

Collective worship for the Secondary phase from the Diocese of Guildford: 2026-2027

Since the COVID19 pandemic, and before then as part of the Church of England's 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiatives, we have been creating collective worship materials for Primary schools in our Diocese with the aim of supporting school leaders in this distinctive part of school life. During the 2025-26 academic year, we began to adapt materials for the Secondary phase as well. This overview reflects those themes

and shows what is planned for the 2026-27 academic year. We suggest an order, but most could be used at any time.

All materials are designed to help schools provide collective worship that:

- meets **the requirements of the law for daily worship for all students that is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'** and is in line with expectations from the National Society;
- is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive***, reflecting the diversity of your school family and the wider church community, both local and global;
- acknowledges and supports pupils of all faiths or no faith, seeking **'to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief'**;
- is **rooted in Christian values, and the teachings of the Bible**. Whilst some of our resources may reflect traditions that are from outside of the Christian community, we always ensure that themes used are linked to Biblical content, wherever in the world they come from. We feel that it is essential that pupils have the opportunity to value and learn from each other as part of this sacred space, and celebrate the diversity that exists within and across our school communities;
- contains **carefully crafted language** to lead the school community through the collective worship and include occasions for pupils to 'worship': to think, reflect or pray, without compulsion – and also generate opportunities for spiritual development;
- **responds to global or local events**, as they arise.

**Church of England collective worship guidance, 2021*

 Stories as treasure to be found (published Summer 2026) <i>Biblical content – Parables, plus stories from calendar of religious festivals</i>	Titles of resources, as uploaded to the Secondary collective worship area	Bible content
The Gospels are full of the parables of Jesus, which he used to communicate ideas about the Kingdom of God to his listeners, often challenging their thinking, and quite often in answer to a question he had been posed. For Christians – as for Jesus' original audiences – the parables don't just illustrate a truth, they contain a truth that the listeners are supposed to search for for themselves, appealing to the intellect through the imagination. These collective worship materials don't need to be used in any particular order, but loosely follow the parables of Jesus from Matthew 13. Although these parables were told to a specific audience, with a specific set of cultural expectations, Christians believe that Jesus' parables can speak just as truthfully to a modern audience: like a well-cut gemstone, the light will shine through the different facets.	Growing (Parable of the sower 1)	<i>Matthew 13:1-9</i>
	Treasure new and old	<i>Matthew 13:52</i>
	Mustard seed	<i>Matthew 13:31-32</i>
	Yeast	<i>Matthew 13:33</i>
	Good fruit (Parable of the sower 2)	<i>Matthew 13:1-9 & Galations 5:22</i>
	Choices	<i>Matthew 13:47-48</i>
	A 'parable' of self-sacrifice	<i>Matthew 23: 11-12 & John 13:15</i>
 Words to make you wonder (published Summer 2026) <i>Biblical content, Old & New Testament</i>	Titles of resources, as uploaded to the Secondary collective worship area	Bible content
This is a companion resource to 'Stories as treasure to be found'. 'Words to make you wonder' are taken from different parts of the Bible and are used in response to world events (including the mysterious arrival of a Banksy statue in Central London!) and big questions in life. We also include a couple of ancient stories which have things to say to a modern audience.	Words, words, words	<i>James 3:5</i>
	A united body (Aesop's fable)	<i>1 Corinthians 12:14-21</i>
	Artemis II	<i>Psalms 8</i>
	Why the moon is sad (Algerian trad. tale)	<i>Psalms 56:8 & Romans 5:12</i>
	The fragile gift	<i>Psalms 24:1-2</i>
	Banksy's statue (29.4.26)	<i>Matthew 7:3-5 & Proverbs 16:18</i>
	Be welcoming (Canterbury sculpture)	<i>Hebrews 13:2 & Matthew 25:40</i>

 Count your blessings (published Autumn 2026) Biblical content and calendar events Research shows us the importance of gratitude even in the midst of adversity: that being aware of each day's 'blessings' can counteract anxiety, and so this term, we want to encourage schools to continue to do this through their collective worship. Over this short series we will highlight things that we might consider to be 'blessings'. We will refer to this in the 'Going deeper: responding and words for worship' section each week, to help generate a school-wide 'attitude of gratitude'and also mark the usual calendar of events for the Autumn term, including Peace Day, Harvest, Remembrance, and Advent. There will also be a reflective online Advent calendar to support spiritual development across Advent: one door for each day until the end of term! Find this link on our website, from late Nov.	Titles of resources, as uploaded to the Secondary collective worship area Count your blessings Peace Day – September 21 st H-A-R-V-E-S-T Remember that.... Remembrance Day Community: 'united we stand' (Aesop) Advent: Light in the darkness	Bible content <i>Numbers 6:24-26 & Psalm 103:2</i> <i>Romans 12:18</i> <i>Acts 2:44 & I Timothy 6:18</i> <i>Joshua 4:6-7</i> <i>Matthew 5:9</i> <i>Psalm 133:1 & John 17:21</i> <i>Isaiah 9:6 & John 1:9</i>
 The Worldwide Prayer (published Spring 2027) Biblical content, New Testament This term's themes create an opportunity for students to think about the most famous of all Christian prayers – the Lord's Prayer – which is prayed in Christian communities all over the world. It will be accessible for all, regardless of faith or belief as we will explore the meaning of the words <i>for Christians</i>, and reflect together on concepts common to all: on school and family life, being part of a community, forgiveness, gratitude and making good choices.	Titles of resources, as uploaded to the Secondary collective worship area The Worldwide Prayer What's in a name? Ruler for a day Daily bread Forgiveness Testing The Ending	Bible content <i>Matthew 6:9-13</i> <i>Matthew 6:9</i> <i>Matthew 6:10</i> <i>Matthew 6:11</i> <i>Matthew 6:12</i> <i>Matthew 6:13</i> <i>Matthew 6:13</i>
 Promises (published Summer 2027) Biblical content, Old & New Testament This term's themes relate to the many promises that God makes to be with his people – through some stories from the Old Testament to the very end of the New Testament, and a vision that one of Jesus' disciples had of heaven. This series gives students opportunities to reflect on questions like 'How do we live?' or 'What role might God's promises have for his people – or for us?'	Titles of resources, as uploaded to the Secondary collective worship area Noah's promise Abraham's promise Mephibosheth Life in all its fullness A second chance Pentecost promise A promise to come....	Bible content <i>Genesis 9:12-13</i> <i>Genesis 15:5</i> <i>2 Samuel 9</i> <i>John 10:10</i> <i>John 15:15-25</i> <i>Matthew 28:20 & Acts 2</i> <i>Revelation 21:4</i>