

Diocesan Board of Education



Creative Worship through the Church Year

Sept 2025

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Three i words for worship.

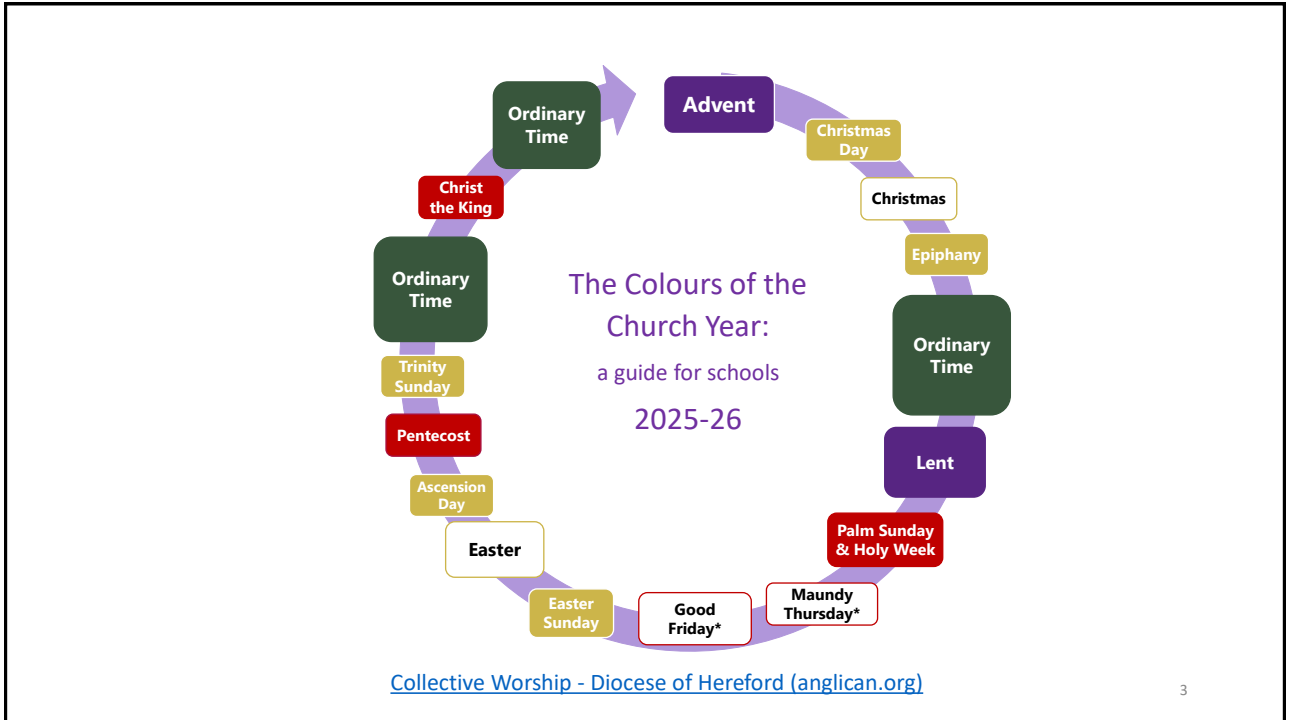


Collective worship in a church school should be

**inclusive,
invitational
and
inspiring.**



2



3



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SIAMS 2024

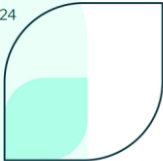


Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools

SIAMS Framework

Revised September 2024



IQ3 How is daily collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?

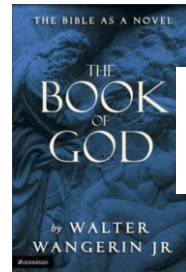
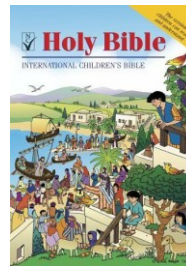
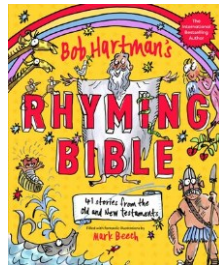
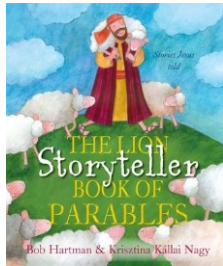
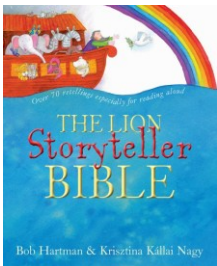
- a) How do the theologically rooted Christian vision and the **Anglican/ Methodist foundation of the school shape worship and spirituality in the school?**



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BIBLE STORIES



Great for KS 2 very descriptive novel style.

