

# Fresh Approach Collective Worship Planning

## Year 3 Term 5



### A prayer for this term.

(Based on the Order of the Mustard Seed daily prayer)

Father God, help me live this day to the full, following the example you set.

Jesus help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.

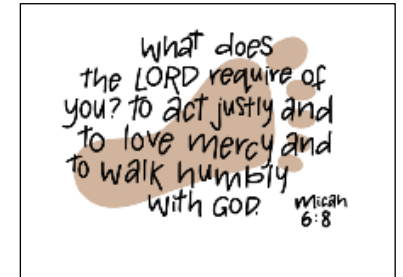
Spirit, help me to love the lost, be hospitable and stand up for truth and justice.

Amen

The Order of the Mustard Seed – Living a life following the example of Jesus	
<b>Week 1</b>	Resurrection appearances
<b>Week 2</b>	Order of the Mustard Seed – Taking the Gospel to the nations
<b>Week 3</b>	Express God's mercy and justice
<b>Week 4</b>	Practise hospitality
<b>Week 5</b>	Live prayerfully Pentecost
<b>Week 6</b>	Celebrate creativity



## ORDER OF THE MUSTARD SEED



## Collective Worship Plan – Year C Term 5

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**This term's collective worship plans are inspired by The Order of the Mustard Seed and the 'rules' they set themselves for life.**



### THE HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF THE MUSTARD SEED

<https://orderofthemustardseed.com/en/what-is-the-oms/>

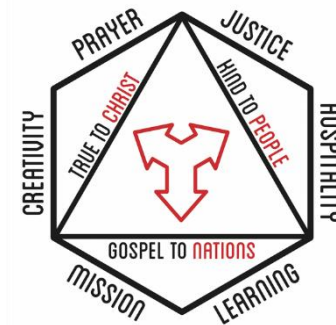
The original Order of the Mustard Seed was started in 1716 by a group of school friends at the Halle Academy in what is now Eastern Germany, led by a young nobleman called Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf. They saw their society as a kind of spiritual order of knighthood, dedicated not to personal honour or self-advancement but to radical service of Jesus Christ the King. The rules they committed to live by would change and mature as the Order grew, but the heart of their promise always remained the same:

- To be True to Christ
- To be Kind to People
- To take the Gospel to the Nations

Throughout this remarkable period, the Mustard Seed covenant was the guiding principle which urged them on in mission and service and led them back onto the right path when they got it wrong. Its members came to include people of influence like the King of Denmark and the Archbishop of Canterbury, 'outsiders' like the Chief of the Cree tribe of Native Americans, and ordinary people from many walks of life, all committed to doing extraordinary things in God's Kingdom. As far as we know, the original Order of the Mustard Seed did not continue much beyond the late 18th century.

**These 'rules' were then developed further by the 24/7 prayer movement in the past 20 years. It is these principles on which the collective worship plans for this term are based. I wonder what we can learn from these principles and how we could live them out in our own lives.**

1. What does it mean to be true to Christ?
  - We live prayerfully.
  - We celebrate creativity to His glory.
2. What does it mean to be kind to people?
  - We practise hospitality.
  - We express God's mercy and justice.
3. What does it mean to take the gospel to the nations?
  - We commit ourselves to lifelong learning that we might shape culture and make disciples by being disciplined.
  - We engage in mission and evangelism.

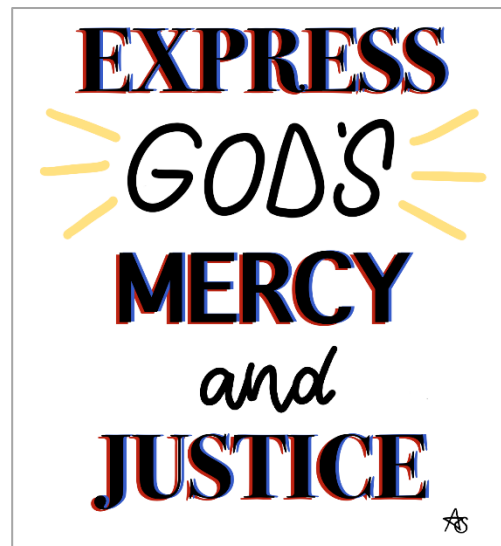


### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32 (NIV)

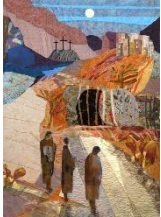


## Collective Worship Plan – Year C Term 5

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## Collective Worship Plan – Year C Term 5

