

| | | |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|
| When I am gone remember me | KS2 | No. of lessons: half a term |
| Links: Cambs: CPE5, CPL3, CWR4, CRP1, CRP2, CRP3, CSC1, CNW2, P'borough: CPE5, CPL3, CWR4, CRP1, CRP2, CRP3, CSC1, CNW2, N'folk: CBB, CP, CLS, CW, CKF, | | |
| Learning objectives: To learn how Christians mark a person's death, and the beliefs about life after death that this rite of passage illustrates. To explore Christian ideas of remembrance and sharing suffering. | | |
| Questions for reflection: What would you like people to remember about your life? What would you like to actually happen after someone dies? How do you feel when you hear on the news about disasters or wars in which people have died? | | |
| Activities and experiences: <i>These sessions are not intended as bereavement counselling, but, inadvertently, that is something you may have to engage in. Thinking about loss may also affect children who have lost family through e.g. divorce.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin by reading together one of the books which have been written to help children through death and bereavement. An excellent small book for this unit is "Waterbugs and Dragonflies" by Doris Stickney, Copies may be obtained through St Christopher's Hospice which has a fairly extensive list of books on bereavement to read with children at http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/page.cfm/link=153 Talk together about how "Waterbugs and Dragonflies" gives one answer to the question "what do Christians believe happens when someone dies". You may also like to share the commentary in the book, which explains how it came to be written, and think about this. • For a fuller understanding of Christian belief about life after death look at part of the funeral service. Two of the prayers used are in the notes pages – if you want to use others then you can find the entire service, including prayers for the dying and memorial services, at http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/funeral/funeralfront.html Use the chosen prayer to discuss whether death should be a happy or sad time for Christians because of their beliefs Wonder together about how funerals may actually help the friends and family of the dead person who feel they have been left behind. • As a class share the stories behind items which you own which are precious to you as reminders of a person or as an event (the person can be alive or dead – and the memories will probably be happy and special). • If you feel it is appropriate, you may like to visit the graveyard of your church and look at some of the memorials (remember there may be relatives of your pupils buried there). The memorials in the church itself are likely to be even more detailed and give something of a person's life and career. Alternatively look at photographs of Victorian funerals, or at newspaper obituaries. See also the photographs on the Cambridgeshire Portal at c9s.e2bn.net/e2bn/leas/c99/schools/c9s/web/public/NGfL%20Team/remembering/documents/index.htm Think about how people are remembered after their deaths and what they are remembered for. Collect phrases from the memorials that tell you about what Christians believe about life and death. • If appropriate, take the notion of "remembering" further by undertaking an exercise on how pupils wish to be remembered e.g. "When I am gone I would like people to say...", "I would like to be remembered as..." | | |

