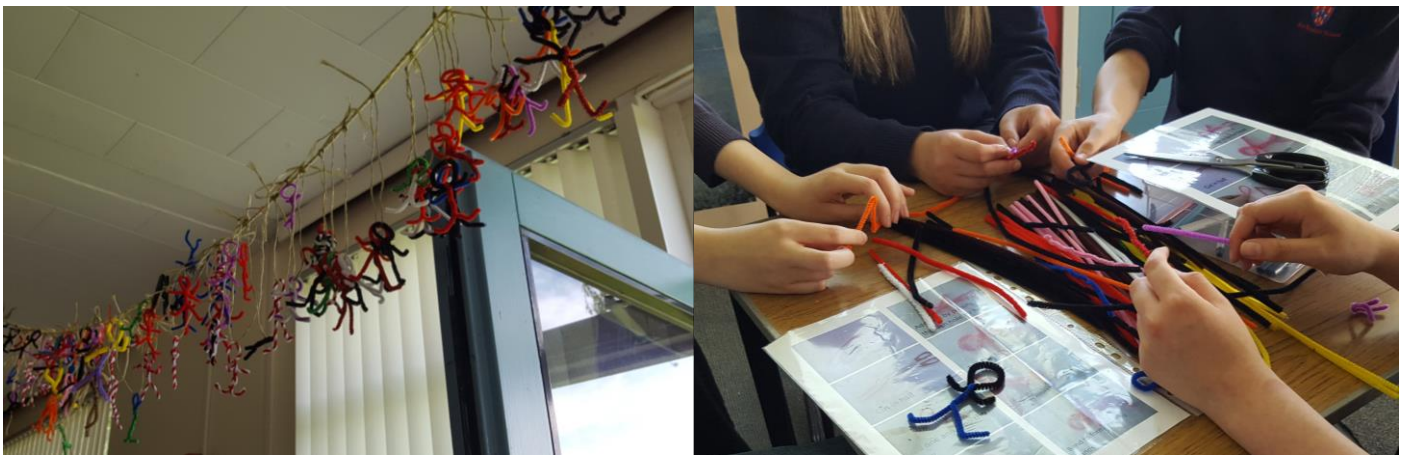


We were invited to run a prayer space for the whole school on June 22nd 2016. We led a lesson for each group, in which the students were given an introduction to what prayer is before being allowed to experience five different stations in small groups. We chose five stations to do during the lesson. Here are a few descriptors and comments from the lessons about the five stations.

Pipe cleaner Prayer: The students were asked to think of somebody that they were thankful for and then make a pipe cleaner person as a way of thinking about and praying for that person.

"Making the pipe cleaner men because you got to think about people you care about." – Year 7 Student



Stop The Traffic Prayer: *Human trafficking involves men, women and children being brought into a situation of exploitation through the use of violence, deception or coercion and forced to work against their will.* We looked at what trafficking is and watched a short video by Hope for Justice about a lady who was rescued from this form of modern day slavery. The young people wrote down their thoughts as prayers and prayed for freedom using paper chains.