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Liturgia I colour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday <i>Celebration worship</i>
<b>Week 1</b> <i>Resurrection stories</i>	<p><b>Welcome back!</b>  <b>Jesus appears to the disciples</b>  <b>John 20: 19-29</b>                      You might like to use this image to recap the Easter story.                      I wonder what you see/ notice. I wonder what parts of the story it makes them think about.</p>  <p>Share the episode when Jesus suddenly appeared to his disciples for the first time since he had died in John 20:19-23.                      When Jesus appeared to the disciples, the first thing he said to them was ‘Peace with be with you’. I wonder why he said that. How do you think the disciples suddenly felt when Jesus appeared in their locked room? When they realised it was Jesus, they were filled with joy! Jesus also showed them his hands and his side -why do you think he did this? Jesus then gave the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, so they could carry on doing his work on earth. This must have really encouraged the disciples.</p> <p>It must have been wonderful for the disciples to see and spend time with Jesus again – I hope you are feeling the same - joy at seeing your friends again after the holidays.</p> <p><i>Dear God, thank you for the rest and fun we had over the Easter holidays and for bringing us safely back to school. We ask that your peace will be with us all as we get back into the routine of school. Thank you for our teachers and all those who help us with our learning.</i>  <b>Amen</b></p>	<p><b>Jesus appears to seven disciples - Breakfast on the beach</b>  <b>John 21: 1-14</b></p>  <p>Share the time when Jesus appeared to his disciples at the beach by the Sea of Galilee. You might like to act it out as a class.</p> <p>I wonder what you notice about this episode.                      I wonder why you think the disciples might not have realised it was Jesus. What difference did the miracle catch of fish make to the disciples?</p> <p>Jesus knew what his friends, the disciples, needed. After Jesus died, the disciples, who were fishermen, had gone back to their boats instead of carrying on with sharing the Gospel message with others. Without Jesus leading them, they were feeling lost and confused. Jesus knew that they needed reminding of all God could do and who Jesus was. Jesus also knew they needed food to eat, friendship and support.                      I wonder what they chatted about around the charcoal fire that morning.</p> <p>Christians know that Jesus knows what they need, he offers them practical help, love and friendship just as he did to the disciples.</p> <p>I wonder if you need any help or support today.</p> <p><i>Dear God, thank you that you know all about us and what we need each day. I ask you for help with .....</i>  <b>Amen</b></p>	<p><b>Conclusion</b>  <b>John 21:25</b></p>  <p>Jesus appeared to his disciples a number of times after rising from the dead. These moments must have been incredibly special and encouraging for them. I imagine there must have been many conversations between them as the disciples tried to continuing learning from Jesus before he left them again.</p> <p>At the very end of the book of John there is one very interesting verse. Read it together.  <i>V25 says: Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.</i></p> <p>I wonder what you think this verse means.                      Have you ever wondered what other stories Jesus might have told, other people he might have healed, places he visited or conversations he had? There must have been hundreds more events in Jesus’ life for them to fill millions and millions of books! The disciples were fortunate enough to have journeyed with Jesus through all these times, they must have had some stories to tell.</p> <p>Think back over your life so far.                      I wonder how many stories you have to tell about all you have done. I wonder which one makes you feel the most grateful.                      Think about that time now and give thanks for it, for those who have journeyed with you through it.</p> <p><i>Dear God, thank you for the story of my life, thank you for those who journey with me and for their love and friendship. We think of the story of your life Jesus, for all the things we know and all that we don't, so thank you for those who wrote the Gospels to share your story with us.</i>  <b>Amen</b></p>	<p><b>The Great Commission</b>  <b>Matthew 28:16-18</b>                      The Bible explains that the disciples went to meet Jesus in Galilee. They worshipped him, but some still doubted. I wonder why they doubted that Jesus was alive.</p> <p>Then Jesus gave his disciples a mission to do on earth to carry, on the work Jesus had started. Share the mission with the children.</p> <p><i>Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptise these disciples and teach them to obey the commands I have given.</i></p> <p>I wonder how the disciples felt about being given this mission. I wonder what this mission means for Christians today and for us.</p> <p>Listen to this song together:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCEGDkdXOcM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCEGDkdXOcM</a></p> <p>‘We will go’ by Watoto Children’s Choir</p> <p>I wonder how you could be God’s hands and feet I wonder how you could shine your love out. What might this look like in reality?</p> <p>Reflect and think about this together.</p> <p><i>Dear God, help us to be your hands and feet in the world, ready to serve and help anyone who might need support. Give us eyes to see where compassion, kindness and friendship are needed. Help us to shine.</i>  <b>Amen</b></p>	<p><b>Celebrate and reflect</b>  <b>Proverbs 3: 3</b></p> <p><i>Don't ever forget kindness and truth. Wear them like a necklace. Write them on your heart as if on a tablet.</i></p> <p>I wonder what this verse from Proverbs means to you.                      Why are kindness and truth so important that you need to wear them like a necklace?                      How might this verse help us in school to be the hands and feet of Jesus?</p>



