

Gamechangers

2024 Project Celebration Booklet



Introduction

A Vision for and from our Nations.



Depending on where you get your stats, up to 70% of people in the UK wear glasses or contact lenses. I don't wear glasses all the time, but if I'm at the supermarket and have forgotten mine, it changes the situation completely – but interestingly, reminds me how helpful people are when asked to assist if I can't see something detailed that's required!

For most people in the UK, a trip to the Optician takes less than half an hour. In many African countries, it can be five hours. Not having glasses in these contexts typically means exclusion from learning; exclusion from participation and often emotional loneliness. But this is changing rapidly. In Rwanda, for example, there's a commitment to providing eye-care for all.

Volunteer optometrists, nurses, opticians and others; the one-dollar-glasses scheme; as well as funded programmes, are offering, quite literally, enlightenment for hundreds of thousands of people.

Individuals making this happen are Game Changers. However, it's not down to one person, but many individuals working and serving together under a shared vision -excuse the intended pun.

Whether 'standing on the shoulders of giants' or seated at the feet of lesser-known people, we can all be Gamechangers. We can do and be this by living and using our God-given gifts and skills for the good and benefit of individuals, families, local communities and society at large.

Our diocesan project this year celebrated individuals and groups who are Gamechangers, purely to enthuse and inspire individual pupils and staff; schools and governing bodies corporately; to live out in reality our commitment to 'Serve The Common Good' and to be 'Courageous Advocates' - at home and abroad.

We invited children, young people and adults to knowingly inhabit their place in St Paul's teaching on 'The Body of Christ' where we are co-constructors; inter-dependent and collaborators. We explored this through the lenses of Gamechangers in the realms of history, art, politics, music, sport and so many more.

Our Gamechangers logo : The ICHTHUS fish symbol has its origins in first century Israel, where early Christians, under Roman occupation were often persecuted. Sharing one's faith



and commitment to follow the teachings and example of Jesus was epitomised in the casual scratching of the simple outline of a fish in the ground. This would be recognised by fellow followers, knowing Jesus' teaching on the symbolism of fish. It also captures the Greek letters that are formed in the simple drawing of the symbol : I Iesus (Jesus) X Christos (Christ) Th Theos (God) U Uios (Son) S Sotare (Saviour). Our logo highlights one of the fish tails pointing both upwards and onwards – to show how by the grace of Jesus we can, through prayer, become Gamechangers.



The project culminated in our amazing Cathedral Year 6 Leavers days at the end of the academic year. This booklet celebrates the magnificent Gamechangers art installations created by our schools at Winchester Cathedral, Portsmouth Cathedral and Christchurch Priory. Our installations were inspired by the game-changing creativity of Antony Gormley, who has brought a mass, public appreciation of sculpture and art across the country.

We look forward to working with partner organisations, schools, community groups, churches and individuals on our 2025 Project which is called 'TriWonder' – watch out for more details and our Project Booklet that will be circulated early next term.

Best wishes

Jeff Williams
Director of Education

Leaving a Legacy

Children at Milford-on-Sea Church of England Primary School were involved in an ambitious art legacy project, becoming true game changers in their impact in their coastal community.



Pupils in Years Five and Six regularly take part in Beach School as part of the school's Global Curriculum. For the project, children built life-size human sculptures to place around the village and at the nearby coast to raise awareness about sea level rise and other climate change related issues affecting the village. The sculptures were constructed from litter collected from the beach and the New Forest, were covered in plaster bandages, painted and finally varnished. Pupils got permission from local government to leave the sculptures out over the summer holiday to form a climate-education sculpture trail. The children wrote

about the project and relevant issues were displayed in the sculptures.

Headteacher Kate Crawford said: 'These finished statues will be on display down on our local coast, standing where the tideline will be by the time the pupils are 80 years old under current CO2 levels. The models will have QR codes with links to climate information about the local area. We are liaising with the Environmental Agency who are very excited and supportive of the project. We believe it will send out a strong message about climate change



to our local community and beyond.'

