

Hands up! Symbols in Worship	KS2	No. of lessons: 5
Links: Cambs: CWO1, CWO2, CWO3, CRP2, P'borough: CWO1, CWO2, CWO3, CRP2, N'folk: CP,CLS		
<p>Learning objectives: To find out how Christians' worship of God includes the use of symbolic ritual gestures. To explore some of the objects which Christians may use to help them to pray.</p>		
<p>Questions for reflection: How do you personally use your hands to express different emotions (e.g. sympathy, admiration)? Who would you most like to have the chance to shake hands with? Who would you never shake hands with? Why? Do you like to have time to be quiet and thoughtful? What kind of things would you do at such a time?</p>		
<p>Activities and experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Think about your hands. List together all the things you use your hands for, some of those things might be good, some bad, and some neutral. Discuss together how you would feel to be on the receiving end of some of the "good" and some of the "bad" suggestions. Look at the well known engraving of the "praying hands" by Durer (there's a copy in this booklet and many versions in fine art books and on the web). Consider whose hands they might be and how they got into such a damaged state, and why Durer would want to draw them. Hear the story then talk about the image again – what title would you give the picture now? Does the story tell you anything about prayer? ◆ Borrow the vicar or a member of your local church if possible. Ask them to demonstrate and talk about the various ritual gestures which are made with the hands during services of worship (e.g. blessing, laying on of hands, passing the peace, signing with the cross at baptism and on Ash Wednesday, breaking bread). Think about how these gestures are also <i>symbolic</i> because they add meaning to the words that are being spoken. Discuss how Christians might feel when they are being blessed by someone. Try passing the peace as a whole class activity (although you may prefer to use your own non-religious greeting) and note down how it felt to shake hands with <i>everyone</i> and say something nice to them (were there people you <i>didn't want</i> to greet?). Observational drawing – make a display by creating a set of (suitably labelled) worshipping and greeting hands to complement the Durer image. ◆ Explore how some Christians like to hold something in their hands when they pray, as this helps them to focus their ideas and prayers. Look at the holding cross and/or the rosary (see notes pages) and find out how they are used. Make a version of a holding cross out of clay and then paint it to look like wood. Everyone must make their cross to fit their own hand comfortably, so expect them all to look lop-sided and be slightly different shapes. Write a prayer, or list some subjects which people could think about when using the holding cross. <p>(Note: you can obtain holding crosses from most Christian bookshops; if you have problems try www.spckonline.com (gifts section).</p>		