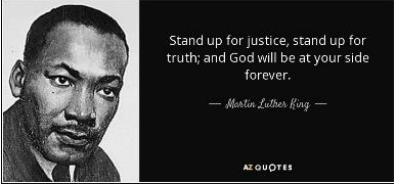

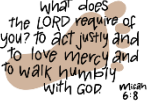

## Collective Worship Plan – Year C Term 5

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<p><b>Week 2</b> <i>Taking the Gospel to the nations</i></p>	<p><b>The parable of the mustard seed - Introducing The Order of the Mustard Seed.</b> <b>Matthew 13: 31-32</b> Read the parable or watch this video clip together, which tells the story of the parable of the mustard seed. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXHVINNNJsk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXHVINNNJsk</a> I wonder why Jesus told this parable.</p> <p>This term we are going to be exploring the vision that a special group of Christians created to live their lives by. This group called themselves the Order of the Mustard Seed. I wonder why you think they called themselves this. (Keep thinking about this through our worship)</p> <p>Explain to the children how the Order started. (See notes above) - just a small group of friends who, through their prayerful obedience (they prayed continuously for 100 days 24/7) and compassionate acts, began to spread God’s word and love around Europe and the world.</p> <p>They had three promises they lived by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be true to Christ</li> <li>• To be kind to people</li> <li>• To take the gospel to the nations</li> </ul> <p>I wonder what you think of these. Link back to the Great Commission passage from Friday. I wonder why they chose these promises to live by. So, why do you think they were called the Order of the Mustard Seed? (From small things, huge things grow!)</p> <p>Invite the school community to join together in the prayer based on the Order of the Mustard Seed daily prayer. (see page 1)</p>	<p><b>Taking the Gospel to the nations</b> <b>Luke 9: 1-6</b> This week we are going to look at the first of the promises the Order of the Mustard Seed - Take the Gospel to the nations. I wonder what this actually means. What does the word Gospel mean? (<i>Good news – link back to RE units the children might have worked through</i>)</p> <p>Read Luke 9: 1-6. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do? (cure people, drive out bad things, heal the sick and proclaim the kingdom of God)</p> <p>St Francis of Assisi said <i>“Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.”</i> I wonder what you think he meant by this. I wonder how someone could preach the gospel without words. Many Christians believe that people need to ‘see’ Jesus through the actions of people; being generous, providing help and support etc.</p> <p>The Koden school project was set up to enable the children in the village of Koden to have a chance of breaking free of extreme poverty, by giving them an excellent education. Further to this, the aim is for the children to receive good quality health care. <a href="http://www.kodenischool.org.uk">http://www.kodenischool.org.uk</a> Explore their work together. I wonder how this an example of taking the Gospel to the nations.</p> <p><i>Pray together for the work of this project, for the teachers and pupils in Koden school in Burkina Faso.</i></p>	<p><b>Taking the Gospel to the nations</b> <b>Mark 16:15</b> <i>“He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”.</i></p> <p>Jesus was clear when he said that he wanted the whole world to hear his Gospel message. There are Christians worshipping all around the world and sharing the Gospel with their communities following this mission from Jesus.</p> <p>The Salvation Army has churches in 131 countries around the world, working to transform the lives of all communities.</p> <p>The Salvation Army began working in Burkina Faso in 2018 and is growing every week. Watch this video of some of the work they are doing to bring the Gospel to the nations. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcvm_XPnSal">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcvm_XPnSal</a> Salvation Army – Stirring things up!</p> <p>I wonder what difference these projects have on the lives of those involved and their families. How is taking the Gospel (good news) to the nations?</p> <p>William Booth, who started the Salvation Army in 1878 said <i>“You cannot warm the heart of people with God’s love if they have an empty stomach and cold feet.”</i> I wonder what you think about this quote. Do you agree? Reflect: I wonder what I might do to share good news with others like William Booth suggested.</p> <p><i>Pray together for the work of the Salvation Army in Burkina Faso.</i></p>	<p><b>Taking the Gospel to the nations</b> <b>Be the Change</b> <b>Matthew 25: 35-40</b> Reflect on the last two acts of worship – when Jesus said, “Take the Gospel to the nations” and how the Order of the Mustard Seed made this one of their promises. I wonder what you think they actually meant. To shout out the gospel message or show it? Can you think of a time in the Bible when Jesus lived his gospel message? (<i>healing the sick, feeding the 5000, calming the storm, sitting with his friends, blessed children</i>) Share these sections of the Bible together. <i>V35: ‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink’.</i> <i>V37: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’</i> <i>V40: The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’</i></p> <p>I wonder why you think Jesus commanded his followers to provide food and water for those who need it. How is this sharing the Gospel (good news)? Watch this clip together. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jrIBWjYuxw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jrIBWjYuxw</a> (Watch till 3.24) How does this project change the lives of pupils at the school in South Africa?</p> <p>Reflect: I wonder what you could do to share the good news in a practical way to others. <i>Pray together for this water project and the many other projects around the world trying to provide clean water to communities.</i></p>	<p><b>Celebrate and Reflect</b></p> <p>I wonder who in school this week has been serving and caring for others an example of sharing the gospel message.</p> <p>Sing together: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCEGDkdXOCM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCEGDkdXOCM</a> ‘We will go’ by Watoto Children’s Choir</p>
