



10. Heroes of Hope – The great giveaway

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community, serving the needs of our unique school contexts. We continue this term’s theme of **‘Shine Like Stars!’** with a short series based on the new publication **‘Heroes of Hope’** (which we hope all of our Church schools have a copy of, courtesy of the Church of England). Like Daniel, the 22 ‘heroes’ in this book lived in challenging times, and demonstrated in *their* actions how to ‘shine like stars’, standing up for what is right and good in a world that often didn’t reflect this. In our world today, we want to inspire resilience in our pupils to be confident in who they are and what they stand for, just like these heroes, and to be positive role models in your school community, even when it might be difficult. **This week, we introduce another story from the Heroes of Hope book: the story of Toyohiko Kagawa, who loved the parable of the Good Samaritan, and lived his life by its values.**



How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?

This week, as we think about the life of St. Alphonsa of India, who faced and overcame many challenges in her young life, enabling her to show huge compassion for the community that she served. There will be lots of connections between her life and your school’s vision and values.

Resources:

- **NB The ‘Heroes of Hope’ book that we refer to is available for free for all Church schools: for those schools in the Diocese of Guildford who have not collected their copy, please contact jane.whittington@cofeguildford.org.uk or come into Church House and we will be very happy to give you your copy. Additional copies are available from SPCK: [Heroes of Hope - Sharon Prentis | Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde - SPCK Publishing](#) We are very grateful to the illustrators (Daniela Gamba, Neda Kazemifar, Anastasia Magloire Williams and Jen Khatun) and to SPCK for granting us permission to use some of the illustrations from the book for these resources. Please respect the artists’ rights and do not share these images other than within these collective worship resources.**
- **Please remember that the resources that we provide should be adapted where needed, to suit the context of your own school and your own pupils.**
- **This term, in addition to our usual gathering and sending slides, we are including a slide at the very start to help to ‘still’ pupils, and help them to enter into the ‘sacred’ space of collective worship, ready to think, reflect, talk or pray. You might also want to use this in your class to change the ‘mood’ for any class-based worship. Take this at whatever pace seems necessary for your pupils. It ends with a visual ‘timetable’, setting out some of the elements that will be included in our time together, which we hope may help some pupils. You can also find these as cards to print out to use in other collective worship if this helps you.**
- As always, there are also some ideas for **reflective activities / ideas** to ponder for use in your reflective areas for this term, listed at the end of the script along with a handy wall chart to print each week for your reflective area. You can find all these as a separate file in our resources area, which may make it easier for teachers to print and use in their classrooms.
- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- **You will need.....a large gift box. Place a large red heart shape inside – or for an even bigger impact, buy a heart-shaped helium balloon. Make sure it fits in the box – and weight it or tape the string to the bottom so you don’t lose it as soon as you open the top! Attach a gift label and write on the label ‘The greatest gift’. You will also need a few smaller heart shapes, cut out of red paper, on which to collect some ideas from the gathered community as part of the ‘Words for worship’ section, and some means to attach them to a wall in your hall.** As an additional idea, you could also buy some heart-shaped confetti (red shiny is best!) and then give each class enough in a bag for one each to keep in their pocket to remind them to give love away this week. Place the gift box at the front of the hall so that it’s clearly visible.
- **Reflective prayer activity:** you will need some paper hearts, to help to make a ‘chain of love’ around your classroom this week.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Rising hearts stilling exercise

Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.

As you sit quietly, watch the hearts rising....[PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....keep this going as you continue to look at the hearts....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]



As you breathe, think back to how we have built up our school community in love during this last week..... [PAUSE]
We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we will **begin with another mystery, listen to a song, share a story and then use it to help us to think.**

But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

Slide 2:

Leader: As we gather together today....

ALL:we bring our thoughts and our hearts into this sacred space.

Here are BSL actions for some of the words:

Leader's words:

Gather: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gather> (1st video); Today: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/today> (1st video)

Pupils' response:

Thoughts: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/thoughts> (1st video); Hearts: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/heart> (1st video)

Engaging:

Slide 3: The greatest gift

[Show the gift box – which hopefully, most pupils will have noticed by now! Look at the label, then wonder together about what might be inside it. You could put children into talking pairs to discuss their ideas together, then collect some thoughts before you open the box and discover the large heart.]

I wonder why you think this might be the greatest gift?.....Do you agree with this idea? Maybe you can think of some examples from your own experience?

We're going to do something that we've not done this term yet – listen to a song! It's a golden oldie called 'Love is something if you give it away' – we're going to listen to a small part of it and then talk about the words....(and maybe we'll sing it together at the end!)