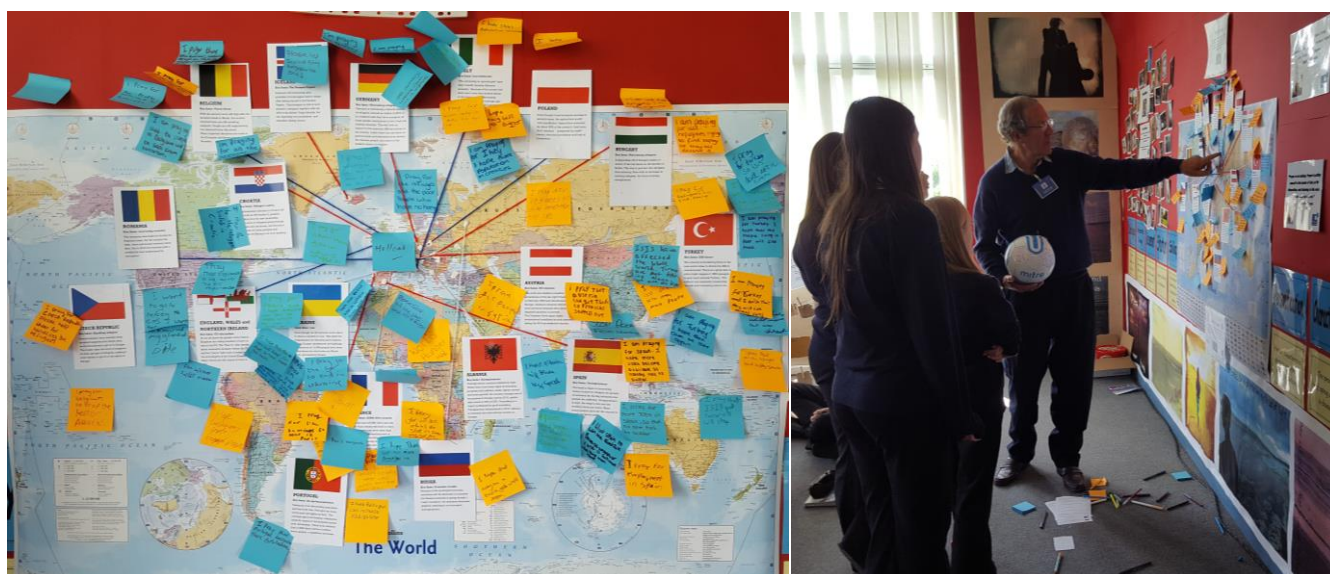
"I enjoyed the one about trafficking because it was calming and showed me that other people have problems too." Year 8 Student

Hurdles Prayer: The students were asked to think about their dreams and the hurdles they have in achieving them. They then wrote down their hurdles on cardboard and pinned them onto an Olympic hurdle.



I liked the hurdles station because you could read what other people have written and see what is troubling them. Year 8 Student
I found the hurdles station interesting because it made me see what I need to jump over! Year 10 Student

EURO Cup Prayer: There was a world map on one of the walls of the classroom that had some descriptions of some places in Europe and their struggles as a country. The students were asked to read the descriptions and then write their prayer on a post-it for a specific country.



"I liked the EURO cup prayer actually because you found out about different countries in the EU." Year 10 Student

Be Still – This was an opportunity for the young people to take some time out and reflect on what they are worried about. The students were given a meditation to listen to, which got them to think about a worry that they had. When they had thought of something they were asked to take a pebble and write a letter symbolising that worry. They placed the pebble in some water and washed their worries away.