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/>

Great for PowerPoint use to illustrate stories.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Online Bibles where you can compare different versions and cut/paste

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EXPERIENCE ...



[Jumping Fish Publications](#)
(NEW EDITIONS now available).



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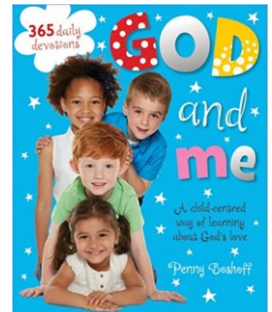
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EYFS



Great for EYFS or
Year 1 devotions.

Freddie and Puddle resources great for
sharing the church year.
<http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/religiouseducation.html>

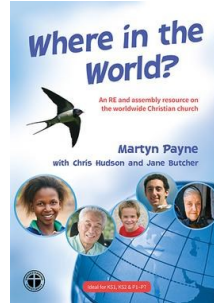
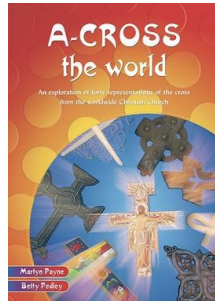
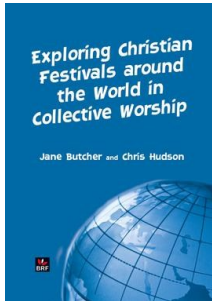


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WORLDWIDE

— Diocese of —
Hereford

Barnabas in Schools – BRFOne



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ADVENT

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Key message: preparing for Jesus to come (again)

- Jesse tree (Roots document)
<https://www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/>
- Advent wreath - birthday candles and ring donuts
- Giant advent candles outside (poles with a flame stuck on each week)
- Advent crown – candles to be lit
<https://www.liturgylink.net/2014/11/11/advert-candles-hope-peace-joy-love/>
- Prayer paper chain – add a prayer link each day (also do for Lent for the 40 days)



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Advent & Easter



The Archbishop's Youth Trust produces seasonal resources:
[Archbishops' Young Leaders Award](#)

Also the Church of England produce annual resources

[Advent 2025 — National Society for Education](#)

and for other times of the year see here: [Curriculum: collective worship — National Society for Education](#)



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ADVENT CROWN



1. Lord Jesus, light of the world,
 born in David's city of Bethlehem,
 born like him to be a king:
 be born in our hearts at Christmas,
 be King of our lives today.
 Amen.

2. Lord Jesus, light of the world,
 the prophets said you would bring peace
 and save your people in trouble.
 Give peace in our hearts at Christmas
 and show all the world God's love.
 Amen.

3. Lord Jesus, light of the world,
 John told the people to prepare,
 for you were very near.
 As Christmas grows closer day by day,
 help us to be ready to welcome you now.
 Amen.

4. Lord Jesus, light of the world,
 blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
 blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
 Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
 and bless us your children,
 who long for your coming.
 Amen.

5. Lord Jesus, Light of light,
 you have come among us.
 Help us who live by your light
 to shine as lights in your world.
 Glory to God in the highest.
 Amen.



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As we light our Advent Candle
Light of the world, shine on us.

As we prepare for Christmas time
Light of the world, shine on us.

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In the world around us.
Light of the world, shine through us.

To all the people we meet,
Light of the world, shine through us.

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CHRISTMAS

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- INN IT or BIN IT – postcard sort
- Daily Bethlehem reports (video by children)
- Posada - within classes or between classes
http://www.going4growth.com/growth_through_the_year/advent/posada
- Christingle – The Children's Society have a guide to virtual events
Christmas in a box – Bristol schools connection resource - designed for churches to support schools –
- [Christmas in a Box - Bristol Schools Connection](#)



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Chalking the doors

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In some traditions people 'graffiti' the doors of homes – you could do this for classrooms, entrances and offices (don't forget the staff room)

Do this in the morning before school to create that wonder moment as pupils (and staff) wonder what this code means.

