

On Tuesday 4th July, year 6 pupils from Horndean Junior School attended a School Leavers' Service at Portsmouth Cathedral. This marked the final of seven 'Ewe matter' project which involved church schools in three Dioceses. About 2,500 Year 6 pupils have attended the services at Winchester Cathedral, Christchurch Priory and Portsmouth Cathedral. Each school was asked to design a sheep and everyone was amazed at the thought and ingenuity which went into each of the creations. They ranged from artistic representations of trees and flowers reflecting a rural environment to one sheep which was covered in brightly coloured woollen bobbles.

Our Horndean sheep carried the thumbprints of pupils and staff, and at the service two pupils explained how they had arrived at their chosen design which represented the 'Thanksgiving, Learning, Caring' values of the school and their Christian faith.

Some amazing designs and pun-filled names were on the 60 sheep that have flocked to the services. Some arrived on specially designed wheely carts, and the two being carried on the shoulders of parents through Winchester city centre was hilarious and opened up great conversations with people. Five sheep travelled on the top deck of the ferry from the Isle of Wight, and the local press latched onto a photo opportunity with Alverstoke Junior School travelling, with sheep, on the Gosport ferry!

Horndean's sheep travelled by bus, with year six pupils and Canon Gill to the Portsmouth Service where Bishop Christopher spoke of Jesus as our Good Shepherd and God's inclusive love for all.

The photograph shows some of the sheep after the service. Their sheep is the fourth from the left.