

ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL CHELYNCH PARK, DOULTING, SHEPTON MALLET, SOMERSET, BA4 4PL

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

September and October 2023

30.10.23

06.05.24

24.05.24

03.06.24

28.06.24

23.07.24

24.07.24

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the school year. It has been a great Term 1 and children have made good progress, from settling into school life in Reception to their many and varied successes and achievements in learning. I hope that it was helpful to meet for Parent Consultations to discuss your child and their development in social, emotional and academic areas.

We know that each year is a step of your child's primary school journey and we're part way through the start of this year's. I wanted to highlight and celebrate the amazing achievements of your children from last academic year. We had a phenomenal set of data from EYFS, Y1 Phonics, Y4 Multiplication Check and at the end of both Key Stage 1 and 2. Our data not only met but exceeded the national data that has been published so far. This is a credit to all the resilience and hard work from the children as well as the teaching staff and parents who have facilitated and supported effective teaching and learning. Well done everyone! See more on the Reports page of our website.

Thank you to the school community members who have created designs for our new school logo and thank you to everyone who voted and offered suggestions. These have now been shortlisted and amendments are being made before a final vote by our governing board. This is an exciting development for the school and will be ready for when the school convert to academy status in January. It will be shared when the final design is decided and ready.

It has been great to welcome so many parents and grandparents for Harvest, Reading Learning Showcase and Celebration Worship this term.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our highlights it's a bit of a bumper issue! Please read on for New Classes p2-3; Celebrating Learning Behaviours p4; Reading & Learning Showcase p6-9; Cross Country p10; Collective Worship & Harvest Service p11-12; Maths Problem Solving Day p13-14; SEND & Talking Mental Health p15-16; Governor Message p17; Online Safety Update p18; and PTA and Community News p19-22.

On behalf of all our staff and families, I wish to say a big thank you to Miss Webb for her contribution to St Aldhelm's and the After School Club. You have been brilliant and we wish you well for the future.

Kind regards Píppa Cohen Headteacher

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Term 2 starts

Half Term 23rd – 27th October

02.11.23	Year 6 Wells Festival of Literature
03.11.23	Open School 4-5pm
	School Disco 6-7.30pm
04.11.23	Open School 9-11am;
07.11.23	Cross Country Collett Park
09.11.23	Parent Voice 9-9:45am (not 2 nd Nov)
20.11.23	Flu Vaccinations for all year groups
21.11.23	Vision Screening YR
23.11.23	Year 5 Primary Dance Festival at Whitstone
27.11.23	KS2 Film night 3.30-5pm (end time tbc)
28.11.23	KS1 Film night 3.30-5pm (end time tbc)
01.12.23	Christmas Fair 2:30-4pm
06.12.23	Nativity Performance Nightingales & Magpies 2pm
07.12.23	Nativity Performance Nightingales & Magpies 5pm
11.12.23	Learning Showcase – Christmas Art and
	Craft 2:45pm
12.12.23	Christmas Lunch
13.12.23	Christmas Service 9:30am Led by Falcons
	and Robins
14.12.23	Celebration Worship 9:10-9:40am
	Parent Voice after Celebration Worship
15.12.23	End of Term 2

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Half Term 27th - 31st May 2024

Christmas Break 18th Dec – 1st January 20				
02.01.24	INSET DAY 3			
03.01.24	Term 3 starts for all children			
09.02.24	End of Term 3			
	Half Term 12 th – 16 th February 2024			
19.02.24	Term 4 starts			
26-28.02.24	Kilve Residential Trip for Y4, 5 & 6			
28.03.24	End of Term 4			
Easter Break 29th March – 12th April 202				
15.04.24	Term 5 starts			

Bank Holiday

End of Term 5

Term 6 starts

INSET DAY 4

INSET DAY 5

End of Term 6

NEW CLASSES SEPT 2023

RECEPTION ROBINS





YEAR 1 NIGHTINGALES

YEAR 2 MAGPIES







YEAR 4/5 KINGFISHERS





YEAR 5/6 FALCONS







A big well done to all the children who received certificates in Term 1 for their progress, success and achievement with their learning behaviours ©











And congratulations to all children who completed the Shepton Mallet Library's Summer Reading Challenge this year ©









A spotlight on Reading at St Aldhelm's

It has been wonderful to see so many families joining us for our Welcome Meetings and Reading Learning Showcase.

