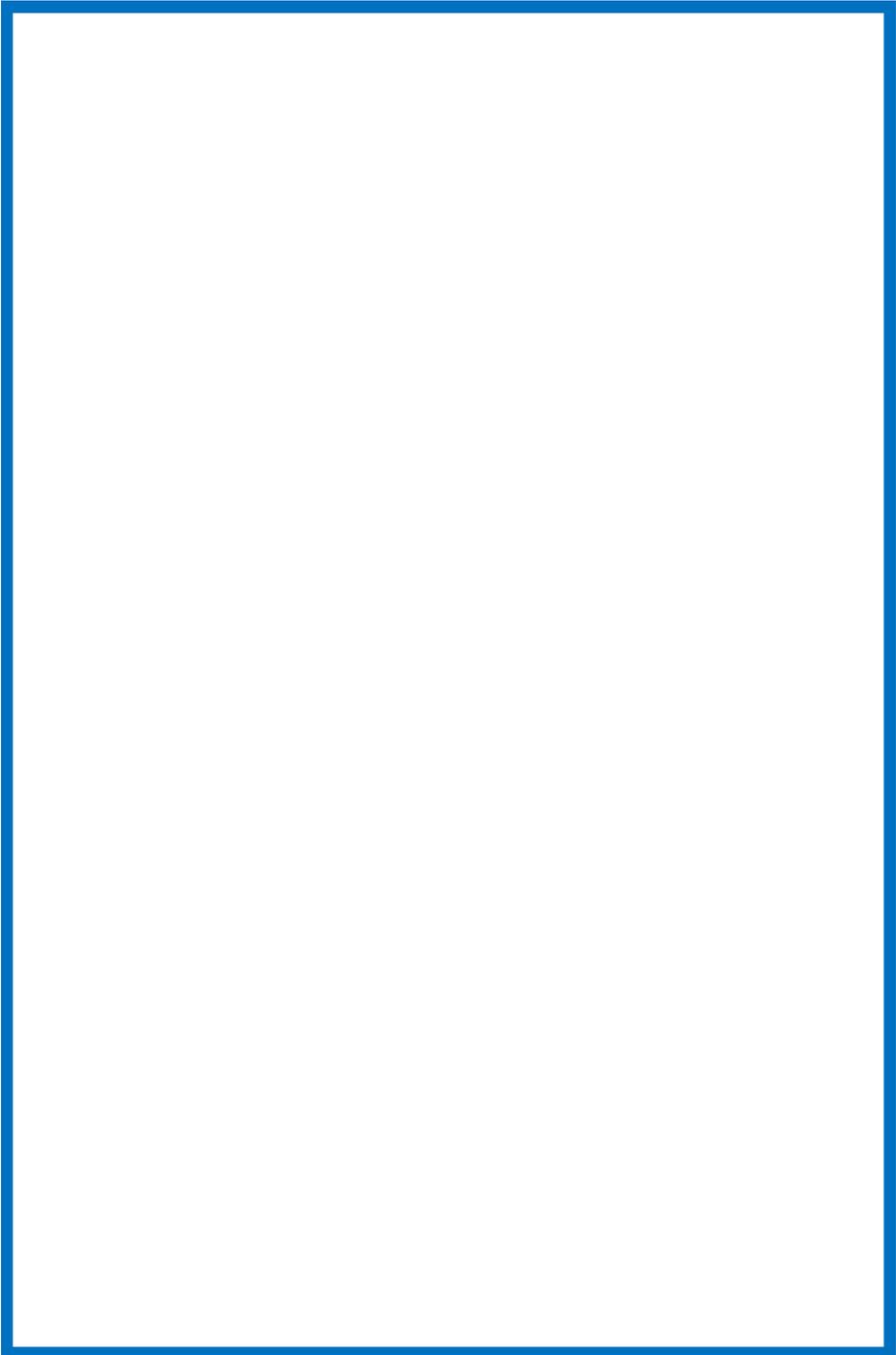


St John's Church

Hartford

**A Resource for Learning
Outside the Classroom**





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WELCOME

St John's Church is passionate about welcoming children to explore our church.

