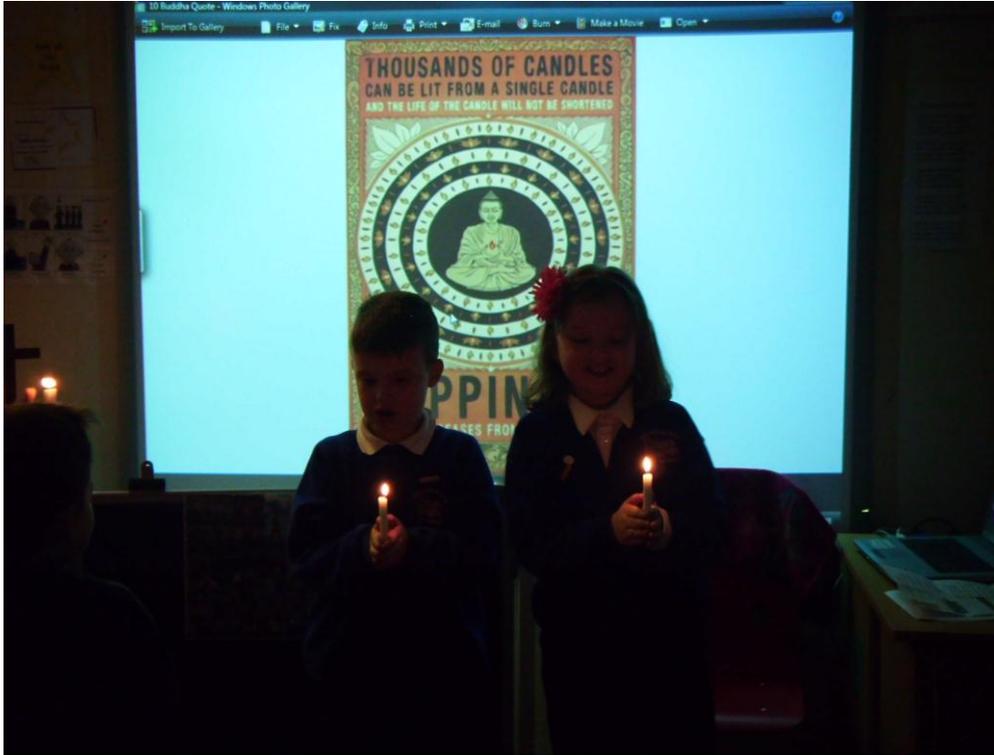


## Worship Diary - Spring 1

### 'Thousands of Candles Can Be Lit From a Single Candle'



The more we learn about the world religions the more we see the links. During this half term we have been thinking about New Year's Resolutions. Talking about the birth of a baby at Christmas and the significance that every new life brings helped us to understand that so many things are actually in our control, and we can make things better if we really put our hearts and minds to it. The children's resolutions are displayed in the school hall - please do call in to see them. We loved all of the resolutions but were especially touched by Brandon (Year 1) who said that in 2014 he was going to 'put love in his house', and Charlie (Reception) who said he would 'make his mam smile'. Katy-ann gave us all a laugh when she resolved to 'be kind to my brother'. It will be interesting to look back on the resolutions to see how children have done.

The life of Prince Siddhartha has really grabbed the children's interest, and they have especially enjoyed looking at pictures of Buddhist monks and finding out about meditations. They have even tried some short meditations in worship. Tyler had to admit 'It's hard to get all the thoughts out of your mind ..... they keep coming back in when I tell them to go out with the breathing', yet some of our older children said that the meditation made them feel "refreshed" (Gil Y4), or "ready to get started with the day" (Ryan Y2). Caitlin (Y3) noticed that "meditation is a bit like praying except without so many words".



The children always enjoy visitor worship, and Mr Davison introduced the children to the festival of Magha Puja. The children enjoyed lighting lots of candles from one single candle and made links with Christingles Services that they had attended in December.



In Religious Education lessons we have thought very carefully about places we like to pray in, and linked this with work about the Buddha. Raegan in Year 1 told us "In the bible people prayed all over the place - at wells and in the desert. I don't think God minds where we pray." Her sister (Year 3) added "You can pray wherever you want as long as you mean it in your heart". Evan (Year 2), who always likes to add his view to the current discussion said "I go to church on Sunday to pray. I like our worship area

in school as well because we light a candle and it makes everyone just calm down." Aidan (Y3) added 'In the bible there is a part called Corinthians and God said that we are temples. I think this means he wants us to be like God'.

The children have also been looking at some places of worship all over the world and trying to remember what they are called. They have learned some of the features of a church, a cathedral, a Hindu temple, a mosque, and a synagogue and have enjoyed talking about trips we have had to Newcastle to visit some of these buildings. They always surprise me with their ability to make links between different religions and festivals.



The children also had a brilliant visit from our friends Ian Campbell and John Tinkler from Hebron Hall who told us the story of the Prodigal son in a way we'll never forget with melted Mars Bars, Ping-Pong Maths Mazes, and a singing competition between staff and children.

In the week before half term our thoughts will be closer to home as we find out who Saint Cuthbert was and why his work is so important in Northumberland.

After half term we will be thinking about being a good neighbour and what this entails.

