

# East Leake St Mary Charity

**Aim:** The children will consider the meaning of charity

**Objective:** The children will think about people they know who show charity and respond to this

**Curriculum links:**

KS1 – believing: what people believe about God

KS2 – beliefs in action in the world

**Activity:** The children will learn about the life of John Bley and his influence in East Leake and about his generosity. They will then think about people they know, or know of, who show similar charity.

**Resources:** Card, pens

## Information for Leader

Further information on John Bley is available on the village website

(<http://www.east-leake.co.uk/uploads/thestoryofjohnbley.pdf>)

## Introduction (20 mins)

- If the weather is suitable, meet the children outside by John Bley's tomb. Read the inscription describing his legacy. Ten pounds in those days would be worth over £1000 today, so he was being very generous here. Give the children a brief history of John Bley – he was born in East Leake in 1674 but there was no school in the village then, so he was educated privately. When he was 17 he was sent to live with his uncle in London. There he made a fortune. He had always promised that if he became rich he would build a school in East Leake, and that he did. That building no longer exists, but it was near where Brookside Primary school is now. He also gave money to other causes.
- Take the children into church and settle them where they will be able to see the Charity window in the chancel. What can the children tell from the window? What does charity mean? Why was it put on this window in memory of John Bley? Charity is an old word for love. John Bley would have been acting out of love for fellow humans and love for God. 1 Corinthians 13 says that is I give everything away, but don't have love it is nothing. Charity usually comes from love – Proverbs 19:17 says, 'Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord.'

## Activity (30 mins)

- John Bley is not the only person in East Leake who acted out of love for God and for others. There are many plaques in church on things that have been given to the church in memory of someone who had died. Some of these are because they wanted the person who had died to be remembered, but some of the plaques tell us a bit more about the person and what they did that was worth remembering. Give the children five minutes to walk round the church and find an example of a plaque that tells us what the person that is being remembered, did for others.
- Listen to a few of the examples the children have found. There are people alive now who are doing good things for others. There are people at the church who do jobs that keep the building beautiful, and those who help others. Who can the children think of who does things to help other people? The children can then



heritage learning welcome



make a card either saying thank you to that person for what they do, or a card of thanks for that person that could be used as a prayer, or a general thanksgiving (as appropriate for the children).

## Plenary (5 mins)

- If general cards of thanks have been made these could be collected together and placed on the altar and a prayer of thanks said for these people, or hold a moment of quiet while the children think of the people they have mentioned and the good work they do.
- If specific cards have been made then ask the children to quietly think about the person their card is for and the things they have done. Encourage the children to give their cards to the appropriate person.