

DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

TERM 2/YEAR 3/CHRISTMAS - CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

SEAL link - New beginnings

Values link - Joy

Some Christmas questions – answered with assistance from ‘Barnabas in Churches’.

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Use the wealth of Christmas art and music available to convey the awe, wonder and mystery of Christmas to the school community (pupil worship leaders may have ideas for this)</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS OR JESUS? (whole school) Luke 2 v 1-20 Prepare groups or individuals to produce the sounds – ask the question – what will you be thinking about most on Christmas day? Christmas is coming . <i>'Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells... Ho ho ho'</i> Jesus is coming <i>Clip-clop, clip-clop, clip-clop, and donkey noises</i> Christmas is coming <i>the shuffling of tired feet... carrying heavy bags... a bell sounds... 'No more room on the bus'</i> Jesus is coming <i>the shuffling of slow-moving feet... knocking at a door... 'No room in the Inn'</i> Christmas is here <i>wrapping paper sounds... delighted cries and thank yous... and then, 'Just what I always wanted'</i> Jesus is here <i>rustling of straw... animal noises... 'It's a boy!... the humming of 'Away in a manger'</i> Christmas is here <i>sounds of eating and drinking... clinking of cutlery... and then snoring!</i> Jesus is here <i>sheep noises... people running... cries of 'Good news, Good news!'</i> Christmas is going <i>a shout of 'January sales start tomorrow... everything must go!'</i> But Jesus is still here! <i>an enthusiastic rendering of 'Glory to God in a highest (hands raised high) and peace to His people on earth (the group points to everyone in the congregation)'</i></p>	<p>Use images of Christmas art to help pupils to reflect on the true message of Christmas</p>	<p>Go in peace, We go in peace Go in joy We go in joy Go in love We go in love Amen.</p>
<p>CHRISTMAS BIDDING</p> <p>We meet in the presence of God.... who was born on Christmas Day</p>	<p>WHO IS CHRISTMAS FOR? (whole school) Luke 2, Matthew 2 God knew and God knows - an action reading Before reading the following, play some sleeping games (for example, dead lions), waiting games (can you guess how long 15, 30 or 60 seconds is?) and so on, then practise mimes you (of the pupil worship leaders) have designed for the various actions in the reading. Dear God Back then, at the first Christmas: You knew about the shepherds, working late at night You knew about the travellers, following the light You knew about the crowds with their hopes and fears</p>	<p>Look at pictures of those who will not have a happy Christmas – add them to a prayer area and invite pupils to write prayers (pupil worship leaders might be able to help with this)</p>	<p>May God the Father keep us in all our days. May God the Son shield us in all our ways. May God the Spirit bring us healing and peace. May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from us and pour upon us blessing and light. Amen.</p>

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<p>He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia. We worship and adore him. Alleluia</p>	<p>You knew about the stable and poor Mary's tears So right now, because of Christmas: You know about outsiders, who feel they don't belong You know about the stranger who speaks another tongue You know about the exile who's forced to leave her home You know about the foreigner who feels so much alone You know about the poor whom nobody will know You know about the puzzled who feel they've far to go You bring them close in Jesus, each specially loved by him You turn things inside out and bring outsiders in. <i>Think about those less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas – in our village, town, country, world etc</i></p>	<p><i>Invite people to pray by stretching their arms out wide to each side, holding their palms facing the other at a distance ready to come together in a traditional prayer position. As you pray each line below, slowly bring the two palms closer and closer to each other:</i></p>	<p>May... the spirit of Christmas which is Peace... the gladness of Christmas which is Hope... the adoration of Christmas which is Joy... and the heart of Christmas which is Love... be ours now and forever AMEN</p>
<p>Glory to Christ, Son of Mary; born a child, you are one with us. Glory to God in the highest. Glory to Christ, Son of David; born to rule, you reign in our hearts. Glory to God in the highest. Glory to Christ, Son of man; born to save, you are the light of the world. Glory to God in the highest</p>	<p>WHY DID JESUS COME AT CHRISTMAS? (whole school) Luke 2, Matthew 2 Christmas is one of the busiest times in the year when it comes to holiday travel. Ask: Who will be travelling somewhere this Christmas? Who will you be visiting? How will you travel? By car? By plane? By train? Some of you may even be going by boat... to escape Christmas on a cruise! So much travelling! No wonder people say that Christmas can be one of the most exhausting holidays ever - buying presents and wrapping them up is tiring enough, but buying tickets and packing bags as well is a recipe for a Christmas meltdown. If only we could get back to the simplicity of the first Christmas.... A way to tell the story together There was plenty of travelling then too! As you bring together the elements of the story below in terms of who was travelling where, invite actions from everyone to accompany each person/group who was travelling then: The angel Gabriel travelled from the courts of heaven to the village of Nazareth - <i>soaring through the air like a superhero</i> The virgin Mary walked from Nazareth down to see her cousin in Judea - <i>walking on the spot up and down the hills with appropriate actions for exhaustion and effort</i> The wise men began their long desert journey from far in the east towards the country of Judah - <i>bobbing up and down on the backs of camels</i> Joseph and Mary with the crowds travelled down from Galilee to Bethlehem because of the census - <i>shuffling along in crowds jostling into each other</i> The angel choir travelled from heaven to a Judean hillside to sing to the shepherds - <i>soaring through the air again like a superhero</i></p>	<p>Lord, thank you for travelling the greatest distance ever to come close to us as a baby at Christmas. Lord, thank you for the angels who travelled to tell us that we can now have peace with you for ever. Lord, thank you for Mary who travelled with Joseph to Bethlehem to show us how to say 'yes' to you. Lord, thank you for the wise men who travelled across the desert to remind us to offer our best to you. Lord, thank you for the</p>	

