

Collective Worship Network November 2023

Chris Allen, Lead Officer– Diocese of Norwich

Collective Worship Network November 2023

What we hope to do each meeting:

- sharing of good practice
- discussion of ideas and issues
- resource updates
- the opportunity to network with other Collective Worship Leads

Focus for November's network meeting:

- Resources for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany & Candlemas
- Linking Worship to your vision and RE
- SIAMS Focus – Inspection Question 3 How do we make worship inspirational?
- SIAMS Focus - How do we make pupils spiritual leaders in worship:
Action research project – Bursts of Prayer



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National and Regional Updates
November 2023

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Collective Worship in Church of England Schools

Inclusive Invitational Inspiring

Guidance Document

Introduction

Church of England schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They are places that recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation, collaboration, and inspection of worship are all taken seriously by the school and by diocesan authorities.

This document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10.

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.'

This form of encounter through worship should be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the

Church of England National Guidance for Collective Worship

www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/collective-worship-guidance-18052021.pdf

What does the National Guidance ask of us?

- **Daily act of Collective Worship** – *should be central to the school day.*
- **Christian in content** – *a place to explore and express the theologically rooted Christian Vision of the school.*
- **Enables all pupils and adults to flourish** – *living life in all of its fullness to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.*

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- Worship should be welcoming and therefore naturally inclusive.
- Worship should be consistently invitational.
- involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God.
- no compulsion to take part, should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.

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How do you invite everyone to be part of worship?

How do you promote questioning? / wonderment?

What responses do you use in worship? Do you mirror what is used in church?

How does your school community encounter faith in worship?

How do you know the impact of your worship on your pupils and adults?

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INSPECTION

**SIAMS Focus –
Inspection
Question 3 How do
we make worship
inclusive,
invitational and
inspirational?**

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IQ3 How is 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?
- b) How do partnerships with the DBE and/or MAST, and partnerships with parish/local church/es enhance this?
- c) In what ways is the worship life of the school inclusive, invitational, and inspirational?**
- d) In the context of the school as a Church school, what do pupils and adults understand to be the meaning of spirituality and spiritual development? How does this enhance and enrich collective worship and individuals' spiritual development?
- e) How does the trust contribute to and enhance the school's worship and spiritual life?

What does inspirational look like?

Formational

Transformational

Ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do?

Motivate adults and pupils into action.

Leads to thinking differently and acting differently.

Motivate pupils and adults to reflect on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

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Worship should be an open door to explore new ideas, new thinking and a new way of living (for some).



What do you think?
How do you do this in your school?

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Resources for Worship

- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Candlemas



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Advent: 3 December -24 December 2023



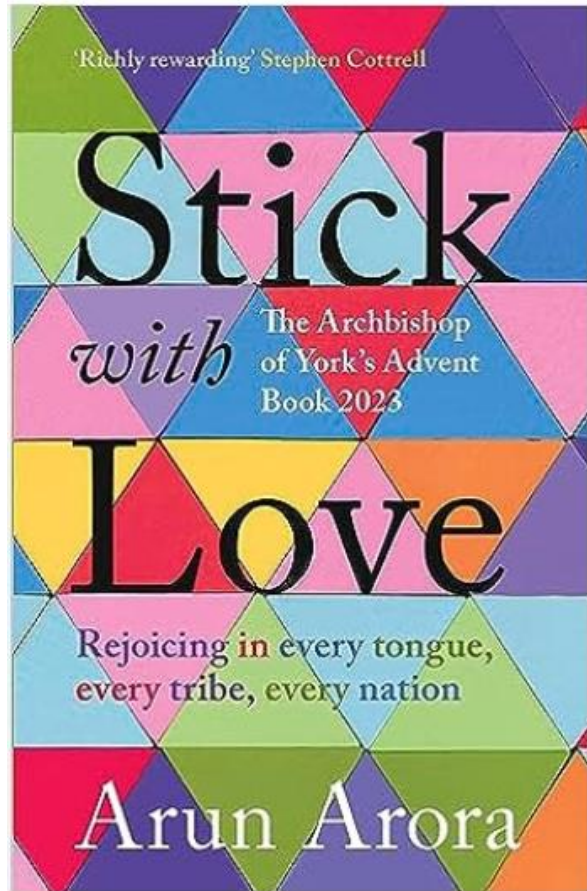
www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/christian-distinctiveness/collective-worship/advent-and-christmas

www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/2397/advent-peace

ASSEMBLIES.ORG.UK
School assemblies for every season for everyone



www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/projects/community-matters-at-christmas-download-page



Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2023

“Explore daily reflections on racial justice and the Church's diversity, drawing wisdom from biblical and historical figures to illuminate your Advent journey.”

www.amazon.co.uk/Stick-Love-Rejoicing-Archbishop-Foreword-ebook/dp/B0C5RF5LPY

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Christmas/ Incarnation

www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos/collective-worship-primary-schools-christmas

Advent / Joy of Christmas and many more!

www.collectiveworship.com/ActDetails/?ID=209

Plan and PowerPoint on Giving at Christmas



www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/page/?title=Advent+and+Christmas&pid=89

The Diocese of Lincoln Education Department have created daily collective worship resources to take you through the journey of Advent and Christmas.