Before starting their artwork, pupils considered the following:

- figures in space and their place. Interaction with people and place, sculpture and observer
- impact on people looking & how it made them think and feel
- Rising sea levels and waste pollution in natural areas



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- How Jesus asks us to stand ready, be awake, be alert and attentive, sensitive to the world around us and His presence within it.
- The inspirational game changer Greta Thunberg who as a young person started small but had a big impact.

Working for the Wider Community



Newport Church of England Primary School and Carisbrooke Church of England Primary Schools on the Isle of Wight held a game changers day, with all children involved. A variety of activities helped pupils to understand their role in improving the world, our local area, or people's lives.

Activities included litter picking, making cards and Easter baskets for both the elderly and patients at the hospital, making sunflowers for the local hospice, making banners and posters about the rubbish in our seas and the use of plastics. Children made posters about a Foodbank collection point, wrote newspaper articles about homelessness, planted flowers and seeds and visited the local pre-school to read stories to the younger children.

Younger pupils also part in a Ninja Warrior style sponsored event to raise money. A selection of visitors came into school to speak with some of the activity groups and one group went to Christ The King College to participate in an Asian Hornet



Awareness

workshop.

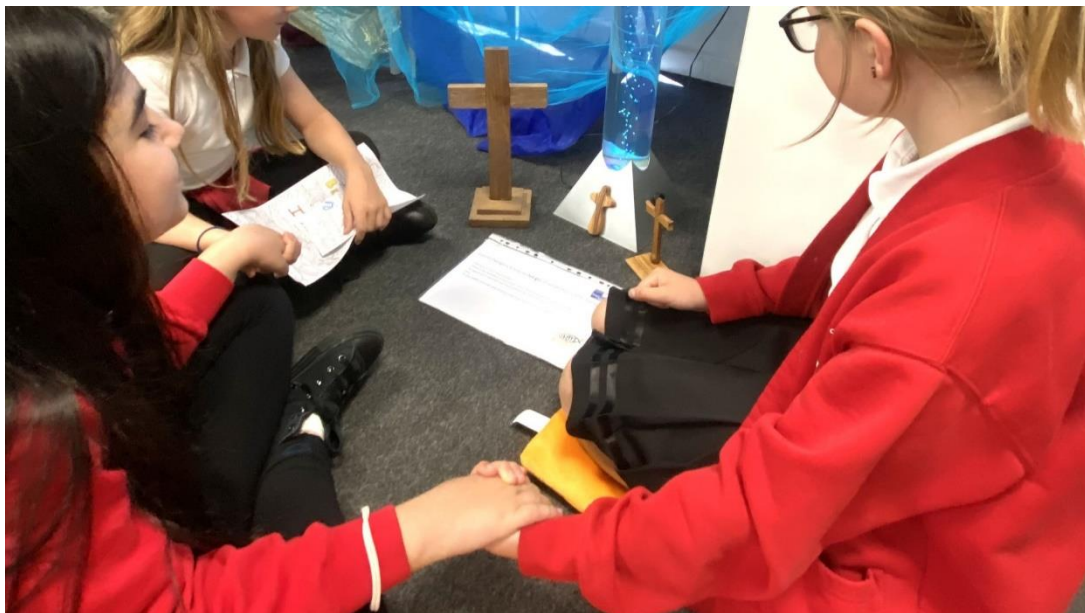
Headteacher Katherine Marshall said: 'School today has been absolutely electric! It has been a day of creativity and collaboration. The children have all responded sensitively, demonstrating a good understanding of the impact their actions will make to the lives of others as well as the wider community.'

So, do you want to change the world?

Each class at Alverstoke Church of England Junior School were treated to a prayer space session in school run by Families Lead Lizzie Skyes-Little and her team from St Mary's Church, as well as school staff and governors.

