Year 6 Celebration 2020: Shine as Lights in the World

Our world has turned upside down over the last few months. The way we live our lives has changed. Schools have been closed for most and we have learnt new things in different ways. Our friends and wider family have been beyond a screen or at the end of a phone line. **What hasn’t changed is God’s love for each one of us.** Whether you are a Christian, of another faith, believe in something or of no religion at all, we are part of a much wider family because we all try to love one another in a way each of us would expect it in return.

Many, many years ago, a Christian named Paul spoke to people who were new Christians. He said to them, “Shine as lights in the world.” He wanted those people to reflect the words of Jesus – someone he respected – so that they would truly show others in their words and actions what being a Christian meant. **What have you done to shine out to others?**

We may not be able to physically gather as Year 6 to celebrate our time together and pray for our future paths wherever they may lead us, but here are some activities which might help us on our journey. Find a moment to think and respond – and enjoy! Share your thoughts, film your answers and show us your creativity. We plan to meet together online to celebrate your achievements.

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**You Are Like Salt and Light**  
Matthew 5:13-16 (International Children’s Bible)

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing. It must be thrown out for people to walk on. You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don’t hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven.”

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Christians know that God wants them to use their remarkable skills and talents in ways which will help others. Jesus says, **‘You should be a light for other people’** because what we say and do makes a positive difference. Think of what you may have seen during the last few weeks – doctors and nurses, other key workers, your own families all shining their light in special ways. Your time in primary school will shortly come to an end but all that you have experienced over the last seven years, you will take with you. Learning, memories, friendships, abilities you have practised and been celebrated for: all these reflect the amazing power of the way you have shone a light, showing others what God wants all Christians to do.

**Use these activities at home or in school to think about what Jesus’s words mean for you.** Some activities require printing out some phrases, cutting and sorting; others might encourage you to research or even get a bit messy! Take a picture of your activity and share it with your teacher – perhaps upload it to a Word document or a PowerPoint page and write some thoughts alongside. Why not safely video yourself discussing some of the ideas these activities want you to think about. Your teacher might ask you if you’re happy for your work to be shared in the Diocese so that we can all see it.

**There are three different areas to think about:**

- **where** are you to shine?
- **how** are you to shine?
- **why** are you to shine?
**Where are you to shine?**

Think about your life so far... your time at school, your family and friends, places you’ve been, people you’ve seen. Have you shone your light to help others? Which situation do you think has had the most impact when you shone your light – or have seen others shine theirs?

**Thinking activity:**

Use the zone of relevance on the next page to show the impact of where people have shone their lights to help others. The red zone has significant impact, amber – some impact, and green – little impact). Cut out the dozen statements below and place them in the areas you think matches the impact it has. For example does donating money to a Water Aid charity in India have more or less impact to baking a cake for somebody’s birthday? Discuss with your teacher, family and friends. What if you can only put four statements in each zone?

*What can **you** do easily? What can **others** do that you can’t? What should **nations** do?*

**Does it matter where you shine?**

Why not stick the statements down, or photograph them before you move the sheet. Keep a record of it and be ready to explain your thoughts.

**Practical activity:**

Photograph yourself or find a picture online of a place where you have ‘shone your light’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Donating money to a Water Aid project in India.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Asking a parent or carer to buy a cup of tea for a homeless person.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Reducing the amount of products you use containing palm oil because of rainforest exploitation.</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buying a poppy in the days leading up to 11th November.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Baking a cake for somebody’s birthday.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Making a new child feel welcome when they come into your class.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cleaning your bedroom when a parent or carer hasn’t asked you to do it.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saying please and thank you.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Writing a letter to a supermarket to reduce plastic wrapping on foods.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sponsoring a child to go to school in Tanzania.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Giving your spare teddies to a charity which sends them to children in Afghanistan.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Putting money in a charity collection tin on the counter in a shop.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How are you to shine?

Think about the sorts of things you do which might show you are shining your light to others. In other words, what might a Christian do to reflect the sorts of things God would be pleased about. For example...

Don’t argue or complain, be trustworthy and honest, feed the hungry and clothe the poor, free those who are trapped, seek peace, sacrifice your time... and there will be many more. You can find many more in the actions and commands of Jesus.

Thinking activity:
Diamond nine – organise eleven actions (one is left blank for your own idea) so that the top one is the most important, then 2, then 3, 2 and one. Two actions cannot be included. See below for the eleven actions and cut them out to rearrange.

Take a photo of your result and be ready to explain why you chose the order you did.

Practical activity:
Find items which reflect light. Use a torch/mobile phone torch and a mirror to shine a beam of light into a dark place.
What’s special about the items you collect? Can you take a photo of this happening? What happens to the direction of beam?
Talk about the angle. Does the same thing happen with any reflective surface? What happens when you move the torch around?

Feed the hungry and clothe the poor.
Pray to God.
Seek peace.
Tell the truth.
Give thanks for what you have.
Love your enemies.
Serve others.
Sacrifice your time.
Be ready to work.
Keep your promises.
Why are you to shine?

Shining as lights in the world is a way of saying thank you to God for His presence and power. When Christians show their God-given talents, others see the wonderful nature of God, of His love for all. **What’s the point of having our gifts and not using them to help other people?**

Think about your own gifts... How have you practised them? What do other people think of your gifts? Are they unique to your family, to your class? Do other people benefit from your gifts? For example: a talented musician brings delight to those who listen, a keen footballer could bring amazement in a winning match, a writer brings power to words.

**Thinking activity:**

Finish the sentences:

I want to help other people because...

God will show His pleasure when Christians ‘shine’ by...

When I ‘shine as a light in the world’, I feel...

One thing I do to ‘shine’ is...

Sometimes, it can be difficult for others to ‘shine’ because...

When I move schools, I will ‘shine’ by...

**Practical activity:**

Use play dough, clay, thick mud or make **salt dough** by mixing together 1 cupful of plain flour (about 250g), half a cupful of table salt (about 125g) and half a cupful of water (about 125ml). You can add food dye now if you wish or leave it plain to paint later on. Knead the dough until it forms a non-sticky ball. Now be creative!

Form the dough or clay into a **symbol which helps explain why you shine.** For example, a star shape shows both light and what you are when helping others – but don’t all do this, be imaginative! Be ready to explain the significance of your sculpture.

If you have used salt dough, when you have finished, get an adult to help you bake it in a cool oven (at its lowest setting) for about 3 hours. When cold, you could paint it, or safely use gold spray, or stick glitter on it... be creative!

Can you film yourself talking about and showing your 3D symbol? Or take a photo and upload it to a Word document so you can add your written explanation.