Come and visit us.

Arrange for us to visit you.

Explore the variety of ways we can support you.

Benefit from a local free resource.

Read on to find out more.



“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them’ ” Matthew ch19v14

INTRODUCTION

Teaching Christianity is a central element in the Religious Education curriculum for Early Years, KS1 and KS2. Within this, there is a requirement for pupils to meet practising Christians and visit places of worship. Here at St John's we are passionate about welcoming school children into our church to give them an opportunity to explore the Christian faith for themselves.

Learning outside the classroom is a great way to engage your pupils, helping them to experience things that might be very new to them. Our church building is a fantastic resource offering opportunities for many cross-curricula themes of study.

Our staff here at the church are always delighted to welcome classes of children and we would love to work with you to provide the type of school visit that you need. For more information or to book a visit, please contact Teresa Nixon, our Children's Outreach Worker by emailing teresa@stjohnshartford.org or telephone 01606 872255.

**SESSIONS
IDEAL FOR
EYFS**

SHAPES, COLOURS & PATTERNS

- Hunt for crosses and other shapes in our church
- Explore repeating patterns in the church building
- Look at the colours in our stained glass windows

This session is ideal for your youngest pupils and will help to give them a sense of awe and wonder at being in a large church building. Using ideas that will be familiar to them from their classroom study of shapes, colours and patterns, we can introduce them to possibly unfamiliar surroundings in a friendly and enjoyable way. We will talk about colours and patterns as part of creation and will create our own craft to take home.



CHURCH AS A SPECIAL PLACE

- Find out why a church is a special place
- Think about the church as a building and the church as a group of people
- Explore what Christians do in a church

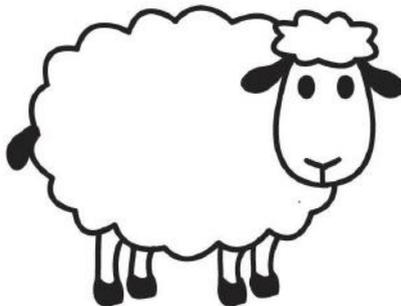
This session ties in with the Special Places topic and is ideal for children in the Early Years to have the opportunity to visit a church building. Children will be able to safely explore the church building and learn key words such as pulpit, font and tower as well as learning about what the Vicar does and who the congregation are.



BELONGING TO GOD

- Find out why Christians belong to God
- Learn why Christians are special to God
- Explore what it might be like to be lost and separated from God

This session will use the Parable of the Lost Sheep to explore what it is like to belong to God. Children will hear the story and use it to think about their own experiences of being lost and found. They will have the opportunity to think about how they might be found by God. The children will make a sheep to take home with them.

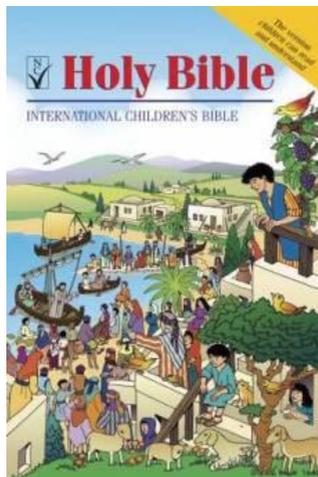


**SESSIONS
IDEAL FOR
KS_I**

WHY IS THE BIBLE A SPECIAL BOOK?

- Find out why Christians believe the Bible to be God's word
- Think about what Christians use the Bible for
- Explore the big picture storyline of the Bible

This is an interactive session making the Bible accessible and exciting to children. They will learn key words such as “Scripture”, “Old Testament”, “New Testament” and “Gospel”. Every child will have an opportunity to take time to explore and read a Bible for themselves. We will talk about when the Bible was written and who are some of its key characters.



