

<b>Title: The Church as Sacred Space</b>	<b>Year: Y1/2</b>	<b>Timing: any half term</b>
<b>Links:</b> QCA1F, 2D Cambs. CPE1, CWO1, CPL1, CPL2		
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To visit a Christian place of worship in the locality</li> <li>• To be able to ask questions about the church and to explore some answers</li> <li>• To experience activities that reflect the sacred nature of the church</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Questions for reflection:</b></p> <p>Why is the church set out in this way? Who decides where everything is placed in the church? Do all churches look the same? Can you have a picnic in the church? Why do Christians think that the church is so important? What is 'sacred'?</p>		
<p><b>Activities and experiences:</b></p> <p>The activities in this unit are designed to be prepared in school and performed in the church as an act of collective worship. Each activity is complete in itself, but is greatly enhanced by being part of a whole act, and this will give the children some idea of how the church might be used for worship ~ something that is difficult to 'visit'.</p> <p>Start by taking a special box into school containing items that have particular value for you. You could use a precious photograph, a hard-won certificate, a teddy bear, a beautiful candle, a piece of sparkly jewellery.</p> <p>Ask the children to face their talking partner in the circle, and share their own precious objects. Are there things that are precious, but that we cannot put into the box? One of those is a special place... The church is a place that is not just special, but for those who worship there, it is sacred, or holy ~ set apart for the worship of God. What is done in the church is sacred if it is given to God, for his glory.</p> <p>The activities below can all be part of a service of collective worship (see resources pages) reflecting the church as sacred space. Ask the priest to help you to use different areas of the church for the different activities, to reflect how the church is used for worship.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The porch: meet and greet visitors here before and say thanks and goodbye after the service.</li> <li>b) The back of the church under the tower: use chime bars to reflect the sound of the bells calling the people to worship.</li> <li>c) Below the pulpit: light a candle on a stand so that it can be a focus for reflection.</li> <li>d) The rood screen: ask whether you can attach a beautiful cross where it can be seen but not touched, to be the symbol of worship.</li> <li>e) Where the aisles cross or in front of the Sanctuary steps: perform a short dance to some beautiful music.</li> <li>f) The lectern: read a story using an appropriate children's bible, to accompany a simple mime.</li> <li>g) The altar rails: bring gifts that have been prepared for an offering, to be received by the priest and blessed, then placed on the altar.</li> <li>h) The choir stalls: sing and play a praise song from the sanctuary.</li> <li>i) Stand or kneel and face the candle for the prayer.</li> <li>j) Process: out of the church in silence and reflect upon the worship.</li> </ol> <p>Back in school, think about how the church is used for worship, and what the children found meaningful in the different activities.</p>		