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Epiphany: 6 January 2024



www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/1848/epiphany

<https://d3hgriq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f209069c4808/content/pages/documents/1582834302.pdf>

www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos/collective-worship-primary-schools-refugees-s3e3

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Candlemas: 2 February 2024

www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/1846/candlemas

[www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf/Ashburt
on_Candlemas%20envelope.pdf](http://www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf/Ashburt%20on_Candlemas%20envelope.pdf)





What do you think?

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Share an example of good practice or a resource you have used recently in Collective Worship – it could be how you have adapted your plans to meet the needs of different groups of pupils, or a story or new song resource.



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How do we demonstrate the connection between collective worship and our schools theologically rooted Christian vision?

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Ideas to link vision and worship

Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues.

Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God

Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection based on the vision, values and virtues of your school.

Use prayer, story, silence, stillness and reflection to encounter Anglican Traditions that make your school vision meaningful and relevant.

Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship linked to exploring the vision, values and virtues of the school.

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Worship doesn't
always need to be
indoors or in
school!

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/2018/discovering-forest-church/>

www.theresourcehub.co.uk/cafe-church

www.dioceseofnorwich.org/resource_category/outdoor-church/

Forest
church

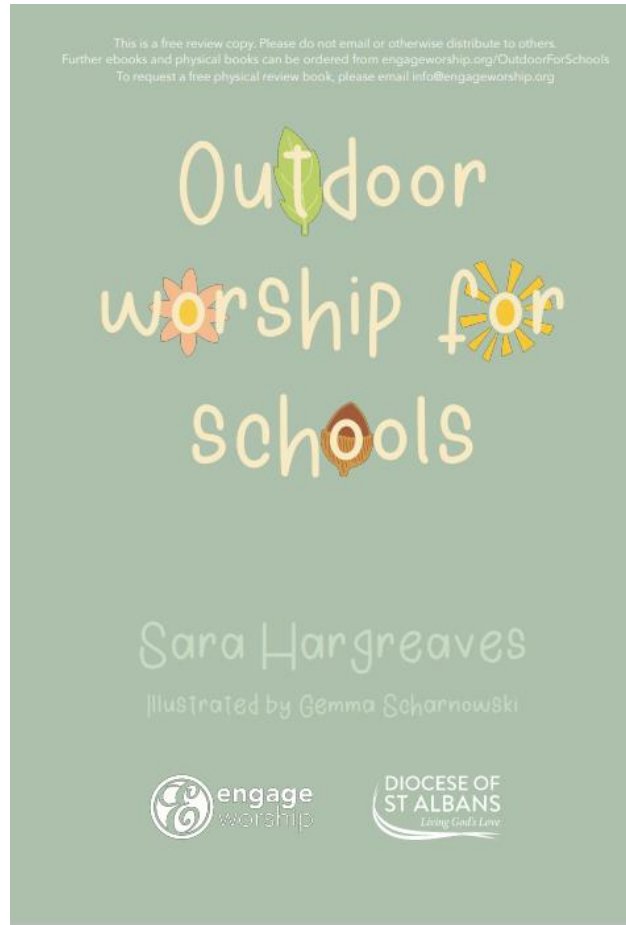
Outside
worship

Use your
local church

Café church

Active
church

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HEADS

Understanding the climate emergency, what has led to it, a view on what should be done for a more sustainable future and why this matters.



HEARTS

Having a heart for the earth, a desire to see the planet and all upon it flourish.



HANDS

Making practical and purposeful responses in one's own life and within the communities in which one is a part.



What do you think?

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Action Research Project 23-24

Bursts of Prayer

A repository of prayer resources for different aspects of school and life.



What types of prayer do you use in your school?

Thankfulness

Guidance

Forgiveness

Adoration

Reflection

Help

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A short opportunity to hear and speak to God about a particular subject.

Follow an agreed format

Draw on biblical verses

Focus with a prayer and chance to reflect

Offers a calm space in a busy day

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Next steps:

1. Identify prayers you use in school for different situations and send them to me. **Read [7 ways to pray research paper](#).**
2. Identify any biblical passages you use for reflection.
3. Draft the Burst of Prayer resource and guidance on ways to pray and reflect in school, home and in life.
4. Trial the resource.

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Navigators Discipleship Tool



7 Ways to Pray: Time-Tested Practices for Encountering God

We're always a simple word or a single step away from a conversation with God. And yet taking that step or saying that word can sometimes feel confounding or daunting. These 7 Ways to Pray draw from the deep well of Christian history to make praying a habit to enjoy in our crazy, bustling, wearying times.