(20 + Caspar, +Melchior +Balthazar + 21

Or *Christus mansionem benedicat*

(May Christ bless this house)



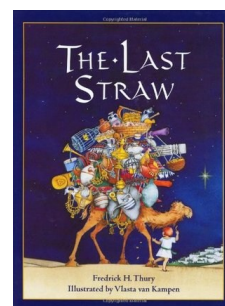
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EPIPHANY

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- Keep nativity scene beyond Christmas – add the 'kings' on Epiphany
- Use the baby shower invite: what would you expect guests to bring. Compare to the wise men's gifts. (see plan)
- Gift box for prayers.
- In Latin America they leave a box of hay for the camels and the next morning there is a small gift left.
- Camel diaries (puppets and video it) - use the 'Last Straw' book but think about what they would give.




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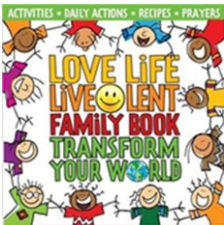
LENT



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EASTER GARDENS

- Run an Easter garden competition – judged by member of church with prizes.
- Great for developing **Faith@Home**



Full of fantastic ideas, what could you take up (good action) for Lent, rather than give something up?

Also Waymaker Lent 2022 Archbishop of York's Youth Trust
[Way Maker: Lent 2022 \(archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk\)](http://waymaker.lent2022.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk)



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LENT



ASH WEDNESDAY

[Exploring Christian Festivals around the World in Collective Worship – BRFOonline](#) if making your own ashes be careful with some oils they form an acidic powder and can burn.

Okay to demonstrate but it is an exclusive service in that it is rite for believers.

CAFOD provide good resources on a theme each year for Ash Wednesday. <https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/lent-resources-for-children>

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PASSION WEEK

Palm Sunday

- retell the story from the Donkey's point of view (puppet?)
- Clip clop beat poem from Rhyming Bible
- Have a procession outside with flags made by the children or palm leaves.
- If indoors/church or school hall use a candle to represent Jesus to be carried in with the children following with flags and palm leaves.

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PASSION WEEK



Maundy Thursday

- In churches they often strip all the vestments and fabric to leave the altar and church bare. This reminds the congregation that Jesus was deserted by everyone. Could we replicate this in school? Covering displays etc?
- Share the story in the school garden of Jesus praying and his arrest. Leave prayers tied to plants.
- For older children host a messianic Passover meal (takes around an hour) (Mark can provide more info if this is something you want to try)



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PASSION WEEK



GOOD FRIDAY

- Use the Miraclemaker video (all on YouTube).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FK7NbMKMMHo>
- Make a simple wooden cross from scrap wood. Write sorry or thankyou prayers (from each class) on a scrap of white cloth (old sheet) with a felt pen. Then each child nails them to the cross.



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EASTER

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- Roots on the web produce resources (paid subscription, but some are free) <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/seasons-and-festivals/church-seasons/holy-week/resources-for-holy-week/reflections-and-meditations/nebiyu-assefa-passion-of-christ-cyp>
- **EXPERIENCE EASTER** - Rolling back the stone
- Listen to the resurrection story with instrumental music playing (flute works well) in school
- Easter bonfire (Forest school) and retell the resurrection story.
- Learn the Easter shout, '**Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Hallelujah.**'
- Resurrection Eggs – make your own
<https://www.faithward.org/diy-resurrection-eggs-for-holy-week/>



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1 Foot washing

based on John 13.1-15

A meditation

Look at the picture.

Jesus washes his disciples' dusty feet.
He wants to show them that no one is more important than anyone else.
'Do as I have done', he says.

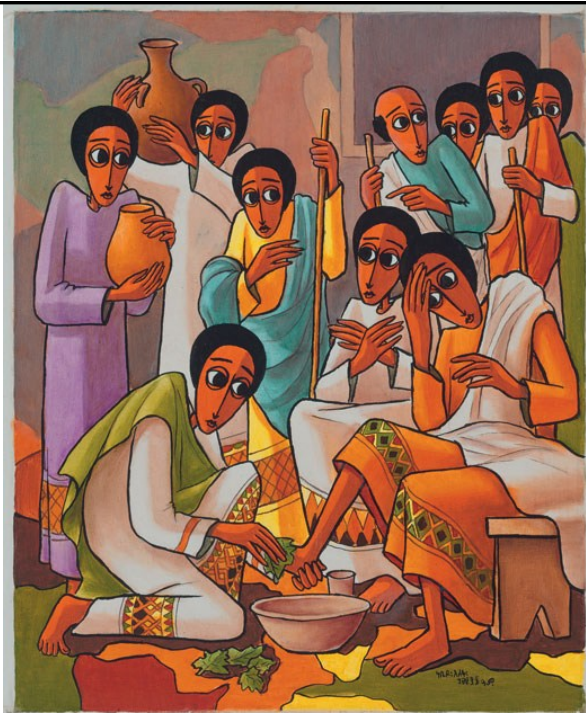
Talk together

- Who is God challenging you to serve today?

