

DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

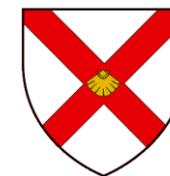
TERM 3/YEAR 1 /WEEK 4 - REFLECTING ON THE LIGHT OF HOPE

Hope is sometimes portrayed as a candle held up against the darkness. Such symbolism and imagery is often linked with ideas of hope even in difficult circumstances. Prisoners have said that darkness breaks the spirit but as long as there is just a little light, then they can continue to hope.

SEAL link – Going for Goals (hoping)

Values link - Hope

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Jesus Christ is the light of the world; Jesus is our Way. With Jesus even dark places are light; Jesus is the Truth. In Jesus we shall live for ever; Jesus is our Life.</p> <p>(from New Patterns for Worship)</p>	<p>UNDERSTANDING HOPE (whole school) Psalm 130 v 5-6 Build a city wall and watchtower– a line of chairs for the wall and a simple square of chairs for the tower. Have a pupil or staff member stand inside the square, holding a sword, for children to look at as they come into the hall or classroom. Help pupils to imagine that this is the city wall with its watchtower. It’s a dangerous place on the outside of the city wall. There are enemies all around who want to attack the city and capture it (eg like scenes in <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>). It is also night time. King David had watchmen on the city walls of Jerusalem to protect it from enemies. Perhaps he sometimes waited with them and he had to remind himself that the sun would come up in the end, even when it felt as though it never would, that the light would return and chase away the darkness. The Bible calls this sort of waiting ‘hope’. It means that you are sure that what you’re waiting for will happen in the end.</p> <p>THE LIGHT OF BAPTISM (whole school) Mark 1 v 9-11 This is the account of the baptism of Jesus. There are some famous paintings of this event which you might useful to share with the pupils. There are also some short clips of a baptism on BBC learning zone clips. Show the lighting and the giving of the candle and discuss the words which are said, You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. All: Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father This is expressing a future hope. A light is also given as a symbol that God will lead the baptised person in the light and obedience of Christ . The incumbent/a church member may be able to give useful support in talking about baptism Is a candle a good symbol of hope?</p>	<p>Combine this prayer with images of a beautiful sunrise: Lord God thank you that when our hope is in you, we know you will come to us, just as surely as we know the sun will come up in the morning. Help us to bring hope where there is despair in our world. Amen</p> <p>Use the idea of the candle of baptism to allow pupils the time to reflect upon their own hopes for the future both for themselves and for the world.</p> <p>Allow an opportunity for pupils to write their hopes and put them on the display, perhaps at some point later in the day</p>	<p>To a troubled world peace from Christ. To a searching world love from Christ. To a waiting world hope from Christ.</p> <p>(from New Patterns for Worship)</p>



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	<p>BLIND BARTIMAEUS (whole school) Mark 10 v 46-52 Jesus shone the light of hope into the lives of all the people he met, bringing them healing, hope and wholeness. Perhaps the best illustrations of this are those episodes when Jesus opens the eyes of the blind. A blind beggar would have been poor, outcast and overlooked, probably feeling hopeless for much of the time as people walked past and ignored or shouted abuse at him. Read the story of blind Bartimaeus in an appropriate version. It is a good story to act out as a group with the loud shouting from Bartimaeus, the busy crowds milling around Jesus, the annoyed reactions of some of the people, Jesus' own words to Bartimaeus and the excitement of the healing.</p>		
	<p>THE LIGHTHOUSE (class or Key Stage worship) John 9 v 5 Explore the idea of the Christian symbol of a lighthouse at an appropriate level – with younger pupils in the water tray, looking at simple symbolism and in more depth with older pupils. After a long and often difficult trip at sea, sailors felt joy and hope at the first sight of a lighthouse. The lighthouse meant that they would soon set foot on shore, and for some travellers, they would be home. A lighthouse might have been the only light in a violent storm, granting optimism to those who saw it. Today, lighthouses can inspire feelings of hope and salvation during turbulent times. Lighthouses are frequently used in the as a Christian symbol due to the many references to light in the Bible. The lighthouse is used to reflect God's guidance and words, and it represents God's power to protect and comfort. The beacon symbolizes the light of Christ as a guide for life. The light also represents salvation and hope for those who are spiritually lost.</p>	<p>Use images of the apparently hopeless situations in the world to pray that people will find a ray of hope. Also show contrasting images of where this has happened – clean wells rather than dirty drinking water, crops where there was previously parched earth etc</p> <p>Write and pray prayers which reflect the ideas discussed during worship. Make a collection of these in a class or school book to be used again or make a display or a simple interactive prayer station using ideas about hope or pupils' prayer ideas</p>	