WHAT IS WORSHIP

- Find out what worship is and why Christians do it
- Think about some of the musical styles of worship used by Christians
- Enjoy singing together in our church

This is a fun and interactive session exploring the world of Christian worship, in particular through the use of music. Learn about different Christian music, think about how the Bible has inspired lyrics and songs, watch video clips of our congregation worshipping during a Sunday service, learn some new songs and maybe even write a song of your own.



PRAYER

- Discover what prayer is
- Think about why, where and how Christians pray
- Explore prayers in the Bible

This session helps to demystify prayer and make it accessible to children. We will use the Bible to find out why prayer is important and to hear how Jesus taught us to pray. We will reflect on the benefits and different uses of corporate and individual prayers. Children will have the opportunity to write prayers of their own in an interactive and encouraging way that all can enjoy.

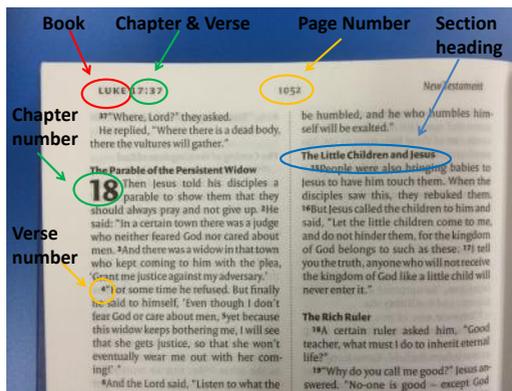


**SESSIONS
IDEAL FOR
KS₂**

HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

- Find out how to use Bible references to find specific verses
- Learn how to use the contents and information pages to find particular stories
- Become familiar with how the Bible is ordered

This session helps children to use a Bible in the same way that you might teach them how to use a Dictionary. If you plan to regularly use Bibles in RE lessons, this session introduces key words such as “Old Testament”, “New Testament”, “Chapter”, “Verse” and “Books” and will help the children to gain an excitement about the many varied writing styles and topics covered in the Bible.



CHRISTIANS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Find out why Christians serve their local community
- Explore how this is done in practice at St John's
- Think about our world-wide community

This session will use the Parable of the Good Samaritan to explore why Christians serve their local community and how we do this at St John's. This can be extended to looking at our global neighbours, the missionaries that we support and the work that they do. This can tie in to topics that you might be looking at in Geography, comparing other countries to life here.



HOW ARE BRITISH VALUES ROOTED IN CHRISTIAN VALUES

- Talk about the key British values that your school is already familiar with
- Discover how they are linked to core Christian values
- Explore the Bible to find the Ten Commandments and compare them to your class rules

This session challenges pupils to think about where our everyday values come from and to question whether all British values are Christian values. We will use your school motto and compare it to our church motto and your class or school rules and compare them to the Ten Commandments. We can consider if the Ten Commandments are still relevant today and discover what Jesus said about these laws.

walking in truth
living in love

CHRISTIAN CONCEPTS

In line with the new RE syllabus from the Diocese of Chester, we can offer sessions to you that are based around the 11 key concepts of the Christian faith (these can also be adapted to tie in with SACRE requirements). As this way of teaching RE is relatively new, we are currently developing this, but would be very happy to put together a session for your year group on a particular concept. Each session will use the Bible to introduce the concept to the children in an interactive and engaging way, whilst giving them the opportunity to visit our place of worship and discover more about the Christian faith. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more about how this could work for your class.

Good News

Salvation

Forgiveness

Creation

Holy Spirit

WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Bible Explorer is a 5 part exploration of the Old Testament, produced by the charity Walk Through the Bible. It has been specifically designed to work with the Year 5 RE curriculum and can be used to replace 5 RE lessons during a term. Michael Field, a member of our congregation and a retired Minister, has been trained by the charity to deliver these sessions and would deliver them in your classroom. For more information about this, please get in touch.

