

# Connecting Robert Piggott CofE Schools and St Mary's Church Wargrave Through Christmas and COVID



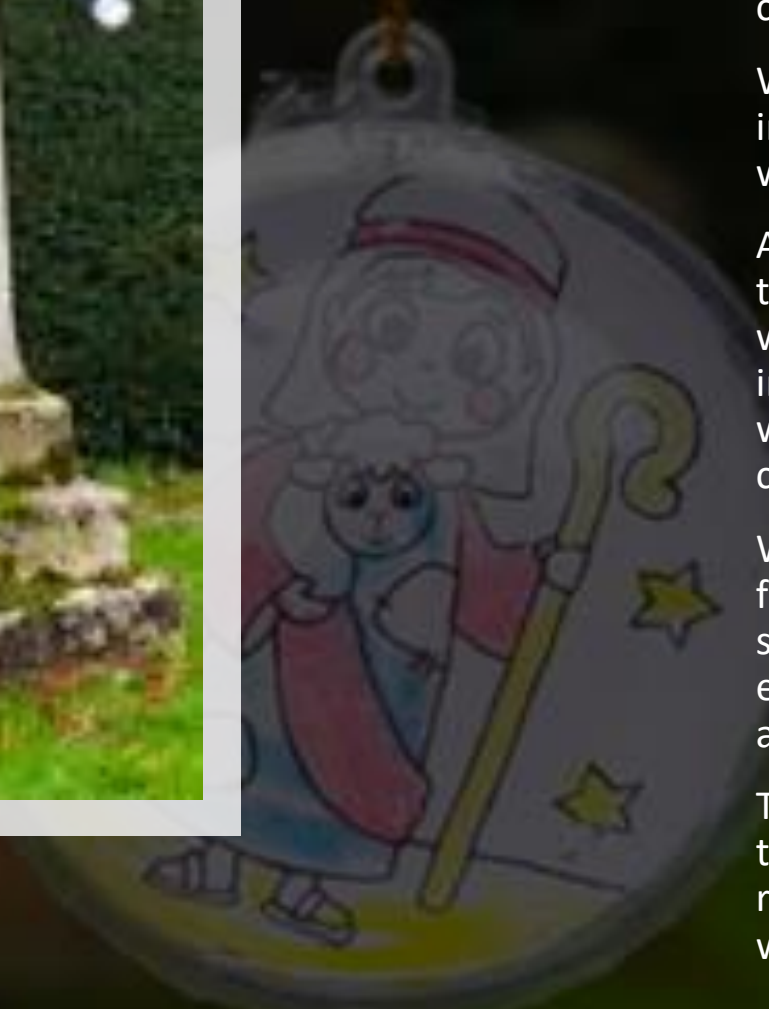
Mrs Elaine Hughes, Executive Headteacher, explains the context for the project.

We have a long established relationship with the church in the village and the families who attend, many of whom are also pupils at our schools.

At Christmas we would normally celebrate Christingle at the church and invite families to our Carole Service as well as welcoming visitors from St Mary's to our Nativity in school. With these lovely traditions inaccessible, it was wonderful to find another way to link us to the church at Christmas.

With our vision firmly rooted in Matthew 12:33, the fruits of our childrens' labour were on display for all to see, lighting up the path to the church and giving everyone the sense of community so precious to us all at Christmas.

The school community treasure the partnership with the church and the nativity pictures alongside the representations of each class, interlinked our school with the Christian values we hold so dear.





Mrs Kate Smith from the school PTA explains further.

In line with the school's vision to be integral to the village community, we decided it would be lovely to demonstrate our close links with the church by bringing the childrens' artwork to the church grounds, in a safe, open environment where the whole village could enjoy it.

Also, with the need to raise funds for the PTA as important as ever, but with social distancing still in full swing, we needed to get creative with our fundraising ideas.

We delivered empty baubles and paper inserts, featuring scenes from the nativity, to each class, plus larger ones for the teachers to decorate representing their class name. In exchange for a small voluntary donation, each child then decorated their bauble during the school day and included their name.

All the baubles were then tied, individually, along the churchyard railings, accompanied by fairy lights to bring them to life and create a beautiful site on the village green. They were hung by class to make it easier for visiting children to find their own baubles and a QR code was included on the explanatory posters to solicit further donations from the wider community. From both a fundraising perspective and from the lovely feedback we received from the village, it was deemed a big success.





