

<b>The Church as Pilgrimage Centre</b>	<b>Year Group: KS2</b>	<b>No. of lessons: Half a term</b>
<b>Links:</b> Cambs: CWO1, CWO3, CPL1, CPL3, CPL4, CWR3, CWR4, Pborough: CWO1, CWO3, CPL1, CPL3, CPL4, CPL5, CWR3, CWR4, Norfolk: CP, CLS, CW ,		
<b>Learning objectives:</b> To understand why holy places are seen as special. To investigate the distinctive features of the local church in its community. To explore ways in which Christians worship God. To empathise with pilgrims on their physical and spiritual journey.		
<b>Questions for reflection:</b> Why is this place special? How do I feel when I enter a church? How can making a journey help people feel nearer to God? If God is everywhere, why are some places more holy than others?		
<b>Activities and experiences:</b> This topic is based on looking at your parish church as a potential centre for pilgrimage – for this you need first to visit the church to discover its own special “draw” e.g. a tomb, an historical incident, a particularly beautiful window etc. The church is then to be “marketed” as a pilgrimage centre – for this activities could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing maps and writing directions to the church with details of local facilities (eating places, hotels etc)</li> <li>• Listing possessions pilgrims will need if they are walking to the church over several days – including especially prayers for pilgrims, lists of key Bible passages (<i>e.g. Psalms 120 –134 are the ancient pilgrimage psalms for visiting Jerusalem</i>), lists of other important sights enroute.</li> <li>• Creating guide cards for the church giving details of the special focus of the visit.</li> <li>• Devising a simple service of thanksgiving to be used on arrival at the church.</li> <li>• Making souvenir pilgrim badges or prayer cards for the pilgrims to take home with them.</li> </ul> Now make the pilgrimage! Can families and friends join you? Start from the school with a blessing of the pilgrims. Process to the church. Use the prepared thanksgiving service. Ask your visitors to test out the guide cards. Present the badges. Back at school, write a “postcard home” concentrating on how pilgrims would feel at the end of making a special journey of this kind.		