We have been updating the reading section of our website and so if you would like any more information then please click on the image to take you straight to the webpage.

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Reading Volunteers

The Reading Framework, a new Department for Education document, advokes the importance of children reading lots, reading widely across all areas of the curriculum and in all lessons. The framework calls this, "putting in the reading miles" and also recognises that it is experience that

this, "putting in the reading miles" and also recognises that it is experience that will lead to proficiency in reading - as vocabulary and background knowledge improve, so does comprehension. These are all principles that we fully embrace at St Aldhelm's and one of the ways that we support children to put in the reading miles is through our wonderful reading volunteers hearing children read. This is a very valuable role and one that the children and staff at St Aldhelm's really appreciate. If you, or a family relative, are able to offer an hour or even an afternoon to support reading in our school, then please speak to Mrs Phillips or let the school office know.



As well as our reading in school to build fluency and comprehension, another of the ways that children put in the reading miles is with our school expectation that children should read and respond at least four times a week at home, with children in Robins, Nightingales and Magpies also enjoying a sharing book with an adult.

What should I write in my child's reading record?

For children in Robins, Nightingales and Magpies who are reading phonic books, over the course of the 4 reads you could work on different skills and comment on these. A suggested format might be:

Read 1: comment on the use of phonics

Read 2: comment on the fluency and prosody (expression)

Read 3: comment on the comprehension skills which show understanding of the book

With the fourth read, working on whichever skill you child would benefit from the most.

Read 1- use of phonics	Read 2 – fluency and prosody		
Stopped to sound out	Paused at the full stops.		
 They read most of the words fluently 	They gave the characters different voices.		
except	They knew which word to give expression		
 They struggled to segment and blend 	because of the exclamation mark!		
• Identified (a grapheme i.e. oi)	Read the book at a faster pace this time.		
 Identified (a common exception word) 	Knew when to pause in the story to add		
independently	effect.		
Self-corrected the word	 Used really good spoken expression. 		
 Read the whole books accurately and 			
confidently			

Read 3 – comprehension	Summary comment for weekly sharing book reads
 We had a good discussion about the events in the story. They were able to talk about how the characters were feeling and why. Retold the story in the correct order. They were able to answer lots of my questions about what was happening. Able to predict what happened next. Talked about what the character was like using clues (such as brave or clever) Talked about how they would do things 	 We shared the book together before bedtime. We talked about other books we had read by this author. They noticed this was similar to another story because. They predicted what might happen based on the picture on the front cover and the title. They wanted to retell the story in their own words by looking at the illustration.
differently.	Their favourite part was

For children in Owls, Kingfishers and Falcons, there will be greater focus on comprehension using the VIPERS skills displayed in the front of the Reading Record but some of the comments might be based around the word reading itself such as self-correction or use of phonics for unusual words such as names as well as fluency and prosody.

Please look after our books

You will, I'm sure, be aware that budgets in school are tighter than ever. Last year, the school invested over £3000 in new phonic books to support high quality reading in our school. Sadly, we have noticed that some of our books are being damaged and therefore we will need to charge families for any damaged books at a cost of £3.50. We only have a few copies of each of our carefully sequenced books and if one is damaged this impacts on the flow of the children's book choices. PLEASE keep reading books in a separate book bag (or plastic wallet) and never place water bottles or snacks in with books.