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<p><b>Week 3</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Express the mercy and justice of God</p>	<p><b>Express God’s mercy and justice</b>  <b>Isaiah 1:17</b>                  This week we are exploring another of the Order of the Mustard Seed’s promises - Express God’s mercy and justice.                  Dictionary definition:  <i>Justice: fairness in the way people are dealt with.</i>  <i>Mercy: kindness that makes you forgive someone, usually someone that you have authority over</i></p> <p>Ponder and reflect on these words. I wonder why the Order of the Mustard Seed might want to show God’s mercy and justice to the world (treating people fairly and showing mercy through kindness and forgiveness). What might this look like in real life?</p> <p>Isaiah 1:17 (The Message version)  <i>Say no to wrong.</i>  <i>Learn to do good.</i>  <i>Work for justice.</i>  <i>Help the down-and-out.</i>  <i>Stand up for the homeless.</i>  <i>Go to bat for the defenceless.</i></p> <p>I wonder how Christians today follow this teaching. I wonder how we can stand for mercy and justice and be a voice for the voiceless.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>God is passionate about justice and the care of all his people.</p> <p><i>Pray for places in our world that need justice and peace. Bring them to God together.</i></p>	<p><b>Express God’s mercy and justice -</b>  <b>Stand up for the homeless</b>  <b>Matthew 13: 31-32</b></p>  <p>I wonder how it makes you feel when you see homeless people on the streets. There are many people and organisations working to support all those who do not have a home of their home.</p> <p>Watch this BBC news clip together – it tells the story of how a 10 year old boy called Malachi donated £5 to the Salvation Army to buy houses for those who didn’t have anywhere to live.  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-london-51679060/boy-s-tooth-fairy-money-helps-house-ilford-s-homeless">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-london-51679060/boy-s-tooth-fairy-money-helps-house-ilford-s-homeless</a>                  More information about the project:  <a href="https://popuphostel-ilfordsalvationarmy.nationbuilder.com/about">https://popuphostel-ilfordsalvationarmy.nationbuilder.com/about</a></p> <p>Malachi chose to stand up for those who are homeless, to fight for justice for them. £5 might not seem much, but it was multiplied and inspired a whole project. Link back to the parable of the mustard seed. A tiny seed that grows into something huge, so large that even birds can nest in its branches.</p> <p>I wonder what small seed you could sow. I wonder what you could stand up for.</p> <p><i>Sit and reflect and think of all those who do not have a home or somewhere warm to sleep. Ask God to take care of them. Thank God for all those who work to improve the lives of those who are homeless.</i></p>	<p><b>Express God’s mercy and justice -</b>  <b>Go to ‘bat’ for the defenceless</b>  <b>Matthew 9: 35-36</b></p> <p>Information about Mercy Ships  <a href="https://www.mercyships.org.uk/who-we-are/vision/">https://www.mercyships.org.uk/who-we-are/vision/</a></p> <p>Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need. This video clip shows and explains what they do.  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=192&amp;v=czdyWKFfHXo&amp;feature=emb_logo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=192&amp;v=czdyWKFfHXo&amp;feature=emb_logo</a></p> <p>I wonder what you think of their work. I wonder why they are called Mercy ships. They are bringing God’s compassion and kindness to those who couldn’t afford to pay for help. I wonder what difference these ships make to the lives of those they serve I wonder how these ships and all those who work on them are expressing God’s mercy and justice. I wonder how they are living out the teachings of Jesus.</p> <p>This clip shows the difference the medical team made to Ravette.  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rPaEPtAx4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rPaEPtAx4</a></p> <p>Read Matthew 9: 35- 36 together.                  I wonder how the doctors and nurses on the ship are following the example of Jesus in this passage. I wonder why the nurses and doctors feel so passionately about volunteering and serving on these ships. I wonder what you might like to do as a response to what you have seen today.</p> <p><i>Pray together for the work of the Mercy Ships, thank God for all they have and continue to do. Pray to for the NHS and how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful health care system.</i></p>	<p><b>Express God’s mercy and justice -</b>  <b>Work for justice</b>  <b>Micah 6:8</b></p>  <p>Share this verse together. I wonder what it is challenging Christians to do. The aims of Christian Aid are:  <i>We stand together. For dignity. For equality. For justice.</i>                  How are these aims a reflection of this verse?  <a href="https://www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/about-us/our-aims/introducing-our-global-strategy">https://www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/about-us/our-aims/introducing-our-global-strategy</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/xa4jC5AeAZo">https://youtu.be/xa4jC5AeAZo</a>                  explains the work of Christian Aid.  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Srx7RQm6cw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Srx7RQm6cw</a></p> <p>This clip shows the story of Florence. There are subtitles, so it might be difficult for younger children to access.</p> <p>I wonder why Christian Aid is so passionate for standing up for justice for all. I wonder what difference you think they might be making.</p> <p>We all have a part to play in working for justice, we have to stand together.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>I wonder what small difference you could make to work for justice and mercy.</p> <p><i>Pray together for work of Christian Aid. Pray for all those who are working to bring justice, mercy and peace to all.</i></p>	<p><b>Celebrate and Reflect</b></p> <p>I wonder if anyone has ‘been a change’ in the school, their community or the world this week.</p> <p>A prayer for Christian Aid week.</p> <p>Great God,                  Who makes the sun to rise, and opens the heavens                  Hear the cry of the people who sow in hope for rain, but reap only despair                  Hear the cry of the people seeking shelter from the storm, their hopes and homes submerged                  Hear the cry of the people, when creation is hitting back, with rage and resistance                  Give us hope, grant us salvation,                  Give us a new relationship with creation                  with reverence to tend this gift from You and say once again of the earth and all you created                  It is GOOD.</p> <p><b>Amen</b></p>
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## Collective Worship Plan – Year C Term 5