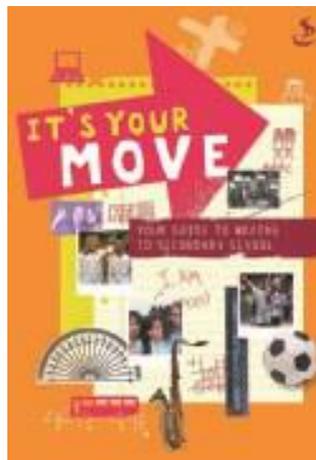


**WALK
THROUGH ^{THE}
BIBLE**

Bringing the Bible to life

TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Using material produced by Scripture Union, this session helps pupils to think through their hopes and fears about moving up to High School. Both Teresa Nixon and Rev Phil Highton, the Chaplain at Hartford Church of England High School, will visit your school, deliver the session and give each child a booklet to take away entitled “It’s Your Move”. This session is open to all pupils, irrespective of which High School they will be moving to. The material uses the Bible to see how characters who found themselves in unfamiliar surroundings coped with change and encourages pupils to think how they might handle different situations.



SESSIONS IDEAL FOR EYFS KS₁ & KS₂

Many of the sessions that we have listed as being ideal for a particular key stage can be changed to suit a variety of ages, abilities and topics.

Please get in touch with us if you would like us to adapt a particular session to better suit your needs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our Ministry Team would be delighted to share with you what happens at special Christian events and help your pupils to understand their importance to Christians. The children can re-enact these in our church, including

- A typical Sunday Service
- Communion
- Baptism & Thanksgivings
- Confirmation
- Weddings



ART

We can offer a variety of sessions linking art to the RE curriculum. We can adapt these to suit the ages of the children and the topics that are relevant to you. These are some of the options that are available, but please do speak to us if you would like to try something different;

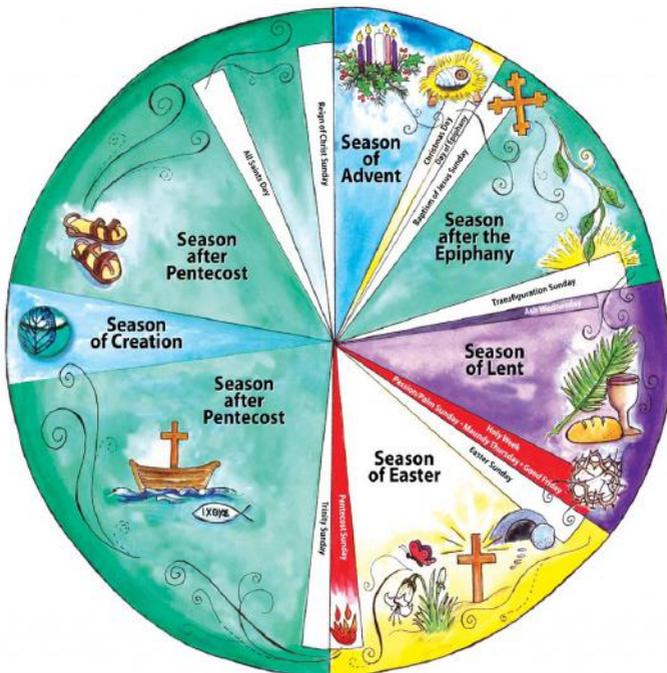
- Use our church and grave yard for sketching.
- Look at the different crosses, the shapes of the windows and doors – sketch small sections of the church building.
- Come inside and draw the columns, the roof beams and the different carved shapes on the pulpit.
- Focus on our stained glass windows. Think about why and how stained glass windows were made. Look at the large window and how it tells key stories from the Bible. Look at our small side chapel window and discover the Bible story behind it. Create a sketch of your own window inspired by what you have seen and then make one to take home.



We are very privileged to have a collection of large pieces of artwork hanging in our church centre that were painted by a professional artist Dee Rollinson, who is a member of our congregation. Meet with Dee and hear the inspiration behind these paintings and explore how art work can be an expression of worship and a reflection of God's creative nature.