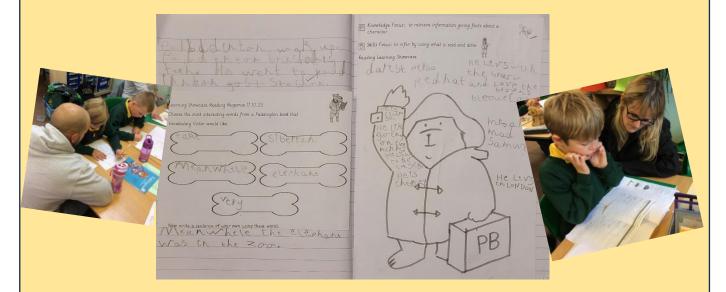
Nightingales





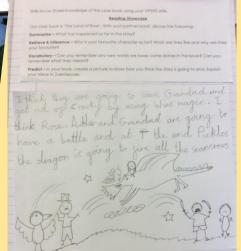


Magpies

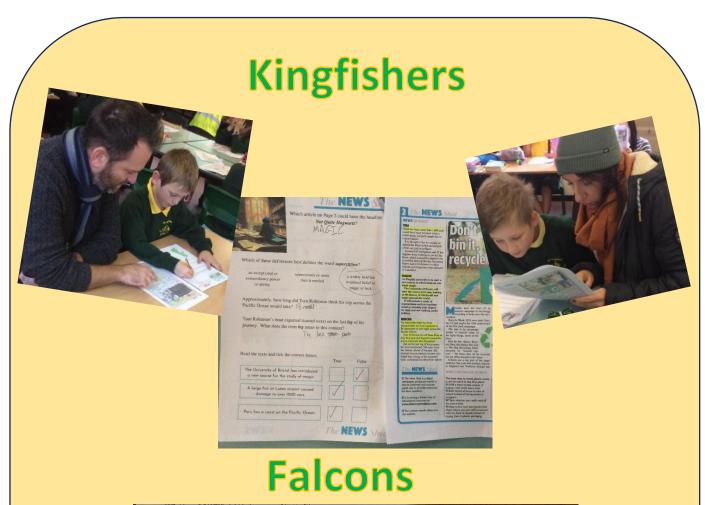














KS2 Mendip Junior Cross Country League

On Tuesday 3rd October our St Aldhelm's Cross Country Team represented our school by taking part in their first cross country event of the year, which was held at Millfield Prep School.

It was great to see some new runners this year! We are super proud of all of the children that took part. We had some amazing Team and personal bests on the day...Huge Congratulations!

The children are looking forward to the next event on Tuesday 7th October at Collett Park, Shepton Mallet.

If your child is interested in taking part in future cross country events please contact the school office to make an enquiry.



Future Cross Country Fixture Dates: (all fixtures start 4pm unless noted)

- Tuesday 7th November 2023 Collett Park, Shepton Mallet Note 3:45pm start
- Tuesday 30th January 2024 Palace Fields, Wells
- Tuesday 27th February 2024 Downside School, Stratton on the Fosse (TBC)
- Tuesday 19th March 2024 Millfield Prep School, Glastonbury (Inc. match Tea)
- 23rd and 24th April 2024 Inter-Area Match (venue TBC)



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP



This term we have explored the value of Creativity with a focus on Genesis verses 1-9.

Children have engaged with the Creation Story and had time to respond and reflect on what this means to them and as stewards of our wonderful world.

In Monday's Learning together for Life in all its Fullness (John 10:10) Worship, children have had the opportunity to lead worship. They have chosen themes to present that have enabled them to **flourish** with the hope that it may **inspire** others.