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	<p>The startled shepherds ran from the hills down to the stable in Bethlehem - <i>running on the spot enthusiastically</i></p> <p>The young couple with a baby travelled as refugees west to the land of Egypt - <i>walking nervously, glancing over their shoulders and looking frightened</i></p> <p>Yes, there's a lot of travelling in the Christmas story. It was as exhausting then as it is now, it seems. Nothing has changed! But all this travelling is nothing compared to the biggest distance travelled at Christmas by someone. This person travelled:</p> <p>... further than the shepherds (<i>everyone repeat the running action</i>)</p> <p>... further than the wise men (<i>everyone repeat the bobbing up and down on camels</i>)</p> <p>... further than Mary and Joseph (<i>everyone repeat the tired walking up and down the hills and jostling with the crowds</i>)</p> <p>... further even than the angels (<i>everyone repeat the superhero zoom</i>)</p> <p>This person travelled further than anyone - the journey was from the heart of the universe itself and the throne of God, right down to an animal feeding box in a stable. And who travelled this massive journey? - Jesus travelled the furthest at Christmas.</p> <p>And he not only travelled the furthest, he gave up the most:</p> <p>He packed himself up into the size of a small baby.</p> <p>He wrapped himself up in human flesh and blood.</p> <p>He made himself a special present for the world to receive.</p> <p>Christians believe that this is the miracle and mystery of Christmas. God cares about this planet and about you and me so much that Jesus travelled the greatest distance ever to come close to each one of us.</p>	<p>shepherds who travelled over the hills to remind us that finding you is the most important thing ever.</p> <p><i>(By now the two palms should be together in a traditional prayer position)</i></p> <p>Lord, thank you for coming so close to us in Jesus that now we only have to ask you to be with us forever and you will be.</p> <p><i>(Separate the palms and go wide again before ending with a noisy clapping together of hands on the Amen)</i></p>	
	<p>HOW DO WE REMEMBER? (class or key stage)</p> <p>Luke 2, Matthew 2</p> <p>There are a number of paper craft ideas for making special decorations associated with Christmas in different countries, including: Sunburst designs from Sweden, <i>Weihnacht</i> angels from Germany, Kalanda stars from Greece, interlocking bells and woven hearts as tree decorations from Germany and Denmark, Santa Lucia hats from Sweden (for December 13th), Pinata for posada parties in Mexico and a Farol star from Spain. Ideas for making these can be found in a paper crafts books such as <i>Papercrafts from around the World</i> by Phyllis and Noel Fiarotta, ISBN 0806939907 or from the web. Use one of these ideas with a focus on a tradition which links with the Christmas story and the Christmas message.</p>	<p>Thank you that because of Christmas you are never far away from any one of us, ever! Amen</p> <p>Use what you have made as a focus for prayer and reflection</p>	