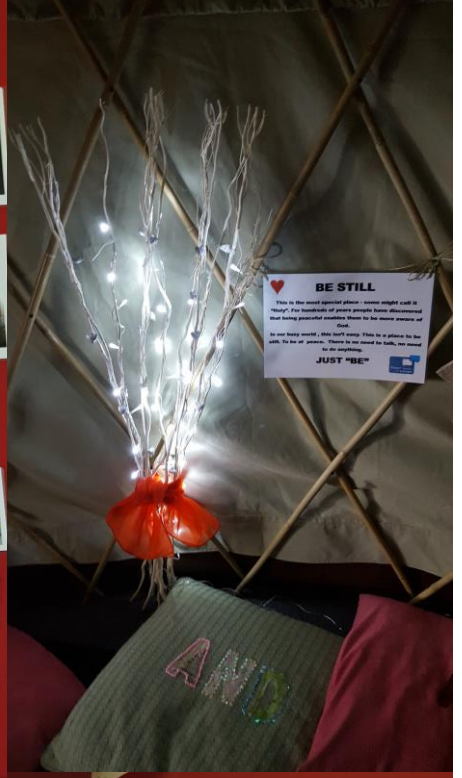
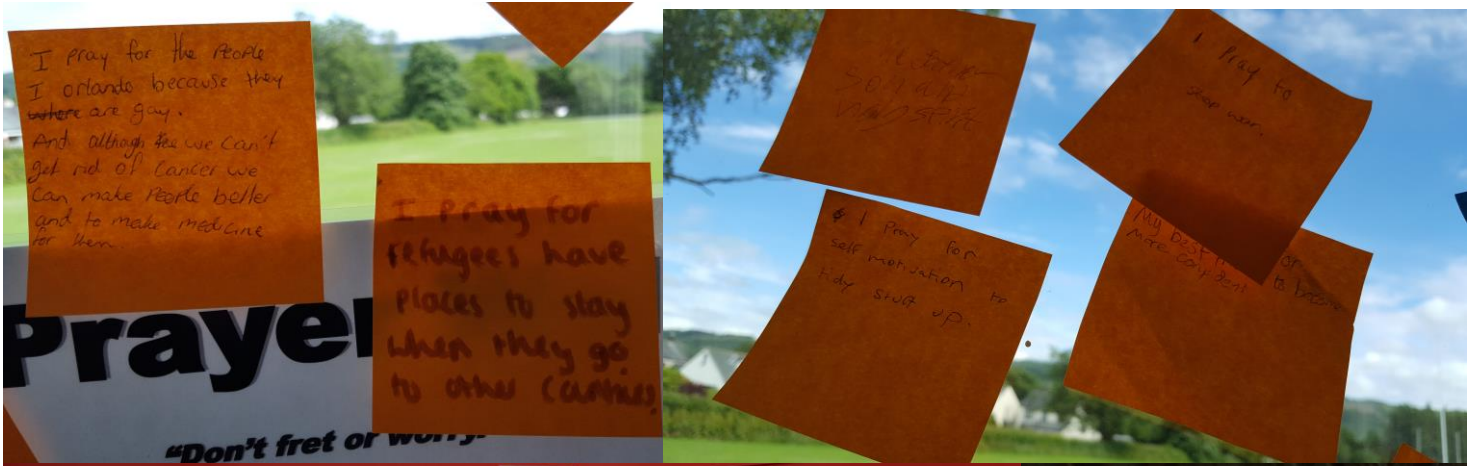


"The yurt one because you have a long time to think" Year 9 Student

"The yurt because it helped me with my worries a lot, and calmed me down" Year 10 Student

As well as these stations we had a Prayer Wall where they wrote a prayer for something they would like to see change whether personally, locally or globally. There were a few additional stations for lunchtime. Love Heart prayer where they would sit in the Be Still section and think of someone they love or care for and take a pack of love heart sweets to think of them. There was also Soularium where they choose 3 photos that describes their life at the moment and shared it with their friends.





One of the teachers commented *"Many of the pupils had dismissed it as a waste of time before entering, were then engaged and took active roles."* Another mentioned *"they were surprised that all students seemed to access the materials from all year groups."*

Over the duration of the Prayer Space we had around 100 students come and experience the space as part of their RE lesson and were surprised that they enjoyed it. The response in the lessons and from the feedback was great and for some their perception of prayer has changed. Here are some comments from the pupils in answer to the question "Has this time changed your view of prayer?"

"Yes, I thought it was for people who were religious only."

"Yes, because I don't believe in God but I think prayer is a good idea."

"Yes, when you pray you are relaxed."

"No, it just changed my view of the world."

"Yes. It showed me that it is easy to pray."

The Prayer Space was great fun and we are so grateful to the school for giving us the opportunity to come into the school and help the students to experience prayer. We had a great team of volunteers from churches in Coniston. We are pleased with how the Prayer Space went and are glad that the students and teachers found it helpful. We hope that the Prayer Space will continue next year and in the meantime that those who are interested in learning more about faith will attend our lunchtime group.