



Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's

April 6, 2025

Reflections on the Art Students' Involvement in Our Eco-Garden and Parish Community.

Over the past eighteen months, we have been greatly blessed by the presence and creativity of students from your school. They have worked alongside us in a variety of ways, most notably in the creation of a beautiful walkway depicting the six days of creation for children in our Eco-garden and also through their engagement with our knitting group.

One of the most striking legacies of their time with us is the children's walkway in the garden, which they helped to design and bring to life. This isn't just a path, it's a vibrant, interactive space that tells the story of the six days of creation, beautifully depicted through carefully laid mosaic stones. It has become a place of wonder and reflection, inviting children (and adults!) to walk through the story of God's creation, step by step. The students' attention to detail and artistic vision have transformed a corner of our garden into something deeply meaningful and spiritually rich. Their work has made the garden more accessible and engaging, and it has become a cherished feature of our community space.

In addition to their contributions to the garden, several students formed strong connections with members of our knitting group. Over cups of tea and shared stitches, meaningful friendships blossomed. These intergenerational encounters have enriched the lives of our parishioners, who welcomed the students with warmth and curiosity. There has been laughter, storytelling, and a genuine exchange of skills and perspectives—a beautiful example of what happens when people from different walks of life come together in shared purpose.

We believe the impact of this collaboration has been mutual. For the students, time spent with our community offered a unique and perhaps unexpected dimension to their education. It gave them the opportunity to create art in a living context—art that serves, invites participation, and makes a difference. The relationships they formed and the stories they heard will, we hope, continue to shape their outlook as artists and as individuals. Engaging with a faith-based community in this way may have also challenged and inspired their understanding of connection, belonging, and creativity grounded in care for both people and the planet.

We are deeply grateful for the time and energy these young people gave to us. Their contribution has been a gift to the life of the church, and we hope the experience has been equally meaningful for them. I also want to appreciate all the efforts and the way their teacher instructed, directed and redirected them throughout the project to make it such a success. Our doors remain open, and we look forward to seeing how these seeds of partnership might grow in the future. Many thanks to all involved.

Rev'd Sydney Quarley
Assistant Curate
Stoke Poges Church