SEASONAL TOPICS

We are very happy to run sessions for your pupils that link into the key events celebrated through the Church year. These can be adapted for all ages and will have a clear link to RE, in particular to the topic of Celebrations. Explore God as the Creator and Provider at Harvest time, Jesus as the Incarnation of God at Christmas, look at the key events of Easter – Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday as well as learning about the importance of the Trinity at Pentecost.



BIBLE STORY THEMES

We would love to share some of the many great stories of the Bible, either as stand alone sessions, or as part of a theme over a period of time.

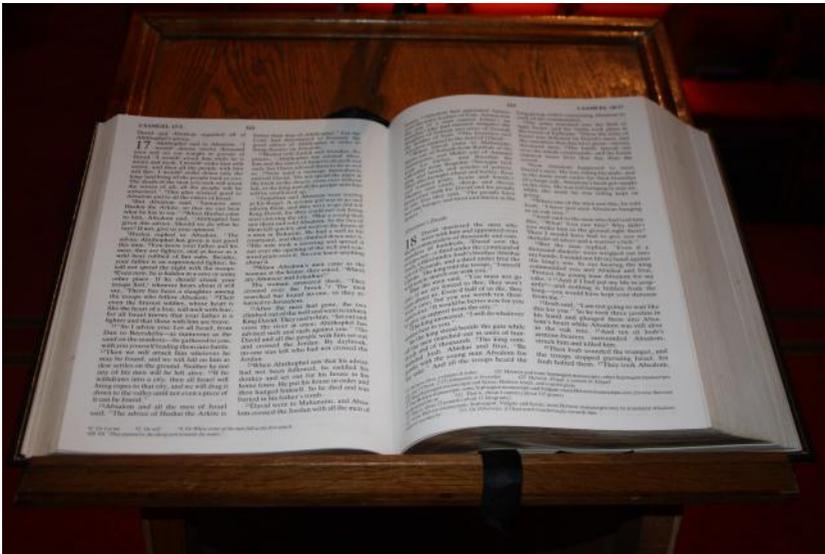
Some of the topics we can cover include

- Creation
- Old Testament characters
- The life of Jesus
- Children in the Bible
- The Parables
- The miracles of Jesus
- The “I am” sayings of Jesus
- The Trinity

BOOKING INFORMATION

COST

As a Bible believing church, we see that it is part of our service to God to share the good news of Christianity. As such, there are no charges for any educational activities at our church.



RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITY

When you visit us, your pupils will have the opportunity to explore the Christian faith for themselves. We will not tell anyone that they must believe in God, or make them take part in an activity in which they feel uncomfortable. However, please be aware that each session will be run by a practising Christian who will be teaching the truth about Christianity, as set out in the Bible. We do this out of a sense of love and acceptance for all people and warmly welcome pupils and staff who have no faith, or who follow other religions.



ACCESSIBILITY

We hope that our church building is fully accessible to those pupils who have additional needs. We would also welcome your guidance on how to adapt any of our sessions to ensure that pupils with different learning needs can benefit fully from their visit to us. Please contact us before you book to discuss any particular requirements that you may have.



VISITING YOUR OWN LOCAL PLACE OF WORSHIP

For schools outside of our Parish, we very much hope that your first contact when planning a visit to a place of worship will be with your own local church. However we recognise that not all churches are able to offer visits for children. We also know that children enjoy and benefit from experiencing visits to different denominations of churches, as well as seeing the variations within the churches that are Church of England.



HOW TO BOOK

For more information on anything in this booklet, to book a session in our church, or to arrange for us to visit your school, please contact Teresa Nixon, our Children's Outreach Worker.

teresa@stjohnshartford.org

01606 872255

www.stjohnshartford.org



WHO'S WHO AT ST JOHN'S



Rev Mike
Smith,
Vicar



Rev George
Agar,
Assistant
Minister



Rev Alec
Ham,
Curate



Rev Phil Highton,
Assistant Minister &
Chaplain at Hartford
Church of England
High School



Rev Michael Field,
Retired Minister &
Bible Explorer
Presenter



Nathan Phillingham,
Youth & Families'
Minister



Teresa Nixon,
Children's Outreach
Worker



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