



INTRODUCTION

I have felt privileged to have had the opportunity to work as your Collective Worship Adviser this term, and I hope that everyone has found value in the resources that have been shared. I have tried to use my one day a week to be as productive as possible for all schools within the diocese and I look forward to sharing the excellent practice that is taking place across so many of our schools over the coming year. I will always try to support all schools as much as possible, so please do contact me:

sandy.ettridge@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

In this edition of the newsletter I will share an overview for creating exceptional collective worship, which can be adapted and used in your own ways within school. Rachel Beeson has produced some excellent documents that support this approach, offering practical support so that they can be delivered in bespoke ways within your own schools. I am also going to share resources for the season of Advent, with a particular focus on sharing an awareness of Christianity as a global, multi-cultural world faith, to support children in their understanding of Christianity in diverse cultures and communities. I hope that these resources will add depth to your worship at this important time. With Global Christianity as a strong focus for all schools across the diocese I will also be sharing an example of a bespoke project that is being offered to schools for this academic year.

In response to requests from a number of schools I am also working on a resource that will ensure that your 'Celebration Assembly' is indeed an act of collective worship. This section includes some ideas that you can adapt and use, and I am keen to add to this if you have any further examples from your own schools.

I am fortunate to work with such a supportive team, and my two Collective Worship Associates, Rachel Beeson and Nathanael Robinson, are also available to deliver bespoke projects in all schools who have signed up as Gold SLA members. We are also going to make a wide range of resource material available on the website from January and we will keep you informed about how to access this.

In the meantime I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every blessing for the season of Advent, and to reflect on the words of Pope Benedict XVI:

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

Sandy Ettridge

CONTENTS

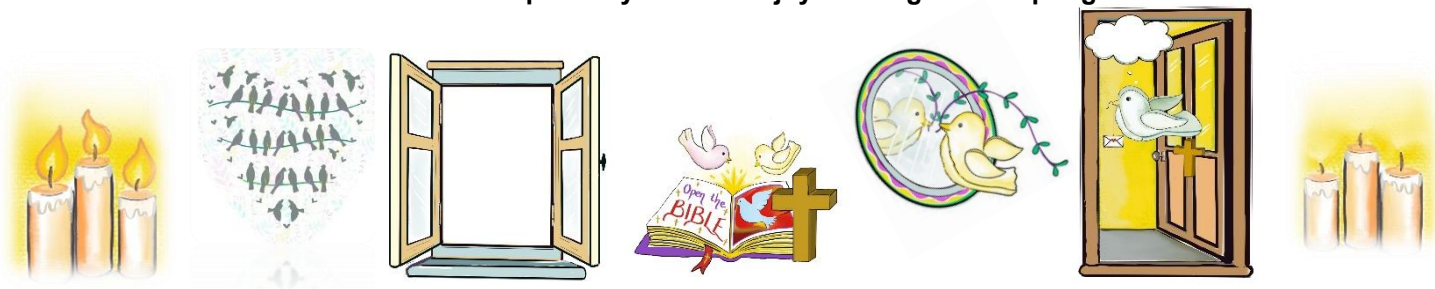
Introduction.....	1
Creating exceptional collective worship	2
Advent	4
Global christianity.....	5
Celebration worship	8
Training opportunities and resource materials	8





CREATING EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This term we have shared an approach to creating exceptional collective worship in our primary schools that we hope has added depth and reflection to this most important time in our school day. Rachel Beeson and I have worked together to create a resource that can be adapted and used as you choose within your own schools. The related PowerPoint has been sent out to all schools and we hope that you have enjoyed using and adapting it.



Rachel has added further depth to this resource with extensive notes, and I am including an extract from the overview document which will be useful for everyone:

Worship comes from the word 'worship'. So collective worship is definitely worth it!

The information below is for those new to Church schools or Peterborough Diocese, or who wish to refresh existing worship patterns. It is not definitive. Schools are experts in creating worship for their own communities, and can and should adapt and plan to meet their own specific context. It is a guide, however, to promoting a greater understanding of the importance of collective worship. Also to ignite a spark to generate new ideas for creative and meaningful worship in our Church schools.

