

## Collective worship from the Diocese of Guildford

Since the COVID19 pandemic, and before then as part of the national ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ weeks, we have been creating collective worship materials with the aim of supporting our school leaders in this distinctive part of school life. As we state on all of our overviews, 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, both local and global. Through our termly themes, we aim to provide schools with materials that will enable them to acknowledge and support pupils of all faiths or no faith, whilst meeting **the requirements of the law for worship that is ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.’** All of our themes are rooted in Christian values, and the teachings of the Bible. Whilst some resources may reflect traditions that are from outside of the Christian community, acknowledging that collective worship should **seek ‘to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief\*’** we always ensure that themes are linked to Biblical content / Christian values, wherever in the world they come from. We feel that it is essential that pupils have the opportunity to value and learn from each other as part of this sacred space. Scripts contain carefully crafted language to lead the school community through the collective worship and include opportunities for pupils to ‘worship’; to think, reflect or pray, without compulsion. This document aims to gather the themes of the past few years into one place, which schools may find useful if planning a rolling programme of themes, or searching for archived resources, and will be added to as we continue to write materials.

*\*Church of England collective worship guidance, 2021*

Summer 2018: Thy Kingdom Come, A Glimpse of God’s Kingdom ( <i>Beatitudes</i> )	Summer 2019: Thy Kingdom Come, Journeying Together ( <i>Early Church / Paul’s adventures</i> )	Summer 2020: Rebuilding community <i>Biblical content – Nehemiah</i>
Jesus gave a glimpse of what God’s Kingdom will be like in the Beatitudes, part of a passage that Christians call the Sermon on the Mount. The phrases describe thoughts, actions & attitudes that permeate the Kingdom of God, often distilled into very familiar Christian values.	Explore the adventures of the Early Church (including Paul’s story & words that he wrote) through objects packed into a rucksack, linking with the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ Prayer Adventure Map initiative for families.	Rebuilding with Nehemiah <i>Version to use with pupils in school and a parallel version to send for pupils to use at home.</i>
Autumn 2020: Count your blessings (in ‘bubbles’!) <i>Biblical content and world events</i>	Spring 2021: Kingdom Living <i>Biblical content, New Testament</i>	Summer 2021: Rainbow – a sign of the promise <i>Biblical content, Old &amp; New Testament</i>
Lockdown has taught us the importance of gratitude even in the midst of adversity: that being aware of each day’s ‘blessings’ can counteract anxiety, and so this term, we want to encourage schools to continue to do this through their collective worship.	This term’s themes will be explored by pupils ‘gathered’ in their bubbles, and hopefully, in time, joined as a whole school community: to reflect on (and remember!) their school values, the new type of kingdom that Jesus spoke about in Matthew 13, and Jesus’ instructions for ‘kingdom living’.	This term’s themes relate to the many promises that God makes to be with his people – from the original rainbow, to a vision that one of Jesus’ disciples had of heaven, and helps children to think about the life that now faces us post-pandemic as we step out into this ‘new world’. How do we live now? What role do God’s promises have for us?
Autumn 2021: Community – belonging together <i>Biblical content – mostly Old Testament</i>	Spring 2022: The Lord’s Prayer <i>Biblical content, New Testament</i>	Summer 2022: Passing the baton (Commonwealth Games) <i>World events and global stories</i>
This term’s themes create an opportunity for all pupils to consider firstly what it means for us to be a community together, and then look through the window of stories about God’s people and the many things that they learned about being a <b>community</b> . These stories will be mainly from the Old Testament, but will end with the story of the birth of Jesus as a time when people came from far and wide to gather and to gaze. Every week, we will pause to wonder what we can learn from these ancient stories to help us to be a better community together.	This term’s themes create an opportunity for all pupils to think about the most famous of all Christian prayers – the Lord’s Prayer – which is prayed in Christian communities all over the world. It will be accessible for all children, regardless of their faith or belief as we will explore the meaning of the words <i>for Christians</i> , and reflect together on concepts common to all: on school and family life, being part of a community, forgiveness, gratitude and making good choices.	We start with some words from her speech on Commonwealth Day (14 <sup>th</sup> March) this year: ‘ <i>I hope we can deepen our resolve to <b>support and serve one another</b>, and endeavour to ensure the Commonwealth remains an <b>influential force for good</b> in our world for many generations to come</i> ’ and also join Her Majesty the Queen as she celebrates her landmark Platinum (70 <sup>th</sup> ) Jubilee. We will reflect on messages and values at the heart of global stories about living together well: as always, all themes will be accessible for all children, regardless of their faith or belief.

