



## Year 5 – Church visits

July 2024

Year 5's recent trips to Littleover Methodist Church and St. Peter's C of E Church in Littleover were both educational and enjoyable experiences for the children. The journey began with a pleasant 20-minute walk from school to the churches. The students behaved exceptionally well and demonstrated great respect throughout both visits.

Upon arriving at Littleover Methodist Church, we were warmly greeted by Reverend Chris and Ruda at the door. They welcomed us inside, where the children settled down to listen to them talk about the church. Chris provided an overview of what a Methodist church represents and the meaning behind the name "Methodist." He acknowledged the diverse faith backgrounds of the children, highlighting the importance of appreciating and understanding different religions.

Chris shared a brief history of the Methodist Church, explaining its significance in fostering community and social interactions. He described the church as a space for people to meet, enjoy meals at the café, participate in messy playgroups, practise musical instruments, and find warmth and companionship. Chris also guided the children through the church's features, such as the font, organ, cross, and prayer area, and discussed ceremonies like baptisms and weddings. To the children's delight, he performed a mock wedding ceremony with Henry and Shivani volunteering, adding a touch of humour as they repeated the ceremonial words. The visit was made even more memorable when Chris played the guitar and led the children (if they wanted to) in singing "Thank You, Lord, for This New Day."

Following Chris's session, Ruda engaged the children in a discussion about our topic, "If God is everywhere, why come to a place of worship?" Ruda emphasised the importance of community and shared prayer in a Methodist church, sparking a thoughtful conversation about how one can pray anywhere, in which Eden and Nayan responded, 'that people might pray outside in nature because some people believe God created Earth and that we make people feel closer to God.'

The following week, our journey took us to St. Peter's C of E Church, where we were greeted by Reverend Alicia. She began with a brief exploration of the church, allowing the children to look around for ten minutes. Alicia then delved into the church's rich history, explaining that it was built over 700 years ago and later extended 60 years ago. She highlighted the architectural features, including the pillars, windows, and the church's stunning stained glass windows.

Alicia took the children through the church's key features, such as the font, altar, pulpit, pews, and the organ. At the altar, she discussed its significance and pointed out the stained glass window depicting the Last Supper above it. Alicia also talked about the various events held at the church, including weddings, funerals, and baptisms. She recognised Freddie from his Sunday church visits.

Addressing our topic question, Alicia explained that Christians come to church to feel closer to God and seek forgiveness for their sins. The discussions at both churches provided the children with a deeper understanding of the role of places of worship in fostering community, spirituality, and a sense of belonging.

Overall, the trips to Littleover Methodist Church and St. Peter's C of E Church were enriching experiences, broadening the children's knowledge and appreciation of different Christian traditions and the significance of communal worship.