Schools are busy places whose core purpose is teaching and learning. Within the fast-paced, packed school day, collective worship is like no other time. It is important to the life of a Church school in many ways and careful planning will ensure it is time well spent. Delivering consistently high-quality collective worship benefits,

- *behaviour, by promoting the theologically rooted Christian vision and supporting values which underpin the school's life.*
- *well-being, by providing a safe space and time outside school routines to think and reflect without pressure. Also through creating a time of fellowship through a shared, community experience.*
- *self-awareness and confidence, by helping develop personal beliefs and ideas through taking part in worship with opportunities for prayer and reflection.*

All of the above are closely aligned to the spiritual development of adults and pupils through developing the four key connections with self, others, the world around and God.





A format for daily worship.

Worship is a short time in a busy day, typically no more than 20 mins. Using a format can ensure that key aspects of worship are covered and that time spent together is spent well.

The format below is a framework for those planning and leading creative acts of collective worship. It also chimes with the Anglican traditions, which are the foundation of a Church school. There are four phases – gathering, engaging, responding and sending out. Some phases have been split for additional explanation. These can link to the language of spiritual development through ‘windows, mirrors, doors’ or (the school’s own spiritual language). The format can be adapted for use in any and all types of worship, and shared with visitors for greater consistency.

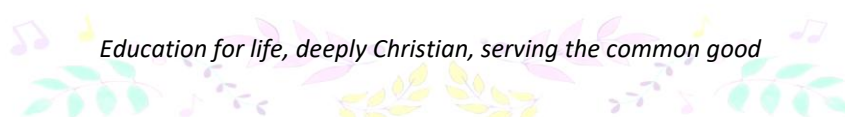
Before worship begins, consider ways of marking the change from lessons and school routines to collective worship. It is important to make sure that everyone knows that a different, special time is beginning. Set expectations of coming into the hall in advance, and plan how everyone will gather ready for the worship to start. How will an atmosphere of calm reflection be created.

Beginnings and endings matter. There are many set patterns for gathering and sending out which can be explored. The one most relevant and authentic for the school should be used. The school may wish to write their own words which can be personalised, including by incorporating the words of the school’s vision. Pupils and adults can be involved in creating the gathering words, making them meaningful, powerful and inclusive.

The acts of collective worship that we have shared since September have used this approach, and have shared examples of how the resource can be adapted and used within schools. All of the accompanying documents will be available on our website from January.

If you would like to book Rachel Beeson to share the materials in person, this can be done as a bespoke project as part of your Gold SLA, by requesting this through your DSC.

If you require any further information you can email me: sandy.ettridge@peterborough-diocese.org.uk





ADVENT

The Diocese of Guildford have produced an outstanding resource which can be accessed by all schools at this time. I have attached a full overview of how to use this resource, at primary and secondary school level, and I hope that schools will find this useful during the season of Advent. For each day there is a planned act of collective worship with a range of resource material.

This link will take you to the Advent calendar which will 'open' on each day of December. We do hope that you will enjoy using this. It links so well with all the work that has been taking place on 'Global Christianity', within our diocese and beyond.

[Joy to the World! Primary](#)

You can also access this link directly through the Diocese of Guildford website. We hope that you and your pupils will also be inspired to respond to the images in a range of creative ways, perhaps creating a nativity scene that reflects the cultural roots of your own pupils, or a scene that shows and shares a global understanding of Christianity at this important time for Christians around the world. Please do share any of your responses with us.



Ketut Lasia, Indonesia



Unknown artist, Kenya



John Swanson, USA



Indian



P. Solomon Raj, Madhya Pradesh, India

This picture was created by a KS2 pupil, in response to studying a range of pictures of Jesus from around the globe.

"I loved the idea of sharing the importance of Ghana in my family by showing Jesus being born in a hot desert landscape. It made Jesus feel even more important to me! This picture has felt very special to me."



GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

In this section I am sharing a response to a SIAMS development point linked to increasing an awareness of Christianity as a global, multi-cultural world faith, to support children in their understanding of Christianity in diverse cultures and communities. This project was inspired, in the first place, by five planned acts of collective worship. This in turn led to a creative response across the school, with a display that will continue to add depth and reflection within collective worship.