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<p><b>Week 4</b> Practise hospitality</p>	<p><b>Bank Holiday</b></p>	<p><b>Practise hospitality</b> <b>Genesis 18: 1-8</b> This week we are going to be looking at what it means to practise hospitality. Hospitality: the friendly, generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors or strangers</p> <p>In the Old Testament, Abraham and Sarah were visited by some strangers. Read the passage together. I wonder how they showed hospitality to them. Genesis 18: 1b- 8 ‘One day about noon..’ Discuss together the many things they did to be hospitable. I wonder how we can learn from the example of Abraham and Sarah.</p> <p>I wonder what hospitality looks like in reality. I wonder what it means to be generous. I wonder what it might look like here in school, at home, out in the street. I wonder if you think there is a difference between being hospitable and practising hospitality. Is one easier than the other?</p> <p>This week, we are going to be exploring a couple of stories about people who practised hospitality during WW2. I wonder how hospitable you are and how you might be more hospitable.</p> <p><i>Bishop Rose, the Bishop of Dover, prayed this prayer at Prince Harry and Megan’s wedding. Invite those who wish to do so, pray these words together for their home and family.</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>Practise hospitality</b> <b>Being hospitable to all – even strangers</b> <b>Hebrews 13:2</b> <i>‘Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers.’</i></p> <p>Between 1939 and 1945, thousands of prisoners of war were brought to Yorkshire's shores, cities and villages. Thanks to the friendship, love and hospitality some found there, many never returned home. These are the forgotten stories of some of the "enemies" who found friends in ordinary Yorkshire folk. <a href="https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/interactive/yorkshire-prisoner-of-war-camps#main-page-section-5">https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/interactive/yorkshire-prisoner-of-war-camps#main-page-section-5</a> The stories within this article tell of how the people of Yorkshire opened up their homes to complete strangers, who were supposed to be their enemies. They shared their Christmas dinners with them and befriended them, often sitting side by side in Church.</p> <p>I wonder why you think those living in Yorkshire did this. I wonder what difference you think it made to both groups of people.</p> <p>The writer of the book of Hebrews made it clear that followers of Jesus should be practising hospitality. Hebrews 13:3 says <i>‘don’t forget about those in prison.’</i> I wonder how the people of Yorkshire were living out these teachings during WW2. No one asked them to care for the prisoners of war, so I wonder why they did.</p> <p><i>I wonder how we might show hospitality to strangers as a school family. Could it be through kind acts, words or even a smile? Reflect together on this.</i></p>	<p><b>Practise hospitality</b> <b>Being hospitable to all – even strangers</b> 1 Peter 4:9 <i>‘Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.’</i></p> <p>Share the story of Mrs Vincken from WW2 (below). Share with the children how and why this story was amazing and how Mrs Vincken was incredibly brave. I wonder how Mrs Vincken practised hospitality and how she was living out this biblical teaching?.What impact did this act of hospitality have on the soldiers and Mrs Vincken?</p> <p>I wonder what you think it means to ‘Pay it forward’. <i>(Pay it forward is an expression for describing the beneficiary of a good deed repaying the kindness to others instead of to the original benefactor).</i> I wonder how this image might help us to understand the term pay it forward. Perhaps you could act out scenarios – I do something kind to someone, then that person does something kind to someone else and the kindness is passed on.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>I wonder if the soldiers Mrs Vincken helped paid it forward. I wonder if someone had been kind to Mrs Vincken and she was just passing that kindness on. How could you spread kindness today/tomorrow next week. <i>Thank God for all those people in WW2 who showed kindness and practised hospitality to complete strangers.</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H98Rfjxmsc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H98Rfjxmsc</a> Kindness song – you might like to sing or listen to this song.</p>	<p><b>Celebrate</b> Acts of kindness and examples of hospitality in school this week – both pupils and adults.</p> <p><i>Dear God, help us to be your hands and feet in the world, ready to serve and help anyone who might need support. Give us eyes to see where compassion, kindness and friendship are needed. Help us to pay it forward whenever we see the opportunity to do so.</i> <b>Amen</b></p>
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### Living prayerfully