Praying with the Bible

There are different ways to use your Bible in your prayer time. You can personalize Scripture by putting your own name into a verse. For example, "Amy, my peace I leave with you... Amy, do not let your heart be troubled." (John 14:27) Try writing out a prayer from the Bible, adapting it into your own words. Or write the words of Scripture into a poem, just using the key words.

Praying through the Bible

Lectio divina is Latin for sacred reading. The practice of going repeatedly through a short section of Scripture has been used for more than a thousand years. There are 4 steps—reading, meditating, praying, and contemplating. Each time you go through the Bible passage, take time to pause, notice, and interact with the Holy Spirit.

Practicing the Presence of God

Practicing the presence of God can be done anywhere and at any time. It's simply calling to mind that God dwells within us through His Spirit and His Son. Being aware of God in our daily lives takes being intentional. Welcome Jesus into whatever you are doing. You might want to set a timer at various intervals to remind yourself to call to mind the presence of Jesus.

Hearing God

Our Bibles burst with God speaking to His children, from Genesis to Revelation. One well-loved example of God's communication with young Samuel is in 1 Samuel 3. Samuel needed help from Eli, at first, to understand God. As we practice listening prayer, we can test what we hear from God with three helps: Scripture, impressions of the Holy Spirit, and circumstances.

Praying with Lament

Our prayer book in the Bible, the Psalms, bursts with songs of lament, not only those written by individuals but those for corporate worship. The psalmists cry out to God, asking and even demanding that He help them. The psalmists often move through their lament in four stages: address, complaint, request, expression of trust. Follow this pattern to pen your own prayer of lament.

Praying Imaginatively

Praying imaginatively involves opening our hearts and minds to receive from God in a different way. We do so asking the Holy Spirit to guide and guard us. Imaginative prayer involves entering into a biblical narrative and interacting with the characters in the story, including Jesus or God the Father. Some people do this visually, as if they are in a film. For others it might be more of a journaling experience.

Praying the Examen

Ignatius, founder of the Jesuit order of priests, practiced a five-step process called the examen: give thanks, ask, review, repent, renew. The regular practice of the examen can free us from the effects of unconfessed sin. With the examen we can also become more sensitive to discerning God's voice and moving forward with Him, as we reject our sinful desires.

On the next page, there are more details on one of the seven practices, so you can implement it in your own time with God.

How to Pray with Your Imagination: One of 7 Ways to Pray

Put yourself in a Gospel story or one from the Old Testament. To imagine more easily, choose a story with action instead of one that focuses on Jesus' teaching.

Get comfortable and still yourself, asking God to help you shut down any distractions coming your way. Invite Him to work through your imagination, that His Holy Spirit would fill you and direct you. That He would prevent anything from interfering that is not of Him so that you enjoy freedom in the exercise. During your time of prayer, you might want to open your hands as a sign of receptivity.

How you enter the story depends on your preferences. For instance, if you can picture things visually, you might want to imagine that you're making a film. Or you might want to consider what sounds you would hear—the roar of the waves of the murmur of the crowd. Perhaps you do your best imagining through feeling the emotions, such as the incensed rage of the religious leaders or the desperation of the bleeding woman. Pay attention to the details—the sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and emotions. As you lose yourself in the story, meet Jesus there.

Remember that the aim is to encounter Christ, so try not to get distracted over the historical details—let God take your imagination to reveal something about yourself or Him. And know that exercising your imagination takes practice. It might not come naturally at first, but through persevering you'll find yourself more able to engage. More importantly, remember that God is with you—ask Him through the Holy Spirit to guide you and spark your imagination.

This prayer practice can be done individually or with a group. Here are some passages suitable for imaginative prayer:

- Matthew 14:22-33 (Peter walks on the water)
- Mark 10:46-52 (The cure of Bartimaeus)
- Luke 5:1-11 (Jesus calls three disciples)
- John 13:1-17 (Jesus washes the disciples' feet)
- Exodus 3:1-6 (Moses and the burning bush)
- 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (The call of Samuel)



What do you think?

Final Questions...



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Dates for your diary...

CW Networks are planned for:

- 26 February 2024
- 20 May 2024



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Thank you for your time

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ChrislindyJ



Please complete your
evaluation by scanning
this code.

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School visits

Our team of teachers and guides bring alive the wonderful history of Norwich Cathedral as an ancient sacred space and its story of faith, and they work with you and your learning objectives to ensure your pupils get the most out of their visit.

We have a brilliant selection of themed educational visits to choose from in our brochures for Primary KS 1-2 and Secondary KS 3-5:

[School Brochure KS1-2](#)

[School Brochure KS3-5](#)

[School Brochure KS1-2](#)