Harvest Service

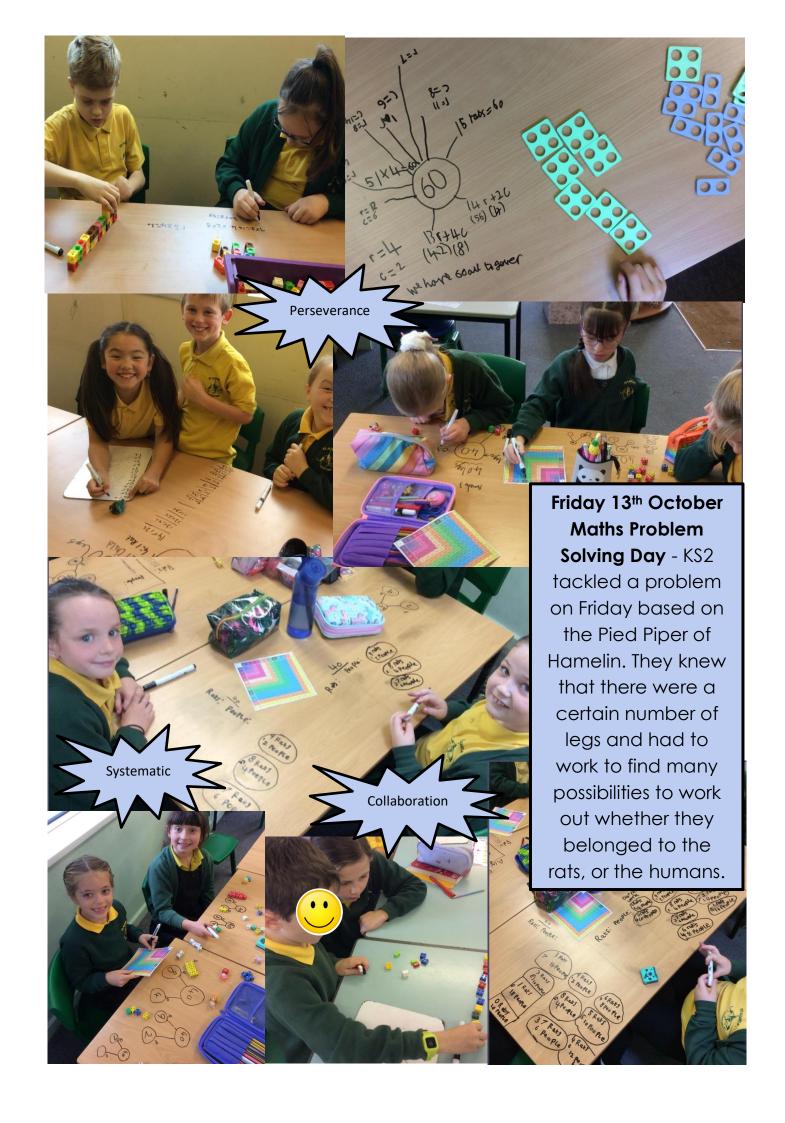
Nightingales and
Kingfishers delivered a
fantastic Harvest Service in
church to share with
children in school and
adults who joined us.

