



# 1. Together.....

**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are focussing on creativity, and the content of an exhibition being hosted in Surrey this term: **Threads Through the Cross**, the work of textile artist Jacqui Parkinson. We are mindful that relatively few schools will be visiting the exhibition, so are bringing it right into your collective worship in a variety of different ways. Whilst it might seem strange to be focussing on the salvation story at this point in the school year, we hope that the endpoint of Advent and Christmas will be more meaningful having understood the journey to the Cross. We will also be linking to many 'Autumn term' themes that are a natural part of school life as children settle in to a new term, getting familiar with routines, school values and key events. **As we begin this new term together today, we will think about our creative opportunities as a community, linking into the theme for the term!**



## How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Each week, there will be a single word that will draw our focus to one particular aspect of either the textile panel or the story linked with it. You should easily be able to link the word to your school's values, but there will also be some suggestions included in the reflective questions as part of each week's materials.

## Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today's script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **You will need to.... Gather a few things around school that can only be done with others e.g. playground games**, If you're going to make your hand prints or hand outlines into a community display, then you might want staff to demonstrate this in front of children as part of this session, so have some resources ready.
- **There are also some ideas for reflective activities / ideas to ponder for use in your reflective areas for this term, listed at the end of the script along with a handy wall chart to print each week for your reflective area. You can find all these as a separate file in our resources area, which may make it easier for teachers to print and use in their classrooms.**
- **Reflective prayer activity:** draw around your hand, write your name or draw yourself inside the outline. Think about things that make you unique and special – and then things that we can do better with others.

## Gathering:

### Slide 1: Welcome....

**Use your own greeting for this week. We will learn a new greeting in next week's resources.**



## Engaging:

- **Slide 2:** I wonder how many things you can think of that you can do together with others? Here are a few things to get you started....
- **Slide 3:** *[from top L-R: playing games; football; tennis; dancing; softplay; having a party]*  
Have a little chat with the people around you.... I wonder what other ideas you might think of together? *[get feedback from groups]*
- **Slide 4:** At the start of this new school year, and a whole new term of themes, we are going to spend some time together – recognising that it is good to be here as part of this school community, with all the things that we share in and work at together.
- If you are new here, you are especially welcome – we are very excited to get to know you all and help you to be a part of our school family. Here at ..... School, we want to be a place where everyone is welcome, where everyone feels that they have a place. Our school's values help us to do this.... *[if you want to introduce your school values to newcomers, this would be the place here! Talk about how they help you to belong together.]*
- **Slide 5:** This might've been another thing we could do together – especially if it's a puzzle with as many pieces as this!! We're going to use it to help us to think now.  
Every piece in a jigsaw puzzle is different and special.  
Every piece has a place where it fits.  
Even if you might be feeling a bit lost and overwhelmed, you have a place here and we are glad you have come.



- **Slide 6:** We all know how frustrating it is when a jigsaw puzzle has missing pieces! Our school community is only complete when everyone is here, joined together by the things that are important to us as a school family, working together to help everyone to feel welcome.

### **Slide 7: Responding and words for worship**

These are some words from the Bible, the holy book for Christians. Let's look at them together.....

**Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds.**

In the quietness now, think about what these words might mean.... *[you may want to ask children to talk with a partner, and tease out the meaning in an age-appropriate way]*

These words remind us to do three things:

1. To think about each other.... To have each other in our minds when we speak and when we act.
2. To help each other to show love.... Even when we perhaps don't feel like it!
3. To help each other to do good deeds

**....I wonder how our school values might help us to help each other....to show love and do good deeds?....**

**....I wonder how this might help new people to feel that they are welcome here?....**

### **Slide 8: Opportunity for reflection / prayer**

I'm going to pray now. If this is something that you feel comfortable doing, then find a way to make the words your own. If you don't want to pray, then use the quiet to be still with your own thoughts.

**Dear God**

**Thank you that our school family is a place where we all fit in. Today and every day, let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds.**

**Slide 9: Amen**

**Slide 10:** And so, this week, to show that we belong together, we are going to create a whole-school picture / each class is going to create a picture, using our hands. where everyone's hand belongs. It will remind us that we are all part of the same school family, with our shared values.

**Sending: Slide 11**

**Leader:** As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...

**All:** *May our school be a place of welcome for everyone.*

**To listen to / sing:**

School choice, a favourite that fits in with your vision/values, or

[Our school](#) / [Back in school again](#) (BBC) or [Together](#) (NBD)



### **Slide 12: Reflective areas**

**Do:** Draw around your hand and cut it out. Write your name or draw yourself in the hand shape. Add your hand to the collage.

**Think:** What are things that are special to you? Are we all the same as one another?

**Talk:** What things are better done with others?

Can our ideas help us to make our school community a better place for everyone?



# Together

**Take a piece of paper and draw around your hand.**



**Write your name or draw yourself in the hand shape. Add your hand to the collage.**



**What are things that are special to you? Are we all the same as one another?**



**What things are better done with others?**

**Can our ideas help us to make our school community a better place for everyone?**