Prayer activity

Take a piece of string and quietly think of three people whom you could treat more kindly. Tie three knots in your string, one for each person, and take it away as a reminder to care for them.

©ROOTS for Churches Ltd. Resources to use with these paintings are at www.rootsontheweb.com/passionofchrist2019



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ASCENSION



Key message: Jesus is coming back again one day.

Indoors: (prop: helium-filled foil heart balloon)

Retell the story of the Ascension in school/church (with a high ceiling, get permission). Introduce the balloon as a symbol representing Jesus. As you tell it, release the balloon, as Jesus rises up.

Reflect on the fact that it will come back down, but we don't know when. One day, it will. They will keep checking to see if it has come back for days and tell parents too.

Alternative:

- Go for a walk to a hill and retell the story at the top of the hill. They could cloud gaze as you walk.

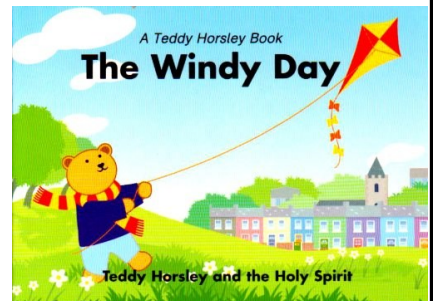
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PENTECOST



Key Messages: The Holy Spirit was given to people to be their guide and to help them shine out as God's people. Also seen as the Birthday of the Church.

- Throw a birthday party for the church, either acted out in school or for the local church. Reflection: What present would you give to the church (think the people not the building)
- Pass the parcel talk <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2016/05/pentecost-pass-parcel-all-age-talk.html>
- Prayers on cut-out flames or origami doves. <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/110>
- Teddy Horsley's a windy day book for younger children
- Go outside and blow bubbles, make wind spinners. Observe how the wind moves things - How can God move us even when we can't see him?
- [You won't believe what happens at this Pentecost party! - TrueTube](#)



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PENTECOST



Learn the Lord's prayer or another greeting in different languages – to show how God's love spread through the world and to reflect on how different languages can be used to share God's love today.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDcwX_3DIJw



[Speaking in tongues - The Bible Reading Fellowship \(brf.org.uk\)](https://www.brf.org.uk) has peace and hello in different languages

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TRINITY SUNDAY



- Retell the story of Jesus' Baptism (Jesus is baptised, God the Father speaks, and the Holy Spirit comes down as a dove)
- Learn and sing the three-part Peruvian Gloria
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep4TLwVM9mQ&pp=ygUiZ2xvcnkgdG8gZ29kiHNwaXJpdCBqZXN1cyBwcmV1dmlhbg%3D%3D>
- Great activities on <https://www.brf.org.uk/product/celebrate-trinity/> include a talk plan, tying three pieces of coloured wool and using **pretzels** (yummy too)
- Look at examples of the trinity in artwork and ask them to make artwork as a response
- Go on a trinity symbol hunt in the church and churchyard.

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PATRONAL SAINTS



Schools with a saintly title and parish churches named after saints may celebrate their patronal festival. The feast day for that saint. Often this is marked in red if they were martyred.

St Andrew: using a large cross and made a boat with cloth waves, children wrote prayers on paper fish in their rooms and then put them onto nets in front of the boat..

- Share the story of the saint. What were they known for? How could we be known for that too. For example: if healing, why not learn first aid that day?
- Can the kitchen theme food for the day (or do some cooking in classes) for food from their country of origin?
- Look at icons of the saints and reflect on what they teach you.
- Some saints have plants associated with them, you could grow these from seeds.



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Other Days



ALL SOULS

remembering those who have died

Collect autumn leaves, seeds, old seed cases and pods from flowers and trees. The children can then each make a collage that on returning to church can be displayed with a candle burning in front to represent Christ- NEW LIFE.

Explain to the children that in November when the nights are getting darker and longer, trees are losing their leaves everything around is changing. The seeds that have tumbled from their seedpods are a reminder of new life. The candle burning is a sign that Christ's light and love will shine brightly for everyone who believes in him to follow.



Memorial tree: where they can tie ribbons with the names of people that they want to remember

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Any questions



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