During Week 5, we are going to be exploring what it means to live prayerfully. Prayer is a life-giving component in the walk of a Christians and those of many other faiths, as it allows them to speak to, listen to and converse with their God. Two-way communication is essential for any relationship to flourish, which explains why prayer conversations are happening at every moment of every day.

For some, prayer may be a new experience, a familiar conversation or something not believed in and this is recognised.

In our Church of England schools, we ensure that our worship and prayer activities are inclusive and invitational, ensuring that no child or adult is made to feel they must take part in the prayer activity.



### Pentecost

In the church's year, we are now leading up to the Christian festival of Pentecost, where Christians remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers. The Holy Spirit is the gift that Jesus promised would come to help, support, guide and encourage his disciples.


Before Pentecost Sunday, some Christians mark the 9 days of waiting from Ascension (the day Christians remember when Jesus ascended to heaven) to Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit). These 9 days are called Novena and are days of prayerful waiting and expectance of the coming Holy Spirit.

Teacher subject knowledge: This Bible Project video explains the opening chapter of Acts and the story of Pentecost <https://youtu.be/JQhWmFJKnA>








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<p><b>Week 5</b> <i>Live prayerfully and Pentecost</i></p>	<p><b>Live prayerfully - What is prayer?</b> <b>Connecting with our senses.</b> <b>Thankfulness and praise</b> <b>Psalm 9:1</b></p> <p>For people of faith, prayer is an opportunity to communicate with God as part of a two-way relationship. This Bible verse reminds them: <b>Jeremiah 29: 12</b> <i>Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTW5zrYapCM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTW5zrYapCM</a></p> <p>Watch this video together - what things do these young people pray for? I wonder if prayer is important to them.</p> <p>There are many different ways to pray. We are going to be exploring some different prayer practices that will help us to understand and explore prayer.</p> <p>If possible, take the children outside to sit quietly for a short period of time. What did they notice - see, hear, touch? What did they notice about others? Allow them to turn and speak to someone about what they noticed in this time or another moment that day.</p> <p>For Christians, prayer is about noticing things and then responding to this. This can call them to thank God, praise God, ask for help or bring people before God so that they can be comforted or supported. I wonder how you felt about the things you noticed today.</p> <p>Invite the children to share a thankful prayer: e.g this morning I saw some beautiful flowers in my neighbour's garden, so, I want to thank God for creation and the joy that flowers bring. Ask the children in pairs to do the same. I wonder what things they noticed this morning that they are thankful for or want to offer praise for. Thank you, God, for ... Close this time of prayer with a huge AMEN for those who want to join in with this.</p> <p>I wonder if you will take more time to notice things you see when you are out and about now.</p>	<p><b>Live prayerfully</b> <b>Connecting with myself</b> <b>Being honest with God</b> <b>Psalm 139:1-6</b></p> <p>Yesterday we looked at praying with our senses and how this can make us thankful for what we have noticed or heard. Today we are going to think about our own feelings and thoughts.</p> <p>As humans, we are constantly thinking and reflecting on what we have said or thought, or what we might say or think. This can often lead us to say sorry or consider our future actions.</p> <p>Christians use Psalm 139 to remind them that God knows all about them. Read v 1-6 and ask wondering questions about what is written.</p> <p>Christians know that, because God knows all about them as a loving Father, he wants them to be honest with him - to tell them how they are feeling, for things they are sorry for, for situations that have upset or worried them.</p> <p>Invite the children to reflect on how they are feeling this week - what things have made them sad or worried, what things have made them happy or joyful, what things do they need to say sorry for, what do they want to say thank you for.</p> <p>You could put on some quiet music as you invite the children to join in with this prayer: (allow them to respond silently in the quiet)</p> <p><i>Dear God, Thank you that you care enough about me, that you know all about me. This week I am feeling .... (pause) These are some things that are making me sad and worried ... (pause) I need to say sorry for ... (pause) These things have made me really happy and joyful this week ... (pause) In the quiet I want you to know this ... (pause) Thank you, God, for bending down to listen to my thoughts and prayers today. Amen</i></p>	<p><b>Live prayerfully</b> <b>Connecting with others</b> <b>Intercessory prayers</b> <b>1 Timothy 2:1-2</b></p> <p>Share these verses with the children: 1 Timothy 2: 1-2 <i>The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well.</i></p> <p>This verse comes from the beginning of a letter from Paul to his apprentice Timothy to encourage and remind him of how God wanted him to act. I wonder why Paul wrote this verse first. What does it tell you about how Paul and God feel about prayer?</p> <p>Christians know that God wants them to pray for others, to bring the needs of the world before him. Paul says: 'Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know'.</p> <p>Who do you know who needs prayer today? People? Places? Discuss these together.</p> <p><b>Invite</b> the children to explore some different ways of praying. If possible, have a selection of contrasting activities prepared. You might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place post it notes or pin prayers for different countries/places on a world map.</li> <li>Sit quietly and reflect on all those who need healing or help at the moment.</li> <li>Write prayers or people's names on chalk boards, whiteboards or in a sand tray.</li> <li>Write or draw your own prayers for others.</li> <li>Create paper chains, with prayers written inside them for those who need help or are lost.</li> <li>Using outlines of people, decorate them and put a person/family/community name on it.</li> <li>Go for a walk outside and allow time to just reflect and speak.</li> <li>Sing a song from your acts of worship that helps you think about others.</li> </ul> <p>Allow space and time for everyone to engage with prayer in different ways.</p> <p>There are lots more ideas here: <a href="https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/">https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Pentecost</b> <b>Acts 2: 1-13</b></p>  <p>Read, act out or watch this video clip describing the events of the Pentecost, when the gift of the Holy Spirit arrived. <a href="https://youtu.be/xtokHQOmFu0">https://youtu.be/xtokHQOmFu0</a></p> <p>Use the image and the story to discuss what it must have been like when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples. It probably was an amazing scene – I wonder what you think. I wonder what difference the Holy Spirit made to the disciples and those visiting Jerusalem.</p> <p>Before Jesus went back to heaven, he promised his disciples a gift - the Holy Spirit - that would bring them power from heaven. (Luke 24: 49). When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they went from being frightened, confused, and lost, to people filled with God's courage, strength, and words. The Holy Spirit enabled them to continue to share God's message with others in a powerful and life-changing way.</p> <p><i>Dear God, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the difference it made to the disciples and all those in Jerusalem. Thank you that the Holy Spirit can be a gift for everyone. Help us to be people who are courageous and generous like the disciples. Amen</i></p>	<p><b>Celebrate Pentecost</b> <b>Acts 2: 46-47</b></p> <p>For Christians, Pentecost is a time to celebrate joyfully. Some will have parties and feasts together.</p> <p><i>'They shared their meals with great joy and generosity – all the while praising God.'</i></p> <p>How could you gather as a school family to celebrate?</p> <p>Sing some of your favourite songs from worship, share some good news stories and celebrate all you have achieved as a school as well as everything you are grateful for.</p>
