

Liturgical Colour of the Season

Most Anglican churches follow a liturgical calendar. This is a pattern for their worship (liturgy) through the year. As a Church school, it provides an ideal opportunity to mirror what is happening in your parish/local church. Procedures differ from church to church. You may want to discuss this with your local church. It also provides a colourful and visual way to mark the festivals throughout the church's calendar.

Some churches will use different coloured vestments (a priest's clothing) and altar cloths as signs of the season of the church year. In school, this can be reflected through changing the colour of the cloth on the worship/holy table or the theme of a whole display using the relevant colours.

Seasons of the Churches year:

Advent: The season of Advent marks the start of the Christian year. It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church looks forward to celebrating the birth of Christ.

Christmas: The celebration of Christ's coming among us at Christmas (known as the Incarnation) is one of the two poles of the Christian year, along with the story of Christ's death and resurrection (Easter).

Epiphany: The Feast of the Epiphany, which always falls on 6th January, marks the beginning of a season which recognises Jesus to be the Son of God.

Lent: Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a season of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter.

Easter: Easter Sunday commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. On Maundy Thursday churches will often be stripped bare of any colour, to remember that Jesus was left alone to face the bare wooden cross. Churches will remain bare until Easter Sunday.



| Colour | Meanings of the colours |
|---------------|---|
| Purple | Used for times of preparation and waiting, the reflective seasons: Advent and Lent |
| White or Gold | Used for key celebrations/principle festivals: Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, and Christ the King. Represents being pure, in celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and some funerals. White is also used for saints who did not die as martyrs |
| Red | To mark Saints' days where it represents their death as a martyr, or to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Red is used for Holy Week. |
| Green | Used during Ordinary Time or Growing Time between the main festivals and seasons This covers most of the year and many Christians believe that they can grow in faith during this season |