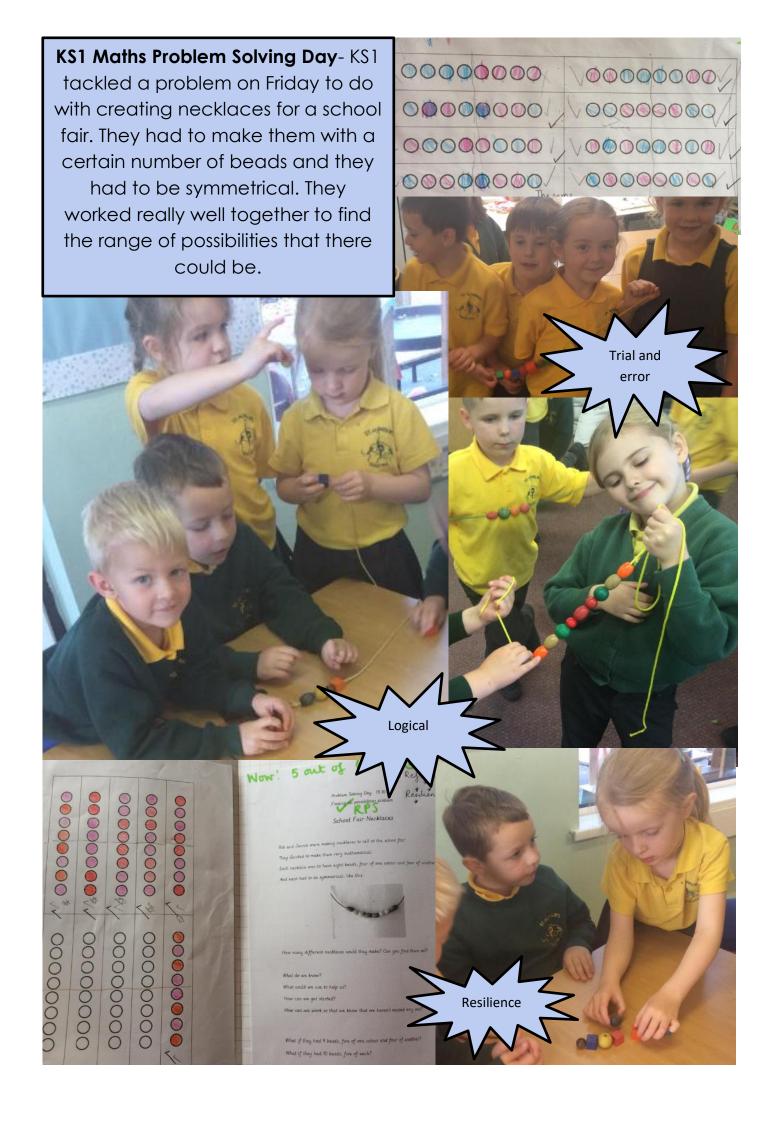


There were brilliant readers from Kingfisher class who spoke so clearly about the importance to give thanks and to reflect on all the things we should be grateful for, especially at this time of year. This was accompanied by some beautiful collaborative artwork from Kingfishers and Nightingales.

Kingfishers also worked hard to create a class 'pop up' poem all about harvest whilst Nightingales had written and delivered prayers linked to things they are thankful for in the world.







Special Educational Needs and

Disabilities

Welcome to new families and welcome back to our existing families. At the start of the year, I like to inform and remind parents about our support for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). I am the school's SENDCo (Claire Newman) and have been for the past 13 years. I love working at St Aldhelm's and getting to know and support the many families I have had the privilege to work with.

Home > School Information > Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Special Educational Needs and Disabilites

Welcome to our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities page. I am Claire Newman, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) at St Aldhelm's Church Primary School. I have been the SENDCo here for 13 years. I am very proud of the nurturing and inclusive environment we provide, as well as the support our school offers.

It is important to us that we work closely together to support your child in achieving their full potential. There are close links between families and school staff, with regular communication in the families preferred form. This can be through emails, Class Dojo private messages, phone conversations and face-to-face meetings.

What do parents think about SEND support at St Aldhelm's?



What do children think about the support they receive at St Aldhelm's?



I would like to highlight the SEND part of the school website. This can be found via the School Information tab or by clicking on the image. On this page you will find further information about SEND and our school processes. I also add support documents at the bottom of the page.

A KEY MESSAGE

Please do keep in touch. If you have any queries or want further information, please do let us know. If it is specific to your child, I would always suggest speaking to their class teacher first but I am also available to support. You can contact me via the school office, through Class Dojo or come and speak to me (I am the Year 5/6 teacher).

Talking Mental Health





Wellbeing Action Group

Last year, Mrs Newman (Senior Mental Health Lead) set up the Wellbeing Action Group, which grew throughout the year. The group did a fantastic job of planning, discussing, and implementing ideas to help raise awareness and start the development of areas in the school. We are so pleased to share that the groundworks for our wellbeing shepherd's hut and sensory garden are well under way. The group look forward to sharing more information on this journey and developing their roles further.



We are pleased to introduce our new Wellbeing Action Group. We have had new additions to the group as we said farewell to the previous Year 6

Please visit our section on the school website. You will find this on the menu in the Special Educational Needs section or by clicking on the picture. Here you will find information and updates of what we are doing, as well as tips to support you at home.







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men (Mental Health Lead), there carried soc a floration, by alreading severeness around remotal health,
casking for wellflaming events, and locking alread to florate projects. In order to share their measures, and
see, they have a disliking board in the schools central carrieds. They meet weekly to plant, discuss and carry.



A message from our School Governors

A Time for Change

As you will be aware the school is undergoing a great deal of change at this time and change can be exciting yet unsettling for everyone and it is important to acknowledge this.

The job of governors is to think and plan strategically with a future vision in mind whilst ensuring any change and subsequent transition is managed appropriately and in the best interests of the children and all stakeholders. The children of St Aldhelm's are our top priority and focus during this time of change and opportunity.

I would like to reassure you that governors in collaboration with the Bath & Wells MAT are planning for a new beginning and new opportunities through the benefits of our affiliation. We are currently implementing an interim structure of an Executive head teacher and Head of School, as a replacement for a substantive head teacher position. We believe this will ensure there is continuity and consistency whilst dividing the strategic and operational roles of the job.

Although St Aldhelm's date for conversion and joining with the B&W MAT isn't until Jan'24 (currently on schedule for this date), the B&W MAT have committed to supporting us through this period and beyond.

Look out for future communications as we move forward.