RE lead Helen Garside said: 'We were really excited to offer all our children this experience as prayer spaces give children and young people a way to explore personal reflection and

prayer for themselves using a selection of engaging and creative activities; something we value highly as a school. Our children were welcomed into the prayer spaces session with the question **So, do you want to change the world?** They then took part in creative and reflective activities based on the Gamechangers project which has been excitedly explored by the whole school not only during prayer spaces but Collective Worship and lessons as well. ‘



Whitchurch
Gamechangers Art Exhibition

Pupils at Whitchurch Church of England Primary School organised a Game changers art exhibition at the town's Methodist church. Children took different gamechangers and used their inspiration to produce their art. The inspiration for the project was as follows:

Reception - Jesus (children looked at the hands of those who inspired them)

Year 1 Beatrix Potter and Greta Thunberg (Leading women in preservation of the environment, and literature) – sculpture and drawings

Year 2 Marcus Rashford and Jasmin Paris (and other sports men/women) - paint

Year 3 Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake (TV moment and research) print

Year 4 Martin L. King and Rosa Parks (civil rights and history) – collage and typography

Year 5 Aneurin Bevan and the NHS – batik/ other print

Year 6 Edison/ Marie Curie/ Fleming (inventions for the common good, electricity, medicine) – pop art

Below is a selection of the children's exhibits:



I learned that Marcus Rashford is a Christian and he is a Gamechanger and I can be a Gamechanger.



Gamechangers House Day

St Mary's Bentworth Church of England Primary School held a Gamechangers House Day. Each half term the school holds a House Day, when children work together across the school in four house teams. Each house visits the four different classrooms of our school over the day, participating in a different activity in each room.

All the children were involved in learning about four different game changers to help them understand how they can improve the world as well as learning about some key inspirational individuals. Henry Fraser who uses his month to create his art was one of the game changers and children had a go at creating art in this way. This helped them to appreciate Henry's incredible talents and help teach them how to have a positive mindset during times of adversity.



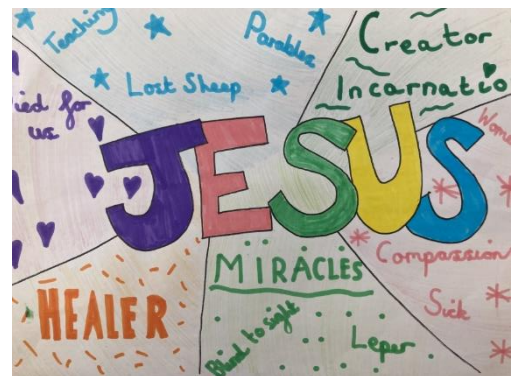
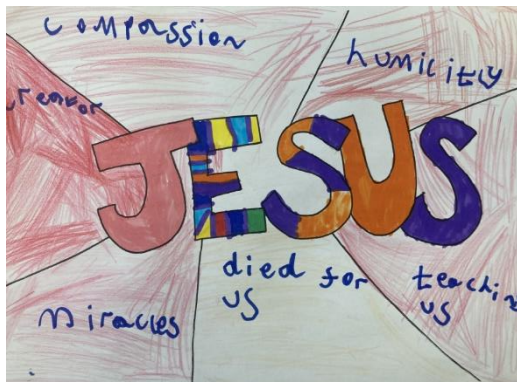
Another focus was the work of footballer Marcus Rashford. Children heard about his charity fundraising during lockdown to raise money for children who are eligible for free school meals. The children looked at how much of a team player Rashford is and participated in team building activities.



One teacher focused on the book 'The Crown' by Emily Kapff, a powerful story about the impact we are having on our planet. The children created 'crowns of rubbish' artwork to show what we would like our 'crowns' to be.



Finally, the children thought about Jesus as a Gamechanger. They created some artwork about the different ways He changes lives and reflected on what He teaches us. Each child thought about how they can follow in Jesus's footsteps and live their lives in the way He wanted.



Leavers Services

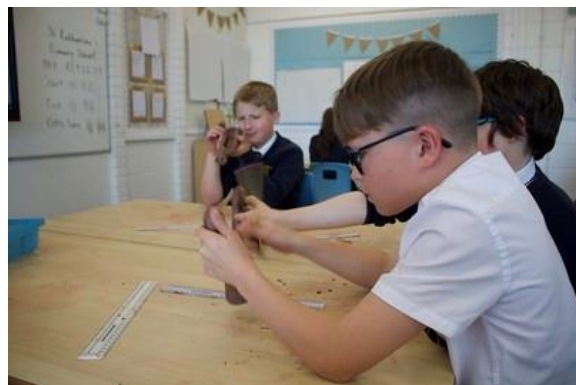
To celebrate the culmination of the Gamechangers project, and in keeping with the tradition of children in our church schools bringing a contribution to the Year 6 leavers services at our cathedrals, pupils were asked to create individual clay figures. Thousands were brought together to form throngs of clay people, standing together in unity. The mass sculptures formed art installations in Portsmouth and Winchester cathedrals, as well as Christchurch Priory, as Year 6 pupils enjoyed their leavers services in the summer.

