentally and spiritually



Can you think of any other reasons?





Arrange some shells into a pattern.

Our own life journey is a bit like a pilgrimage. We have good times and difficult times, easy and hard parts of the journey.

God journeys with us through all of it. God is always there, infinite and eternal, like the spiral and circle shapes.

Remember how God is with you at all times.

'I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there too – your reassuring presence, coming and going. This is too much, too wonderful – I can't take it all in!'

Psalm 139: 8-10



A PILGRIM'S PRAYER

Dear God,

As we journey through our lives, we give thanks for the times we can celebrate together.

Help us to remember that you always walk with us , showing us the way when we feel lost, and sharing our times of sadness and difficulty. Thank you for those people who are there beside us for both the ups and downs of life.

We pray that when we face times of change, you would remind us of your infinite, eternal love for us.

Thank you for your unchanging love and presence.

Amen

A PILGRIM'S PRAYER

Dear God,

As we journey through our lives, we give thanks for the times we can celebrate together.

Help us to remember that you always walk with us , showing us the way when we feel lost, and sharing our times of sadness and difficulty. Thank you for those people who are there beside us for both the ups and downs of life.

We pray that when we face times of change, you would remind us of your infinite, eternal love for us.

Thank you for your unchanging love and presence.

Amen

You can find other Pilgrim Explorer routes here: trurodiocese.org.uk/whats-on/pilgrim-explorers/

DON'T FORGET TO POST & TAG YOUR PHOTOS ON INSTAGRAM: #PILGRIMEXPLORERS



*Join us for
another pilgrimage
adventure soon!*