

A church audit – redesign the church (RE and Design Technology)	Year Group:KS2	No. of lessons: 4+
Links: Cambs: CPE4, CWO1, CWO2, CWO3, CPL1, CPL2, CPL3, CRP1, P'borough: CPE2, CWO1, CWO2, CWO3, CPL1, CPL2, CPL3, CPL4, CRP1, Nfolk: CP, CLS, CW,		
Learning objectives: To know about and appreciate the main activities which occur in a place of worship. To discover how different areas and artefacts in a church building are used in worship. To consider how the (medieval) design of a church building helps or hinders modern worship. To reflect on the nature of special places.		
Questions for reflection: What is my special place? Why do Christians special places look like they do? Is it possible to worship God anywhere you like? What is the most important thing(s) people need to help them worship properly? How do I feel when I sit quietly in church – am I comfortable or uncomfortable – why?		
Activities and experiences: This activity interrogates the church to see whether it is an appropriate building for the functions carried out in it, especially worship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take time to talk about the different purposes a church building is used for, and in particular the different styles / elements of worship – if possible do this with a member of the church community. Ask also what other uses the church complex is put to (e.g. other organisations). • Devise a list of questions that could be asked about the furnishings and layout of the building which would give you an idea of whether these help or hinder Christian worship (there is a list of suggestions on the next page). Tips: before you visit the church agree a recording grid to collect the answers to the questions and organise as many church members as possible to join the children at the church and answer questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the church begin the visit with a stilling exercise, and use this to collect vocabulary about the atmosphere of the church and whether this is conducive to worship. • As well as conducting the audit, experiment with some elements of worship – e.g. how well does sound carry? Can everybody see and hear what is going on, wherever they are in the building? • Back at school pool the accumulated data and answer four key questions: <i>What are the most important things Christians do to worship God and what is needed to do this ? Are all the services etc which take place in the church exactly the same and therefore need the same facilities / items? Which of the things in the church did the local community think they could not do without? What are the other uses the building needs to accommodate (e.g. children’s clubs)?</i> The answers to these key questions can be turned into recommended plans/ models (or even a graphics package) of a new church for your community which would fulfil its role better than your present structure – all suitably labelled and explained of course! Don't forget the decoration – build Christian symbols and art into your design detail. 		