

DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

TERM 1 /YEAR 1/HARVEST - CELEBRATING HARVEST

The theme is that of God as the faithful gardener – ideas courtesy of ‘Barnabas in Churches’. Alternatively, you may have your own ways to celebrate harvest with special celebrations and local links to your community.

SEAL link – Good to be Me

Values link – Creation and Stewardship, Thankfulness

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Come on everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise! <i>(This sets a tone of thankfulness for Harvest. Encourage clapping followed by a song of praise)</i></p> <p>Shout praises to the Lord everyone on the earth Let us be joyful and sing as we come to worship the Lord</p>	<p>APPLES TO CHOOSE (whole school) Genesis 3 v 1-6 There are ideas about three special gardens over the course of this week to help thinking about God as the faithful gardener. Between them, these gardens hold the clues about how our lives can produce the fruit and the harvest that God is looking for. All these three gardens are in the Bible and God is the faithful gardener. Remind pupils that you will build up a ‘big picture’ over the week. Apples – the fruit of the first garden. I wonder what’s your favorite variety of apple? There are so many to choose from nowadays – many from around the world. Some look tasty. Some look rather waxy! Some look as if they may be sweet but turn out rather sharp. Here are some apples to choose from the fruit garden. Invite some children and adults to taste a few of the apples and give their opinions. The Apple Garden is there right at the beginning of the Bible story. It is the garden of choice...The Garden of Eden. God in love allowed us to choose whether to love him and know him or not, and people chose not to. God never wanted to force love on his creation and so it meant that people chose what was bad for them and for the world. Christians take the mess of the world with its failed harvests and unfair trade seriously and own up to the truth about who causes the ‘mess’ in the world (people not God). Take time to reflect on how God the gardener for the garden of apples reminds us on we should try and make the world into a better place.</p>	<p>Use the gifts that pupils bring to school (if that is your practice) to give thanks for all God’s gifts to us</p> <p>Make sure there is a special thank you for the fruit and vegetable snacks in school during Harvest week. Pupil worship leaders might produce a book of options for the school or a prayer cube for other pupils to use.</p> <p>Father God, whose idea it was that seeds should grow and produce crops and fruits, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your goodness and care, and for giving us enough to eat in the harvest of the land. Lord God, please also give us wisdom and good sense to use this harvest well, to honor you to meet our needs and to help those who are not so well off.</p>	<p><u>Echo prayer</u> Rejoice in the Lord always Rejoice in the Lord always And again I say rejoice And again I say rejoice <i>(Repeat two or three times)</i> Or Sing the song ‘Rejoice in the always’ as you leave</p> <p>Leader: God has given us a good harvest. <i>Invite everyone to cheer and clap.</i> Everyone: God has blessed us. Leader: And may God go on</p>
	<p>OLIVES TO CRUSH (whole school) Luke 22 v 39-43 The second garden is very different. This garden produces olives. Show the bowl of olives. Who likes olives? Invite some children and adults to come and taste them and give their opinions. You may get a mixed response to this! These olives grow in gardens too and can be eaten. But they can also be crushed to make olive oil, which has many uses. So here are some olives to crush from this fruit garden. God is faithful and does not leave us in the ‘mess’ that we heard about yesterday. Here is the olive garden next. It is a real garden in place and</p>		



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<p>Use images of An orchard An olive grove, and/or the Mount of Olives A vineyard (according to the theme for the day)</p> <p>Show pictures of Apples Olives Grapes with some questions for pupils to think about</p>	<p>time and one where once God, in the form of Jesus, knelt to pray. It's called the Garden of Gethsemane – an olive garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives. Here Jesus chose to be crushed like the olives in that garden; crushed on the cross in our place for all the mess which people caused. Jesus took on himself all the bad that people had brought into the world so they can have the opportunity of a new start, a clean sheet, a fresh beginning. Take time to thank God the gardener for the garden of olives which reminds us of what Jesus did on the Cross.</p> <p>GRAPES TO CURE (whole school) Galatians 5 v 22-23 The third garden is very different again. This garden produces grapes. It is a grape garden or vineyard, as it is more usually known. I wonder who likes grapes? Most people do and they are good for our health. They look good. They can be very sweet and tasty, which is why we sometimes take grapes to people in hospital. Grapes help us get better. Here are grapes to cure. Invite some children and adults to taste the grapes. This leads us on to the last garden, the grape garden. This is the garden Jesus used to describe how we can be different. In this garden Jesus says he is the main trunk of the tree and if we choose to belong to him, we can start producing the good fruit of the Spirit which we can see in Jesus: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control and faithfulness. Jesus described this garden to his disciples on the night before he died (see John 15). As we get linked up to Jesus and this grape garden – this vineyard – this is the way we can be different and produce a harvest of good things that can make us and the world the sort of place God intended it to be all along. Take time to thank God the gardener for the garden of grapes which helps us to think about the sort of person we can be.</p> <p>GOD THE GARDENER WANT US TO THRIVE (class or key stage) Luke 13:6-9 Here is a story of a gardener coming to look for fruit (figs) on his fruit tree This gardener comes looking for fruit but there was none. Nevertheless the gardener gives the tree another chance. He is a hopeful gardener, doing his very best to make the tree produce fruit. I wonder what you think this story from Jesus is about? Ask for some ideas. Remember to hear and receive all ideas positively. Jesus' stories are usually about God and God's relationship to his people in some way. Perhaps God is coming to see whether our lives have produced a good harvest but is God disappointed? This gardener God, in love, offers another chance. Before the Ground Force team is called in to dig us over, God waits a bit longer for the fruit to come! What is the harvest of your life?</p>	<p>In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen</p> <p>Use a large blow-up globe to design a prayer area – pupil worship leaders might do this: a. A World of Amazing Harvests - giving thanks for different sorts of foods and vegetables that come from around the world. Some of these fruits and vegetables may be on display already b. A World of Terrible Hurts and Hunger – praying for some of the bad 'harvests' of the world in terms of war, famine and distress c. A World of Hope – reflecting on some of the good things that are happening around God's world, as the harvest of his love through people's lives is made real</p>	<p>blessing us! Everyone: And let the whole world say THANK YOU.</p> <p>God the faithful gardener Thank you for the many ways in which you bless us, Help us never to take your blessings for granted, Give us the courage to use what we have to help others. AMEN</p>
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