



# St Mark's Church

*to love, to serve, to give, to all - in Jesus' name*

## **Commemorative artwork Pennington Junior School selected for national exhibition marking 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Auschwitz liberation**

Memorial Flame chosen by judges to feature at official Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony

**14th January 2020**– A memorial flame created by students at Pennington Church of England Junior School, with Rev Rachel Noël and others in the community has been selected by a distinguished panel of judges to feature as part of a national art exhibition to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The artwork is one of 75 memorial flames chosen to represent each year since the liberation of Auschwitz. These will be displayed at an exhibition which is set to be unveiled at the UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day in London on 27 January 2020, at which numerous VIPs are expected to be in attendance.

More than 300 groups from across the country registered to take part in the nationwide competition launched by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) to encourage more people to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

The panellists judging the competition were: Sarah Donaldson, arts editor at the Observer; Nick Sharratt, renowned illustrator and author; Kathleen Soriano, Chair of the Liverpool Biennial, and judge on SkyArts Artist of the Year; Anita Peleg, HMDT Trustee and daughter of Naomi Blake, a sculptor and Holocaust survivor; and Olivia Marks-Woldman, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

Speaking about the theme for HMD commemorations in 2020, 'Stand Together' and the group's inspiration for getting involved in the project, **Revd Rachel Noël, Priest in Charge at St Mark's Church, Pennington** said "I am so proud of how Pennington has worked together to make this artwork. I worked with the creative year 6 student Kiara-Lei Simmons on the design, featuring a variety of people from across the community, standing together. After our design was selected for the national exhibition, conversations at the Musketeer Pub led to local craftsman Alan Doe offering to help us create the final design and local photographer



**Priest-in-Charge: Revd Rachel Noël**

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Helen Renouf offering her support to the project. It is important to me that we can bring people together across the community, to work together."

**Pennington Junior School Headteacher, Kirstie Richards** said "Our school values are love, respect, perseverance and courage. This artwork helps us to show the significance of the whole of Pennington standing together, to value the gifts of everyone in our diverse community, and to help our students see the importance of respect for everyone. We are delighted that our students work will be part of the national ceremony."

On Saturday 25th January, Pennington will come together to mark Holocaust Memorial Day at 3pm at St Mark's Church, for an event of songs, reflections and poems to mark the anniversary, including Straight Bananas acapella group, St Mark's choir and students from Pennington Junior School.

**Winchester Diocese Director of Education, Jeff Williams** said "At a time of political, social and environmental turbulence, church schools are asked to become places and agents of social transformation. this year we encouraged children in our church schools to learn from history, and develop new ethical practices that promote peace and unity for the future. Raising human consciousness of the need for change cannot be achieved individually or independently. This is why 'Standing Together', is our focus for this year. All of our Church Schools will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January, bringing communities together to mark this occasion."

**Sarah Donaldson, arts editor for the Observer**, said: "The 75 Memorial Flames project is a brilliant project that shows how effective art can be in bringing together people from all walks of life to engage on a particular issue. We've seen entries from school children, youth groups, prison inmates, interfaith groups, craft groups, and others, and the quality and diversity of the responses has been really impressive."

**Author and Illustrator, Nick Sharratt**, said: "It's more important than ever not to forget the history of the Holocaust, and this exhibition is a fantastic opportunity to ensure that. I've been very excited to see how many different interpretations of the brief there are, with each group using the central flame idea and making it their own. The number of different artistic techniques used has been very impressive and I can't wait to see all the 75 Memorial Flames come together at the UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day."

**Kathleen Soriano, SkyArts Artist of the Year judge** said: "What really makes the artworks produced for the 75 Memorial Flames project special, are the remarkable stories of those affected by the Holocaust, which are told through the art itself. Each piece explores something different, from specific individuals who

were imprisoned in concentration camps, to people who helped others escape and the theme of Stand Together. To me, the theme of Stand Together means remembering together and that's what this project is helping to achieve.”

**Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, Olivia Marks-Woldman**, said: “It is hugely encouraging to have received so many submissions to this project and from so many different types of groups. The project has truly been nationwide and at a time when we know identity-based hostility is increasing, it is heartening to see so many groups and communities come together and pay tribute to victims of the Holocaust in this way. Holocaust Memorial Day is an important opportunity for us all to learn from genocide, for a better future, and I'd urge everyone to get involved in activities for Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 by visiting [hmd.org.uk](http://hmd.org.uk).”

