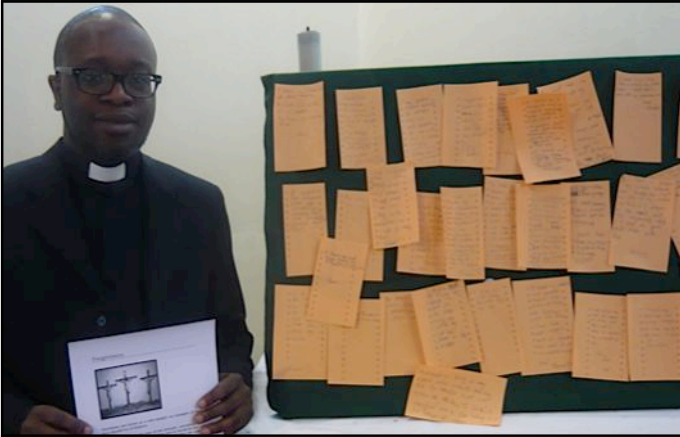


OPENING THE CHURCH DOORS

REDBRIDGE SACRE COLLABORATED WITH LOCAL CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS TO ENCOURAGE HIGH-QUALITY RE AND LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. A NATURE BURSARY ALLOWED TEACHERS, CLERGY AND LAY PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER FOR A TRAINING SESSION ON THE USE OF LABYRINTHS TO PROMOTE LEARNING ABOUT AND FROM EASTER IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.



CURATE REV. GEOFF EZE COMMENTED ON THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUPILS TO UNDERSTAND AND REFLECT ON THE MEANING OF EASTER FOR CHRISTIANS AND TO CONSIDER WHAT SOME EASTER CONCEPTS MIGHT MEAN TO THEM.



TEACHERS AND CHURCHES WORKED TOGETHER TO PLAN THE LABYRINTHS. THE SCHOOLS FOLLOWED A SCHEME OF WORK AND BOOKS PROVIDED WITH THE PROJECT TO PREPARE THE CHILDREN FOR THE VISIT.



THE 'LABYRINTH' STRATEGY INVOLVED THE CHILDREN BEING GUIDED AROUND THE CHURCH. AT EACH 'STATION', PUPILS READ A SMALL SECTION OF THE EASTER STORY BEFORE COMPLETING A REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY. HERE, AFTER READING ABOUT JESUS' RESURRECTION, THE THEME OF HOPE WAS DISCUSSED. WHILST PLANTING A SEED, CHILDREN THEN THOUGHT ABOUT THEIR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE .



THE THEME OF GIVING THANKS WAS EXPLORED AND CHILDREN WERE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THANK YOU CARD TO SOMEONE THEY WANTED TO THANK.

THERE WAS GOOD MEDIA COVERAGE OF THIS PROJECT IN LOCAL PRESS, SCHOOL, CHURCH AND DIOCESAN NEWSLETTERS. THIS WAS VERY POSITIVE FOR GENERATING BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF RE IN THE AREA AND FOR PROMOTING INTEREST IN SUPPORTING LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.