Name of school	
Project Title	'Lighting a Spark' Christianity as a global, multi-cultural world faith
Headteacher's name	
Time Allocation (up to 1 days)	1 day (Staff meeting, Planning session and half a day to work on the creative project)
Background information to support the project proposal	(This will link to development points of each individual school) The school will engage with the Collective Worship resource linked to representations of Jesus from around the world. The project will begin with all children creating a sketch of Jesus as they imagine him to have looked. The school will adapt and use the five acts of Collective Worship (PPTs) linked to stories from the Bible. Within each story, the image of Jesus has been created by an artist from a different area of the world. STAFF MEETING to share the resource material and support planning and organisation. SUPPORT IN SCHOOL for the creative project (one afternoon)
Further Agreed Action	Across the school, look for opportunities to widen and add depth to the children's understanding of Christianity in diverse cultures and communities- this can be linked to work in RE, PSHCE and other subject areas, as well as within Collective Worship. Following the focus on Global Christianity within CW, the children will create images of Jesus inspired by artists from around the world. Have the children represented Jesus in a wider range of ways than at the start of this project? (Refer to the planning booklet and displayed artwork) Can the children articulate the reasons why they have represented Jesus in their chosen way? (Pupil voice)
Monitoring and evaluation of impact	

This project has been successfully completed at Stanion Church of England Primary School. Over a five week period, we shared five individual acts of collective worship, with an opportunity for the children to respond after each worship. The images shared within each of the Bible stories challenged the more stereotypical images that children and adults are used to seeing.

Responses included:

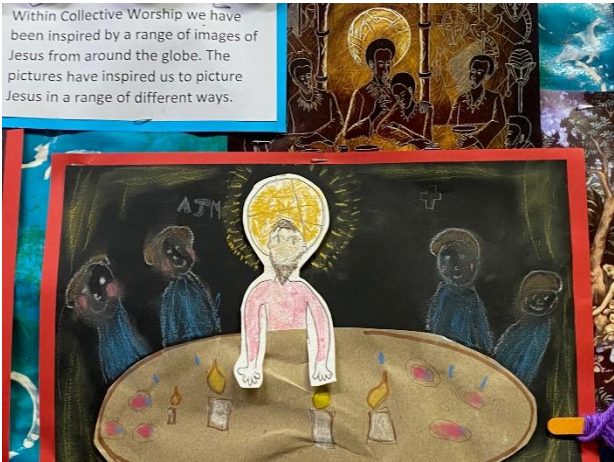
"I don't know why, but I felt quite challenged when I saw pictures of Jesus looking different to how I normally think of Him. It made me think more deeply about Jesus and how he is for all of us."

"I felt excited to see the different pictures!"

"The pictures show me that Jesus is there for all people."

After sharing each of the acts of worship, the children were asked to respond with a drawing of Jesus inspired by the artist that we had looked at together. This also allowed time to reflect and talk about the ways that they had challenged their earlier thinking. These sketches were then referred to on the project afternoon, as the children were asked to create one image of Jesus that felt meaningful and powerful to them. The children and adults also shared a deeper understanding of ways in which their own cultural backgrounds could be reflected within the images. They responded to the work of a range of artists by creating their own image, challenging their earlier stereotypical drawings with pictures that showed depth and understanding.

Within Collective Worship we have been inspired by a range of images of Jesus from around the globe. The pictures have inspired us to picture Jesus in a range of different ways.



As Amanda de Choisy has shared, "I particularly enjoyed the images of Jesus created by the older children; their paintings have encouraged me to open my mind and think more expansively about my faith."



We also learnt about the importance of the cross as the central symbol of Christianity. We looked at different representations of the cross in countries around the world, and created some of our own.

"I enjoyed learning about the God's Eye cross from Mexico. It was very peaceful winding the wool for this cross, and I like how the centre looks like God's eye, watching over us and protecting us."