The installations, which attracted radio and television coverage, were based on the work of game changing artist Antony Gormley, widely regarded as Britain's best-known sculptor. Gormley changed the way that people encounter art, with permanent public artworks existing in locations across the world, including Liverpool's Crosby Beach, the Austrian Alps, Sao Paulo in Brazil and Winchester Cathedral – making him a true game changer.



Gormley has a passion for placing human figures, often many at a time, in unexpected locations. He wants his sculptures to be game changers, to make people think about the place of human beings in the world. He once said: 'Art confronts life, making us stop and perhaps change direction. Sculpture is the most challenging and resilient of art forms. It is the greatest agent of change of all art forms.'

No one told me before I came how many Year sixes there are in Church of England schools in our area and



Based on one of Gormley's most famous works, 'Field for the British Isles', the installations were a fitting symbol of our children as agents of social change in their schools and communities. The works of art are designed to make people think about three questions: Who are we? Where do we come from? Where are we going? Throughout the year, the Gamechangers project asked children to think about how they can become a game changer in the world.



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Gormley (pictured left) talks about the tiny figures as a collective body, similar to the idea in Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, where he describes the church as being like a body, made up of many different parts. ([1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 27](#))

The children were thrilled when Gormley (whose statue Sound II stands in the crypt of Winchester Cathedral) sent a personal message of congratulations and appreciation to the children that was read out at the services. Winchester Cathedral gave each child an individual invitation to bring their families to see the installation for the week following the services, and to stay for evensong. More than 200 families from 21 schools took up the offer!



I'm glad it was on the TV news and they told us that Antony Gormley saw photos of what we did. I still don't know how you did that but it shows it was a special occasion.

Here are some of further thoughts from pupils at St James Church of England Primary School in West End, Southampton and St Katharine's School, Bournemouth

I think it represents how we are all unique but at the same time we are connected. Last year our theme was Ubuntu about how we are globally connected. It shows we are different but connected in the same way. I think if we are all connected we can solve a lot of things. World peace is one but everyone has different ideas. I think Gamechangers is learning about people who are really inspirational and have done great things and it's inspired a lot of people, including me, to go out and make a change even if it's something little. It's going to be great to be in the Cathedral and see everyone there and putting their models together to see all of them together. Ollie

*I've enjoyed that we can realise that we can all be Gamechangers and you don't have to be someone big or really well known. Our statues are making a mark even if it's in clay and it reminds us that we can all make a mark in the world. I think seeing them in the Cathedral will feel very inspirational and will change your mindset, seeing how many people can actually join together and be one and be almost like family. **Gracie***

*I know that a Gamechanger is a person who does something for the world or environment but it doesn't have to be something big. It can be like donating or helping someone. I've learnt that even though I'm a child I can also help the planet and help people like Gamechangers do. I think the statues are little representations of us because we mould them with our hands and they are a reflection of us. I think it means we are all one person and as my headteacher would say we are all the body of Christ because when we all join together we can make a really big difference. **Izzy***

*Lots of people have become Gamechangers because they have changed our way of living or trying to stop something. We have many Gamechangers in our school. I've been campaigning against stopping food waste at school and we have others who are earth ambassadors to protect our earth. **Auby***

*We're making sculptures which almost describe us. They are all going to look similar but have different personalities. It's very connective and when they all come together it's going to look really beautiful. Game changers is looking at our differences but what happens if we all work together. The fact that you can't change something if you are one person but if we all work together and try to do things together you can change a lot. **Bella***

*The sculptures symbolise coming together to make something bigger because on their own they don't look like much but then when they come together they will look massive. They'll be a sea of people all together. I think it will help me and other people realise that if we work together we can do something amazing. It's making me realise how you can make a difference if you want to. **Isaac***



Over the days of the leavers services, the installations grew and grew, drawing the attention of cathedral visitors from all over the world.



