

# Cathedral Schools Days 2023

Over three days earlier this month, nearly 1000 pupils, staff and volunteers from primary schools across our diocese visited Canterbury Cathedral for the Cathedral Schools Days and our year 6 children were able to be part of this special day.

On 7<sup>th</sup> November, year six pupils from the Endowed explored the Cathedral, focusing on a theme of looking after and preserving special places. The day gave our children the opportunity to turn their hands to the ancient arts of stonemasonry and stained-glass window making, as well as engaging in drama, music, book making, costume trails around the Cathedral, and prayer spaces, amongst other things.

During their time in the prayer spaces, we spent time 'Dwelling in the Word' focusing their curiosity, questions and observations on the story in Matthew 21 where Jesus turns the tables in the temple. This then enabled them to respond to the passage in their own way.

Many of the children were struck by the themes of justice, responsibility, actions, not just words and using their emotions. Some of the responses included reflection, using prayer labyrinths, praying for the world, praying for the environment, journaling and colouring.



### Hugo and Lilly leading worship

In the afternoon, the schools gathered together for inspiring pupil-led acts of worship led by Lilly and Hugo, two of our worship leaders in the Cathedral Nave. They led the service, shared prayers and led people in the sung parts of the worship. They were joined by an archdeacon, and Bishop Rose.

*"For our pupils, just having such an opportunity to feel part of Canterbury Cathedral and to walk about it with such freedom creates connections for the children that is lifelong. All the workshops were engaging, achievable and inclusive so that the full range of individuals from our year 6 classes shone." Mrs Cutts Year 6 teacher*

We would like to thank Canterbury Cathedral Education department and the Diocese of Canterbury children, young people and schools' team for organising such an inspirational and spiritual day.