We learnt about the Jerusalem Cross and the way in which it symbolises the spread of the Christian faith from its origins in Jerusalem to the four corners of the world. The central cross can be seen to symbolise Jesus, with the four smaller crosses representing the four gospels.

"We all enjoyed learning about the Jerusalem cross and we were inspired to create some of our own. It was interesting to have small crosses with the big cross."



The children also learnt about the Salvadorean crosses that are so important within this part of the world. They talked about ways that we can represent our daily lives within these crosses, sharing love and hope for the future. We hope to continue to find out more about the symbol of the cross and how it is represented across the globe. As well as the symbol of the cross, we also shared the importance of the fish symbol. Our younger children took inspiration from this symbol to create pictures, collage and prayers. Amanda de Choisy, Chair of Governors, shared her thoughts on this set of activities:

"Once again our children have been treated to a wonderful afternoon of thought-provoking activities, focussing on Christianity as a Global Faith. I Reception, the children contemplated how Christians have used the symbol of the Fish throughout history to identify their beliefs and values. The children enjoyed decorating their fish whilst thinking of how they care for loved ones; also weaving recycled materials through another fish, thinking of how they could care for the planet."





The resulting display shares work from across the school, and we hope that this display will continue to inspire our Collective Worship within school in so many ways.

Wayne Jones has shared his thoughts on this project:

“Our children, staff and governors thoroughly enjoyed this Global Christianity project and all have gained a deeper understanding. The children value the experiences offered to them and the work they have produced is simply outstanding. Sandy Ettridge has produced a beautiful display that showcases all the wonderful work. I would like to thank Sandy and our Ethos Team for planning and delivering such an inspirational project to enable our children to have a deeper understanding of Christianity across the world.”



We hope that you will be inspired to engage with Global Christianity, either through taking inspiration from collective worship, as in this project, or through working with Ziggy Brown on a Global Christianity project linked to RE.



CELEBRATION WORSHIP

This term a number of schools have asked me to share ways in which we can ensure that our celebration worship is definitely an act of worship and not just a presentation of awards. I am putting together a planning document and PowerPoint resource that you will be able to use as part of this which I will be sending out in the next term. I would welcome any contributions from schools, sharing your own examples of Celebration Worship. You can email them to me directly on

sandy.ettridge@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Carolyn Fairbrother has shared a photograph of the board in the hall that is added to during their celebration worship, to show that the children at Little Houghton are 'Flourishing like a flower of the field' Psalm 103:15.

'This is our vision which we refer to constantly throughout collective worship'.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

Next term we have a collective worship network meeting on Thursday 19th March, 4pm-5pm. We will use this meeting to discuss how we measure the impact of collective worship in our schools. You can book your place by emailing

education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

I will also be sharing the celebration worship resource, and discussing ways that this important act of collective worship continues to be an inspirational time in our school day, offering opportunities for gathering, engaging, responding and sending.

Next term we will be continuing to work with a number of schools on Bespoke Projects. If you would like to book one of these for your school as part of your Gold SLA please contact your DSC. Many of the resource materials will also be made available on our website from January and we hope that this will be useful for everyone.

Please also remember to use the resources on the National Society for Education which has a wealth of resources linked to Collective Worship and Advent. Their Advent resource is particularly suitable for KS2 and KS3.

nse.org.uk

<https://www.nse.org.uk> › [ayla](#) › [advent](#)

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





One final resource that you might like to use in the first week of December:

Assembly LIVE from Antarctica!

Friday 5th December, 9.15-9.45am

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime live broadcast from Antarctica with Robert Swan OBE, and Jenny Cooke, co-founder of the 2041 School charity.

Streaming 600 miles from the South Pole, Rob will share stories from the ice, the importance of protecting our planet's frozen continent, and inspire young people everywhere to become champions for Antarctica. Don't miss this historic event!

Suitable for: Children in KS1 and KS2

[Register here!](#)

If you cannot make the 'live' time, it is still worth registering as a recording will be sent through to all schools who have registered.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Advent season,

Sandy Ettridge

Sandy Ettridge

Collective Worship Adviser, Diocese of Peterborough

Education for life, deeply Christian, serving the common good