The '75 Memorial Flames' competition was launched with the creation of a sculpture by artist and survivor of the Holocaust, Maurice Blik, who was liberated from Bergen-Belsen concentration camp as a child. The project is part of a wider programme of events devised by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust to enable people to take part in Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) and learn from the horrors of genocide.

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**For further information, please contact:**

**Photos Available here:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/transfer/AAAAAOK3SnEhKY9id7eHYYaoV-gv\\_TTiSagPldQzwa1Zfd8xGaGiySY](https://www.dropbox.com/transfer/AAAAAOK3SnEhKY9id7eHYYaoV-gv_TTiSagPldQzwa1Zfd8xGaGiySY)

### **St Mark's Church, Pennington**

**Revd Rachel Noël, St Mark's Church Pennington, 01590 462022 [vicar@penningtonchurch.uk](mailto:vicar@penningtonchurch.uk)**

St Mark's Church, Pennington, is the Parish Church in Pennington, part of Lyndhurst Deanery in the Diocese of Winchester, Church of England.

### **Pennington Junior School**

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Pennington Junior School is a small, friendly and inclusive school where the children are at the heart of everything we do. We believe in offering the best possible experiences so that the children are truly engaged and motivated in their learning. Learning is our core purpose and we aim to ensure that every member of our school community, through hard work, perseverance and self-belief can achieve, enjoy and celebrate their own success and the success of others, at all levels and in all things.

**Characters featured in the artwork:**

Kirstie Richard - Headteacher, Pennington Junior School  
Revd Rachel Noël - Priest in Charge, ST Mark's Church, Pennington  
Kiara-Lei Simmons - Year 6 Student, Pennington Junior School  
Alan Doe - Local Craftsman  
Amy Wake - Acting Headteacher, Pennington Infant School  
Amy Blake - Pennington PCSO  
Brian Crouch - Lymington Fire Station  
Anne Corbridge - Mayor of Lymington & Pennington  
Andrew Gossage - New Forest District Council, Lymington & Pennington Town Councillor  
Michael White - Hampshire County Councillor  
Tizzie Drake - Manager of Pennington One Stop and Post Office  
Cliff Cole - Landlord Musketeer Pub

**Holocaust Memorial Day Trust**

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**Notes to Editors**

**About Holocaust Memorial Day Trust**

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. We promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) – the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, the millions of people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Each year across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. Together we bear witness for those who endured genocide, and honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.

**About the 75 Memorial Flames judging panel**

**Dr Anita Peleg – Chair of the panel**

Anita is a Trustee for HMDT, and has 18 years' experience in education. In 2012 she was recognized by the Higher Education Academy and appointed a National Teaching Fellow. Anita has carried out significant research into the Holocaust and published a book about her mother, Naomi Blake, an artist and survivor of the Holocaust.

**Sarah Donaldson**

Sarah is arts editor of the Observer and deputy editor of the Observer New Review. She manages the Observer's team of critics and commissions and edits features for the New Review.

**Olivia Marks-Woldman**

Olivia has been Chief Executive of HMDT since 2012 and has overseen the growth of Holocaust Memorial Day around the country to more than 10,000 local activities, and a hugely increased presence within British society.

**Nick Sharratt**

Nick has illustrated close to 250 children's books. They range from board books for babies to novels for young teenagers. He has worked with authors including Julia Donaldson, Michael Rosen and Dame Jacqueline Wilson. He has also written around 40 of his own books. Nick was the official illustrator for World Book Day in 2006 and has a fellowship from Hereford College of Art.

**Kathleen Soriano**

Kathleen is an independent curator, art historian and broadcaster, currently Chair of the Liverpool Biennial. With over 30 years' experience in the art world she has been Artistic Director of Royal Academy of Arts, and Director of Compton Verney Art Gallery. She has also worked with the National Portrait Gallery, Southbank Centre and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. She has lectured and written extensively on the visual arts and her broadcast activities include *Portrait/Landscape Artist of the Year* for SkyArts.

**About Maurice Blik**

As a small child Maurice was deported to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and many of his family were murdered during the Holocaust. Maurice survived the ordeal, and was liberated with his mother and sister in 1945; they came to the UK.

In 1996 Maurice was elected President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. His work has been widely exhibited, and he has created many largescale sculptures on commission which are placed in public spaces around the UK, US and Europe.