

“It felt like Jesus was there”

Holy Week 2008

“In the footsteps of Jesus”

What an amazing week it was! With “bags packed” and passports in hand we set off on a journey of discovery that would enable us to enter into that final week of Jesus’ life on earth. “In the footsteps of Jesus” was a joint project that enabled our three church schools (Bishop Martin, St Thomas the Martyr and Roby Mill) to follow a co-ordinated programme of learning, worship and fun. It was backed up by members of our congregations and families of the children following the journey at home and helping out in school where possible. All the clergy were involved – Peter joined the journey at St Thomas, Judith at Roby Mill and Janet at Bishop Martin.



Bishop Martin School at
Christ the Servant Church

On Monday we celebrated “Palm Sunday” and all three schools took part in a parade. The children were full of excitement and enthusiasm *“It was lovely to see so many parents and friends waiting for the parade and cheering as we went past.”* Peta, a Yr 2 pupil at Bishop Martin, said *“I liked it when we all held up the palm crosses in church because it felt like Jesus was there.”*

Alongside lots of other activity was a shared “Maundy Thursday” meal which included dancing, washing of hands and sharing of bread and “wine”. Pupils at Bishop Martin said *“Washing people’s hands in the Last Supper was a special thing to do ... It was good having the bread and ‘wine’ because it was something that Jesus did and we could do it too.”*

Veronica Riordan, Head at Roby Mill, said *“The children “lived the Easter Story and this greatly enhanced their learning and understanding. Judith enthusiastically led the whole school through the stimulating and fun events. It was an exciting week enjoyed by all who took part.”*

Cheryl O’Connor, RE Co-ordinator at Bishop Martin, commented *“What a great opportunity to give all the children such wonderful experiences! It has made such a big impact, they have all learnt so much and got a lot out of the week in so many different ways. It’s been amazing! I’ve enjoyed being involved with the planning, organisation and resourcing of the week and working with Janet to sort everything out. A big thank you to Janet and to the members of Christ the Servant congregation, who came in to school to help with the workshops and those who helped to put together our big cross.”*

The week was packed with so much activity and many special moments, far too many to record here in the magazine. Full information containing photographs and more quotations from the children can be found on our website. The page will be updated in the coming weeks as more information becomes available.

www.christtheservantchurch.org.uk/Pages/schools/footsteps.html

Judith said *“It has been a privilege to take part in Holy Week at Roby Mill. The atmosphere has been brilliant and it will live in my memory for a long time to come.”*

The clergy would like to thank members of staff in all three schools for entering into the week with such enthusiasm. It was certainly a journey we will never forget! The last words have to belong to the children *“I found out that God is not just our father, he is love as well I liked re-telling the story like we were there ... why have we never done it like this before?”*

Revd Janet Heighton – Schools Minister