Adam Underwood

Chair of Governors



Our school will be holding **Open School** sessions **on** Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th November for prospective parents. Anyone with a preschool child will be making their decision about where they send their child to school next September. This decision has to be made and an application submitted to Somerset County Council in **January 2024**. We really advise visiting us to see the school facilities, the opportunities on offer at St Aldhelm's and most importantly slideshows of the children who already attend the school. Staff will be on hand to show you around and answer any questions. We also have some vacancies in our current Reception class and welcome any in-year application to join us. Please do share the date with any friends and family who are viewing schools for their children. For first time applications visit:

https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/apply-to-start-school/ and for more information please contact the school office on 01749 880376.

UK Safer Internet Centre



Online safety for children is everyone's responsibility. As parents and staff, one of the ways we can take responsibility is to be aware and informed ourselves about online activities.

We are increasingly aware of children accessing and using sites and platforms that are not appropriate for their age. Please be aware and use helpful online safety updates to help you...

Guides and resources

Parents and Carers



Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online

As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online.

You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. Our advice and resources are here to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibility and positively.

Social media Hub

Advice about key social media platforms and apps



Advice for parents and carers

Phones

Advice for parents and carers

Games consoles



Click on the boxes on this page to link to the website for helpful information.

The best way to know what your child is doing online, is to keep talking to your child about what they are enjoying playing or doing online. Having open communication is the way to make any online activity transparent. It will help you as parents and your child to keep safe

St. Aldhelm's Community News

Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

Thank you so much to the children and teachers for your support again this year in making your beautiful Christmas cards. **We have raised a fantastic £443.12 to support our school**.

Class Reps: We are pleased to share this year's class reps. Please feel free to ask them anything PTA related and let them know if you feel that you might be interested in helping out at any events or by fundraising.

Robins: Kat Livermore, Danielle Collins Nightingales: Hannah Allen, Izzy Luckin

Magpies: Carolyn Hysted-Edwards, Becky Leyton

Owls: Gemma Ridley

Kingfishers: Kayleigh Oatley, Katy Emery

Falcons: Anna Miller, Julie Brake

Upcoming events:

- Glow Disco 3rd November 6-7:30pm.
 See poster on next page for details and booking information.
- Christmas Fair Planning Meeting 9th November at 1:45pm, followed by...
- PTA AGM 9th November at 2:45pm
- **Film Night**: Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 **27th November**
- Film Night: Years 1 & 2 28th November
 Both will happen straight after school. Film and end time tbc.
- Christmas Fair 1st December 2:30-4pm tbc.

The preparations for our Christmas Fair on the 1st December are well under way, but we need some help from our school community.

Do you or someone you know own a business or work for a company that would consider donating a prize for our raffle? Things like beauty treatments, days out, vouchers or hampers would be wonderful, but we would be very grateful for any donations received.

Mendip Activity Centre and Mendip Raceway have both donated wonderful prizes already.

If this is something you are able to help with please talk with your PTA class rep or we now have an email and can be reached on staldhelms.pta@outlook.com

Thank you for your continued support,

Friends of St Aldhelm's









The BIG TWO-PART PUMPKIN WEEKEND

Join us for autumnal fun and family creativity





'Threads through Creation' is a spectacular sequence of twelve huge textile panels. It's an exuberant retelling of the creation story in the book of Genesis, a retelling which many visitors will find both moving and breathtaking. Viewers are treated to a wonderful variety of colours, shapes, patterns – and of course lots of creatures!

The exhibition is one of the largest textile projects by a single artist, ever. It has taken Jacqui nearly three years. It follows on from 'Threads through Revelation', her first huge exhibition which visited 14 cathedrals from 2016 to 2018, and was seen by more than 500,000 visitors.

Threads through Creation will be on display at Wells Cathedral from 18 Oct - 27 Nov. On some days the panels may need to be moved to allow for other events that are due to take place in the Nave, but we are aiming for them to still be on display in the Transepts on these days.

Admission is included with entry to the Cathedral.



Please see next page for competition entry form. These can be returned to the Shepton Mallet Town Council (address on poster) or emailed to info@sheptonmallettc.gov.uk



Christmas Card Competition 2023

NI			
Name:			
School:			
Age:			
Ade:			