Slide 4: Listen to chorus & v1 *The song is linked to the image on the screen and should open if you click on it. Alternatively, you could load it from the link in the script for this week.*

The words we've just listened to say this:

**Love is something if you give away,
You end up having more.**

It seems to be an impossibility: to give something away and end up having more! I wonder if you can explain how this impossible maths works?! *[ask a few children: answers will hopefully be along the lines that giving love away to other people means that more love is shared around – and you get love in return, or similar!]*

Slide 5: We're going to share another Hero of Hope's story now, a woman who spoke these words about love: **'Love is the greatest gift we can give to others. Let us show love and compassion to all, just as God has shown us.'** This woman is St. Alphonsa, who was born here.....

Slide 6: World map

...in the very south of India, in a part of India named Kerala. She is the first Indian woman to have been made a saint.

Slide 7: As a young girl, St. Alphonsa was called Annakutty and lived in a small village with her family. She was often ill, and had several long stays in hospital, but this never stopped her from reaching out to others. She saw her frequent illnesses as an opportunity to understand how it feels to be ill and in pain, so that she could be more compassionate with others when they were suffering.

Slide 8: She also loved being with children and told them stories that demonstrated the importance of being loving and caring, and showing empathy with others. She lived her short life with great perseverance, always thinking how she could make others' lives better, going out of her way when they needed help, even though she was often in pain herself.

I wonder if she might remind you of the Good Samaritan who we heard about last week? *[you might want to ask for some feedback]*



We're nearly at the end of our time together today, so for the last part of our collective worship, we're going to pause with our thoughts.....

Slide 9: Responding and words for worship

We've heard these words that St. Alphonsa spoke about love: **Love is the greatest gift we can give to others. Let us show love and compassion to all, just as God has shown us.**

As we draw our time together to a close, let's take a few moments to reflect on the story of her life, and what we might learn from it....

-I wonder how God might have shown his love for us?.....
-I wonder how you think St. Alphonsa's life 'shone like a star'?....
-I wonder how you think she gave love away?....
-I wonder how we might 'give love away' this week?....

Slide 10: The greatest gift

Let's go back to our mystery 'greatest gift' that we started our time together with...We just asked the question:I wonder how we might 'give love away' this week?....

I have here a few red hearts to gather some ideas from you now.... [*ask children for their ideas and write some onto the hearts. This will model what you want them to do in their classrooms. As you write their ideas, create a 'chain of love' at the front of the hall.*]

This week, we are going to be adding to this chain of love through the ideas that we gather in our classrooms, but hopefully also through the small acts of love that we see in action around our school.....

Slide 11: Prayer

As we turn to prayer now, just spend a few moments looking at, and thinking about, the hearts that we have gathered here in our hall. [*You may need to read them out if pupils are far away*] Think about how we might turn these ideas into actions. You may want to bring this or your own idea into a prayer now: you may wish to make this prayer your own, or prefer to think quietly to yourself.

God who is love

**Thank you for the example of St. Alphonsa who gave her love so freely to others.
Help us to give love away as we live and work here as part of our school community.
May our school be a place filled with love!**

Slide 12: Amen

Sending: Slide 13

Leader: As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...

All: *May we shine like stars!*

Pupils' response:

Shine: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/shine> (4th video); Stars: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/stars> (4th video)

To listen to / sing:

As part of your time together today, you will listen to part of the old favourite (or maybe a new favourite if you've never heard it before!), [Love is something if you give it away](#) (BBC): you will just be using the chorus and the first verse, as indicated in the words on p.4. You could also sing it together at some point – although it is a bit of an earworm!

Also, choose from [Chain of love](#) (BBC) or [Let our love show](#) (NBD)

Slide 14: Reflective areas

Cut heart shapes out of coloured paper for your reflective areas. Children will make these into a 'chain of love' around your classroom.



Chain of love: 'Love is the greatest gift we can give.'

Think: How did St. Alphonsa give love away during her life? How might you 'give love away' this week?

Do: Take a heart shape and write your idea inside it. Make a class 'chain of love' around your classroom. Try to find an opportunity to act on your idea this week.

Talk: At the end of the week, look at all the ideas you have gathered and find out what a difference they have made.

We also encourage you to explore the full story of St. Alphonsa from the book during the week.

Love is something if you give it away

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away,
Love is something if you give away,
You end up having more.

1. It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any,
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many,
They'll roll all over the floor, for...

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away,
Love is something if you give away,
You end up having more.

2. So let's go dancing to the break of day,
And if there's a piper, we can pay,
For love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away,
Love is something if you give away,
You end up having more.





Chain of love

St. Alphonsa said 'Love is the greatest gift we can give.'



How did St. Alphonsa give love away during her life? How might you 'give love away' this week?



Take a heart shape and write your idea inside it. Make a class 'chain of love' around your classroom. Try to find an opportunity to act on your idea this this week.



At the end of the week, look at all the ideas you have gathered and find out what a difference they have made.