<b>Autumn 2022: Joseph, a family saga</b> <b><i>Biblical content, Old Testament</i></b>	<b>Spring 2023: Be the change!</b> <b><i>Biblical content (Jesus) &amp; global celebrations</i></b>	<b>Summer 2023: Follow my lead!</b> <b><i>Biblical content and Coronation of King Charles III</i></b>
<p>This term, we are reflecting on the story of Joseph from the Old Testament book of Genesis, thinking about how (as it says several times in the story) God was with Joseph in bad times as well as good, and used his circumstances to save Joseph's whole family – as well as the whole nation of Egypt. Most weeks, as we dive into the story, we will be leaving it on a cliff-hanger, as this story is full of twists and turns! Across the term, we reflect on what Joseph learned about himself through his experiences as well as the things that we can learn from Joseph's story about ourselves, our emotions, our challenges and successes.</p>	<p>Through events in the life of Jesus, we will be reflecting on the impact Jesus had on the ordinary people he met (including children!), helping children to fill in the gaps between Christmas and Easter in the narrative of Jesus' life, making better sense of the timescale. But we will also be using these stories to help children to think about the impact that they, in turn, can have on their world, by issuing 'Be the change...!' challenges to do 'small things with great love', as Jesus did. There is opportunity to wonder each time about how your school's values will help you to achieve these challenges, and some materials to help in <b>classroom reflection times</b>. We will also take time this term to honour the traditions of others as we mark Chinese New Year, Passover and TuB'Shvat (the Jewish holiday for trees),</p>	<p>This term, we begin with the story of King David, whose anointing forms the basis of the traditions and rituals that we will witness in the Coronation of King Charles III, an historic moment in the life of our nation. We look to David's life for some inspiration about being a leader, and being human, but above all how God called him a 'man after his own heart'. We will also look beyond his life to the lives of other leaders, from all walks of life and different parts of the world, marking some key dates in the religious calendar and thinking about what their lives teach us about being a leader.</p>
<b>Autumn 2023: Moses 'Are we nearly there yet?!'</b> <b><i>Biblical content, Old Testament</i></b>	<b>Spring 2024: Wise words</b> <b><i>Biblical content – Proverbs &amp; Easter</i></b>	<b>Summer 2024: Going for gold!</b> <b><i>Global events – the Olympics, with Biblical links</i></b>
<p>This term, we are reflecting on the story of Moses and journeying with him as he leads God's people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are using the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas from this story about being community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur'an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions.</p>	<p>This term, we begin a series of themes based on wise words – all of them from the Bible, all of them ancient advice about how to live, but in our modern world, they often sound surprisingly up to date! We link this ancient wisdom to stories from across the world and across cultures in the first half of the term, and then after half term, connect into the life and stories of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Easter.</p>	<p>This term, we are warming up for the Summer Olympics by going back in time and revisiting some Olympic and Paralympic Games from the past. We will share inspirational stories which reflect the six Olympic and Paralympic values of Determination, Excellence, Inspiration, Courage, Friendship and Equality and use them to help us to think about what we can learn from them. We will link many of these stories to words from the Bible, words from the founder of the 'modern' Olympics (Baron de Coubertin) &amp; quotes from athletes themselves, using them to help us think what we can learn about how to live well together and to give our best.</p>
<b>Autumn 2024: How-to-be-attitudes</b> <b><i>Biblical content – the Beatitudes (New Testament)</i></b>	<b>Spring 2025: Songs from the heart</b> <b><i>Biblical content – Psalms</i></b>	<b>Summer 2025: To boldly go....</b> <b><i>Worldwide stories, with Biblical links</i></b>
<p>At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to help pupils to re-engage (or engage for the first time!) with your school's vision and values, so please ensure that you do this each week using the suggestions in each of the scripts. This term, we are reflecting on some of Jesus' words in the 'Sermon on the Mount', containing the statements known as the 'Beatitudes' which set out the topsy-turvy manifesto of God's Kingdom. We reflect on how these ideas might help to shape our school community life in the way that we try to treat each other.</p>	<p>At the beginning of a new term and a brand new year, we begin a new series of themes, reflecting on the life and writings of King David, who contributed much of the content of the book of Psalms in the Bible. We are using the title 'Songs from the heart', because this is exactly what the Psalms were: heartfelt expressions of joy, sadness, frustration, hope and longing, giving voice to experiences and emotions that pupils of all faiths and none can relate to. We know that not all children like to sing, so please do make sure they understand that the word 'song' can also be understood metaphorically as a way of expressing what's in our hearts – and that although we may use songs during this term, there is no compulsion to sing during your collective worship!</p>	<p>We finish this academic year with a collection of stories about great journeys and great adventurers, covering the globe as we consider some lessons we can learn from people who've 'boldly gone' (with apologies for the split infinitive!) We also consider more spiritual journeys as we track stories about those who travelled carrying precious ideas to others, including the story of the beginning of the worldwide Church and the Apostle Paul who helped establish it, centred around the dates of Pentecost. Towards the end of the term, we will be reflecting on our personal journeys as part of our school communities.</p>

<b>Autumn 2025: Threads through the Cross</b> <i><b>Biblical content / local event (Cathedral exhibition)</b></i>	<b>Spring 2026: Let me tell you a story!</b> <i><b>Biblical content – Parables, plus relevant stories / parables from the calendar of religious festivals</b></i>	<b>Summer 2026: Dare to be different – the Daniel saga</b> <i><b>Biblical content – Daniel, Old Testament</b></i>
This term, we welcome an inspirational exhibition to Guildford Cathedral, centred around the salvation narrative, which starts in the Garden of Eden. These CW resources will engage with the stunning pieces of textile, the story they show (the Passion) and the (God-given) desire to be creative – which might link in with your art or RE curriculum	TBC	TBC