

# Religious Studies

2007/8



This is a subject that inspires enquiry, discussion, fascination, dissention - and, of course, the age-old question 'Why are we here?' In some year groups, responses such as these were often enhanced or indeed engendered by their school outings.

Year 3 visited Mountfield Church to learn about how churches have been used through the ages, and to look at some of its religious artefacts. Year 5 made their annual trip to Canterbury, where they had a tour of the cathedral and saw the very spot where Thomas Becket was murdered over 800 years ago. Many of them must have had a great many sins to atone for because when they reached the worn steps up to the shrine of St Thomas they decided to mount them on their knees, as so many pilgrims had done as acts of penance hundreds of years ago.

For the first time, we organised an outing to the magnificent marble and limestone Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in London, the largest Hindu temple outside India. Year 6 were taken aback by its beauty and splendour. This, together with the superb talk that Kajal Radia and Priyanca Masrani gave this term on Hindu weddings, gave the children a real insight into Hinduism.

We were very sad to say goodbye at the end of the summer term to Mrs Radford. She is a highly knowledgeable and inspiring teacher of Junior RS. AM

## Catholic Trip to Arundel Cathedral

On November 2nd, All Souls' Day, when people go to the graveyard to pray for their lost ones, we went to Arundel. It was an interesting trip with a tour around Arundel Cathedral, a talk about the Castle and Mass.

We were first shown Arundel Castle where the Duke of Norfolk lives with his family. On the way down we met the Mayor of Arundel and some of us shook hands with him!

The Cathedral was fabulous. With its spires and towers it can be seen from far away as it stands on a hill. Both inside and outside there are so many detailed carvings of statues and gargoyles built into the walls. The stained glass windows are magnificent telling so many stories.

Later we had our own Mass in one of the side chapels and we remembered to pray for members of our families who had died. We were all alone in the whole cathedral!

After our Mass we went to stretch our legs in the cemetery where we found some very interesting graves. My favourite was an Irish stone cross with lots of different patterns and all on its own.

*Freddie van den Berg*