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<p><b>Week 6</b> Celebrate creativity</p>	<p><b>Celebrate creativity to His glory</b> <b>Celebrating God through nature</b> <b>Isaiah 55:12</b></p> <p>This week in worship we are going to explore how Christians use creativity and art as their worship to God.</p> <p>Share the Bible verse with the children: <i>Isaiah 55:12</i></p> <p>I wonder what you think this verse means. I wonder if it might mean that, because God made the world, the whole of creation seeks to praise God.</p> <p>How might trees clap their hands or mountains burst into song? Show the children some images of majestic mountains and towering trees – how might nature be praising God?</p>  <p>Look at the two paintings and the commentary by the artists (see below) – how have these artists used their creativity to praise God. I wonder how you might offer praise and thanks for creation/the world/nature.</p> <p><b>A prayer for climate change</b> <i>Dear God, Weave a thread of love and courage among those who stand for creation. May they know the sound of your voice in all they do. May your love echo across the streets so that the sap of change can seep into the corridors of power to bring the dawning of a new day where the world is sanctified, renewed, and replenished. Amen</i></p> <p>Elle Limebear is a Christian music songwriter and singer. Listen to her song Maker of the Moon together – I wonder what you think inspired her to write this song. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7ZkBE8c4UM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7ZkBE8c4UM</a> Maker of the Moon</p>	<p><b>Celebrate creativity to His glory</b> <b>Celebrating God through art</b> <b>Genesis 1:1</b></p> <p>Share this poem with the children: <i>Take that love by Caroline Hope</i> <i>Take that love</i> <i>and turn it</i> <i>turn it into poetry</i> <i>turn it into colour, canvas and paint.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Take that love</i> <i>transform it</i> <i>transform it into landscape and light</i> <i>transform it into ten thousand halleluiahs</i></p> <p>How does Caroline Hope express her worship to God? Christians know that God is a creator God – they only need to look at the beauty of the world to see that. (Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God <b>created</b> the heavens and the earth).</p> <p>Many Christians follow this example and create beautiful things for others to enjoy and create them as their worship to God.</p> <p>Cheerfully Given was started to support Christian artists, designers as they pursue their creative calling, and as a resource for the wider church to buy design-led Christian gifts, stationery and homeware that reflect the life found in Jesus <a href="http://www.cheerfullygiven.com">www.cheerfullygiven.com</a></p> <p>Explore some of the crafts that these artists have created. I wonder how these crafts show how they feel about God.</p>  <p><a href="http://www.alimoo.com">Alimoo Designs</a>   <a href="http://www.cheerfullygiven.com">Cheerfully Given</a></p> <p>If possible, give the children some space to be creative - how could they offer praise and thankfulness through the arts?</p> <p><i>Dear God,</i> <i>Thank you for all you have created that inspires so many people to be creative.</i> <i>Help us to see the beauty in the ordinary and may this encourage us to be creative and thankful.</i> <i>Thank you that you created each of us to be creative in different ways. Amen</i></p>	<p><b>Celebrate creativity to His glory</b> <b>Celebrating God through craftsmanship</b> <b>Exodus 31: 3-5</b></p> <p><i>... and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.</i></p> <p><b>Exodus 35: 35</b> ... engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.</p> <p>These verses come from the Old Testament when God was giving Moses instructions about how to build the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was the place where the Israelites would go to offer their worship to God, and it was a visual representation of the presence of God amongst them. God was very clear about how it should be built and there are 14 chapters in Exodus that set out God’s plans for the structure and format of the Tabernacle. God wanted a place that was beautiful and well-constructed, so he filled people with the gifts to build the Tabernacle. I wonder if God values creativity and people who are creative.</p>  <p>Each of the people listed above had a different job and skill. I wonder what your skill might be. Each of our different skills makes our world so creative and vibrant – it is wonderful!</p> <p>In Bethlehem there are many people who carve wooden figures and scenes out of olive wood. These are beautiful pieces that they sell to tourists to remind them of Jesus and their time in Bethlehem. I wonder how these wood carvers be using their skills to worship and also as worship to God.</p> 	<p><b>Celebrate each other – what are your gifts/ talents?</b> <b>Genesis 1:27</b> <i>God created mankind in his own image.</i></p> <p><b>Ephesians 2:10</b> <i>For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.</i></p> <p>Share these Bible texts with the children. I wonder what these verses make you think about.</p> <p>Watch this song together: I am amazing by Philippa Hanna. <a href="https://youtu.be/fvNKj0fbMiU">https://youtu.be/fvNKj0fbMiU</a></p> <p>After watching it, invite the children to think about how they are amazing.</p> <p>I wonder what you would write on your chalk board.</p>  <p>You might like to give each child an outline of a chalk board so they can write their: I am amazing because ...</p> <p>You might like to play the track again as the children take part in this reflective activity. Invite the children to share what they have written.</p> <p><i>Dear God,</i> <i>Thank you that we are all amazing and have different skills and talents. Help us to recognise and celebrate these in ourselves and each other. Amen</i></p>	<p><b>Reflect and celebrate</b></p> <p><i>“Art has a unique capacity to take one or other facet of the message and translate it into colours, shapes and sounds which nourish the intuition of those who look and listen.”</i> <i>-Pope John Paul II, Letter to Artist</i></p> <p>How important is art in our society?</p> <p>I wonder how we can encourage each other to be creative.</p>
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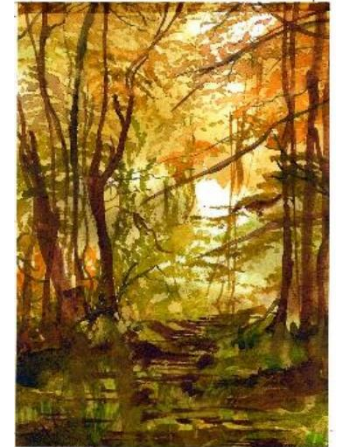
### **Week 6 – Day 1 Creativity**