Across the three venues, there were approximately 5,000 mini statuettes. One visitor from America, explained that she was a teacher and wanted to know all about the project so that she could make a similar installation with her pupils once she got home.

A few statuettes needed some repair after the coach, minibus and train journeys to Winchester. The highly-skilled cathedral stonemasons volunteered to mend all the tiny figures in need of assistance! (see right)



When I saw my statue on Tuesday it looked good on the floor but when my family came to see it there were loads more. Some tourists from China were looking and I told them there were two thousand of them and why I made it and I showed them mine.





Schools in Bournemouth created a life size figure out of tiny boxes, each bearing their pledges to be gamechangers. Their mini clay statuettes were placed at the feet of the figure.

Below are some quotes from Bournemouth pupils:

'Gamechangers has changed the way that I think about the world and other people.'

'A gamechanger is a person who changes your way of thinking and how you act – they inspire you.'

'Game changing is changing the world to make it a better place.'

'Anyone can be anything if they set their mind to it.'

In Portsmouth, children from Wickham Church of England Primary School create a huge figure out of wooden blocks as a focal point for the installation.



Children from Arreton Church of England Primary School on the Isle of Wight created their own figure, inspired by Gormley's Angel of the North. They brought it to the cathedral on the ferry!



Before the services, children enjoy a vast array of workshops including, drumming, dance, watercolours, calligraphy, archaeology, singing and weaving – as well as enjoying tours of the cathedrals.





It was the first time I've been inside a Cathedral and it was awesome, especially when the organ played for the banners at the beginning – it made me feel great.

Going to a singing workshop made me feel a bit worried at first but it was ace and she made me feel very confident to sing.

Secondary Students support their new Primary friends



Secondary students from The Bay Church of England School in Sandown and Ark Charter Academy in Portsmouth helped out at the services, reassuring younger pupils about life at Secondary school. Cathedral staff were impressed with the maturity of the students and described them as a credit to their schools. Students at The Bay created their own Gormley-inspired installation at school (right) and wrote the prayer below especially for the service they attended:

Dear Lord,

We thank you for always being with us, through all the amazing happy moments and through all the challenges we face. Be with us when we are worried and strengthen us so we keep standing up for the things we are passionate about. Give us courage to be game changers in our new schools and help us to remember that we are not alone. In your name we pray, Amen

At Winchester Cathedral Bishop Phillip enjoyed his first experience of leavers services since arriving in the Diocese. Using a microphone, he moved among the children to discuss their work on the Gamechangers project and the difference that pupils were making in their local area.

I didn't expect a Bishop to come into our seats to ask us who we thought were Gamechangers. One of our class told Bishop Philip about Greta Thunberg.

At Portsmouth, Bishop Jonathan (pictured) talked to the children about the England football team as game changers, notably the way in which England manager Gareth Southgate has supported his team in victory and defeat.



Thank you for letting me have my photo taken of my clay statue with Antony Gormley's famous statue behind me. It made me feel special and I can send it to my gramps because he lives in London

When gran took me and my sister to see the statues there was a pupil there who brought his family from Australia and a girl who had her American aunty. They took photos and my statue will be showed in Australia and America so I'm glad they did this exhibition.

Romsey Abbey hosts Infant School Pupils



Children at our church infants schools that are not moving on to a church of England junior school enjoyed their own special end of year service at Romsey Abbey. Always a popular event with the younger children, the service was based around having the courage to make good decisions and changes in our communities.

I told my cousins in Yorkshire that I have been in an art and sculpture exhibition in a famous Cathedral and Antony Gormley saw the photos. They think I'm famous! I can be a Gamechanger can't I?



Read more about the Gamechangers project and how to make a statuette here:

<https://winchester.anglican.org/education-schools/resources-for-schools/project-booklets-and-resources/>

Listen to a radio broadcast about the statues
<https://winchester.radio/2024/06/21/episode-82-21-06-2024/>