Find out more here: *Let everything you create be for God's glory and the world's good.* <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/creativity-matters-christ/>

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/arts/visual-arts/>

#### **Ingrid Riches**

"I have always painted and been active in environmental and animal rights issues – as a young woman in the 70's chaining myself to railings outside a 'Happy Egg' restaurant against the cruelty of caged hens. Now I use my Art to raise awareness from the ice caps melting, to Rainforest destruction. I prayed to God to bring my art & passion together and Green Christian was my answer, I have become part of a family of love and hope and caring. Thank you, Lord."



#### **Lizzie May**

'I had a deep experience during prayer when God put His Earth on my heart and have found him speaking into my artwork. Here is the first (this is 3D made from recycled painted/handprinted artwork leftovers) in my series 'Eden' which is my hope and belief that we must try, and it is possible to slow and stop the damage we humans have and are making to the Earth, flora, fauna around us.'



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### **Week 3 – Day 4 Hospitality of Mrs Vincken in WW2**

One Christmas Eve during the Battle of the Bulge, a young boy and his mother were alone in their forested cabin, safe from the icy cold and, they thought, from the enemy soldiers hiding in the countryside.

Mrs Vincken and her son, Fritz, heard someone at the door. She opened it to find a group of US soldiers. One had been wounded. She brushed aside her fears of execution for helping the enemy and let the soldiers in her house. She did not speak English, and they spoke no German, but the two parties were able to converse in French. Not long after the soldiers had settled in, there was a loud and sharp knocking at the door. Mrs. Vincken was frightened that it could be German soldiers, so she opened the door carefully. She had been right. There was a very high likelihood that if the German soldiers had no mercy, that she would be shot for harbouring the Americans, even if it had been only for those few moments.

The brave woman stepped outside and told the German soldiers that she would serve them a hot dinner but that it was Christmas Eve, and she had guests. She asked the Germans to leave their guns in her shed because, even though they might not like her visitors, Christmas Eve was a night of peace.

She then took the guns of the Americans and hid them away as well.

The German soldiers, having honoured her request, stepped inside. The atmosphere was awkward at first, until one of the German soldiers, a medic, began work on dressing the wounds of one of the Americans.

Fritz Vincken recounted the incident in an interview with WWII History Network: “Then we added more ingredients to our stew and invited these enemies to sit down together for dinner. One of the German soldiers, an ex-medical student, fixed the wounded American and then Mother read from the Bible and declared that there would be at least one night of peace in this war — Christmas night in the Ardennes Forest. After a good night’s rest, they said their goodbyes and went on their way. The German soldiers told the Americans which way their camp was and gave them a compass to find their way.”

Fritz credits his mother’s personality and generosity when asked why the German soldiers did not turn her in. “I think it was my mom’s personality and her persuasiveness to have them rest for one peaceful night. There was a place to stay, hot food, and shelter from the cold and they appreciated that.”

Mrs Vincken never saw any of those soldiers again, but Fritz has been reunited with two of the Americans. He now lives in Hawaii.

“Many years have gone since that bloodiest of all wars, but the memories of that night in the Ardennes never left me. The inner strength of a single woman who, by her wits and intuition, prevented potential bloodshed, taught me the practical meaning of the words: ‘Goodwill Toward Mankind’ . . . I remember mother and those seven young soldiers, who met as enemies and parted as friends, right in the middle of the battle of the Bulge.”

Taken from <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/world-war-ii/wwii-3-stories-of-humanity-and-compassion-m.html>