2024 – 2025

| September | | October | | November | | December | | January | | February | | March | | April | | May | | June | | July | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|---------------------|---------|--------------------|----------|-----------|-------|--------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 1 Su | | 1 Tu | | 1 Fr | All Saints' Day | 1 Su | Advent Sunday | 1 We | | 1 Sa | | 1 Sa | St David | 1 Tu | | 1 Th | St Phillip & St James | 1 Su | | 1 Tu | |
| 2 Mo | | 2 We | | 2 Sa | | 2 Mo | | 2 Th | | 2 Su | Candlemas | 2 Su | | 2 We | | 2 Fr | | 2 Mo | | 2 We | |
| 3 Tu | | 3 Th | | 3 Su | | 3 Tu | | 3 Fr | | 3 Mo | | 3 Mo | | 3 Th | | 3 Sa | | 3 Tu | | 3 Th | Thomas the Apostle |
| 4 We | | 4 Fr | | 4 Mo | | 4 We | | 4 Sa | | 4 Tu | | 4 Tu | | 4 Fr | | 4 Su | | 4 We | | 4 Fr | |
| 5 Th | | 5 Sa | | 5 Tu | | 5 Th | | 5 Su | | 5 We | | 5 We | Ash Wednesday | 5 Sa | | 5 Mo | | 5 Th | | 5 Sa | |
| 6 Fr | | 6 Su | | 6 We | | 6 Fr | St Nicholas | 6 Mo | Epiphany | 6 Th | | 6 Th | | 6 Su | | 6 Tu | | 6 Fr | | 6 Su | |
| 7 Sa | | 7 Mo | | 7 Th | | 7 Sa | | 7 Tu | | 7 Fr | | 7 Fr | | 7 Mo | | 7 We | | 7 Sa | | 7 Mo | |
| 8 Su | | 8 Tu | | 8 Fr | | 8 Su | | 8 We | | 8 Sa | | 8 Sa | | 8 Tu | | 8 Th | | 8 Su | Pentecost | 8 Tu | |
| 9 Mo | | 9 We | | 9 Sa | | 9 Mo | | 9 Th | | 9 Su | | 9 Su | | 9 We | | 9 Fr | | 9 Mo | | 9 We | |
| 10 Tu | | 10 Th | | 10 Su | Remembrance | 10 Tu | | 10 Fr | | 10 Mo | | 10 Mo | | 10 Th | | 10 Sa | | 10 Tu | | 10 Th | |
| 11 We | | 11 Fr | | 11 Mo | Armistice Day | 11 We | | 11 Sa | | 11 Tu | | 11 Tu | | 11 Fr | | 11 Su | | 11 We | St Barnabas | 11 Fr | |
| 12 Th | | 12 Sa | | 12 Tu | | 12 Th | | 12 Su | Baptism of Jesus | 12 We | | 12 We | | 12 Sa | | 12 Mo | | 12 Th | | 12 Sa | |
| 13 Fr | | 13 Su | | 13 We | | 13 Fr | | 13 Mo | | 13 Th | | 13 Th | | 13 Su | Palm Sunday | 13 Tu | | 13 Fr | | 13 Su | |
| 14 Sa | Holy Cross Day | 14 Mo | | 14 Th | | 14 Sa | | 14 Tu | | 14 Fr | | 14 Fr | | 14 Mo | | 14 We | St Mattias | 14 Sa | | 14 Mo | |
| 15 Su | | 15 Tu | | 15 Fr | | 15 Su | | 15 We | | 15 Sa | | 15 Sa | | 15 Tu | | 15 Th | | 15 Su | Trinity Sunday | 15 Tu | |
| 16 Mo | | 16 We | | 16 Sa | | 16 Mo | | 16 Th | | 16 Su | | 16 Su | | 16 We | | 16 Fr | | 16 Mo | | 16 We | |
| 17 Tu | | 17 Th | | 17 Su | | 17 Tu | | 17 Fr | | 17 Mo | | 17 Mo | St Patrick | 17 Th | Maundy Thursday | 17 Sa | | 17 Tu | | 17 Th | |
| 18 We | | 18 Fr | St Luke | 18 Mo | | 18 We | | 18 Sa | | 18 Tu | | 18 Tu | | 18 Fr | Good Friday | 18 Su | | 18 We | | 18 Fr | |
| 19 Th | | 19 Sa | | 19 Tu | | 19 Th | | 19 Su | | 19 We | | 19 We | Joseph of Nazareth | 19 Sa | Easter Eve | 19 Mo | | 19 Th | Corpus Christi | 19 Sa | |
| 20 Fr | | 20 Su | | 20 We | | 20 Fr | | 20 Mo | | 20 Th | | 20 Th | | 20 Su | Easter Day | 20 Tu | | 20 Fr | | 20 Su | |
| 21 Sa | St Matthew | 21 Mo | | 21 Th | | 21 Sa | Thomas the Apostle | 21 Tu | | 21 Fr | | 21 Fr | | 21 Mo | | 21 We | | 21 Sa | | 21 Mo | |
| 22 Su | | 22 Tu | | 22 Fr | | 22 Su | | 22 We | | 22 Sa | | 22 Sa | | 22 Tu | | 22 Th | | 22 Su | | 22 Tu | Mary Magdalene |
| 23 Mo | | 23 We | | 23 Sa | | 23 Mo | | 23 Th | | 23 Su | | 23 Su | | 23 We | St George | 23 Fr | | 23 Mo | | 23 We | |
| 24 Tu | | 24 Th | | 24 Su | Christ the King | 24 Tu | Christmas Eve | 24 Fr | | 24 Mo | | 24 Mo | | 24 Th | | 24 Sa | | 24 Tu | Birth of John the Baptist | 24 Th | |
| 25 We | | 25 Fr | | 25 Mo | | 25 We | Christmas Day | 25 Sa | Conversion of Paul | 25 Tu | | 25 Tu | Annunciation | 25 Fr | St Mark the Evangelist | 25 Su | | 25 We | | 25 Fr | St James |
| 26 Th | | 26 Sa | | 26 Tu | | 26 Th | St Stephen | 26 Su | | 26 We | | 26 We | | 26 Sa | | 26 Mo | | 26 Th | | 26 Sa | |
| 27 Fr | | 27 Su | | 27 We | | 27 Fr | John the Evangelist | 27 Mo | | 27 Th | | 27 Th | | 27 Su | | 27 Tu | | 27 Fr | | 27 Su | |
| 28 Sa | | 28 Mo | St Simon & St Jude | 28 Th | | 28 Sa | Holy Innocents | 28 Tu | | 28 Fr | | 28 Fr | | 28 Mo | | 28 We | | 28 Sa | | 28 Mo | |
| 29 Su | St Michael and All Angels | 29 Tu | | 29 Fr | | 29 Su | | 29 We | | | | 29 Sa | | 29 Tu | | 29 Th | Ascension Day | 29 Su | | Su Tu | |
| 30 Mo | | 30 We | | 30 Sa | St Andrew | 30 Mo | | 30 Th | | | | 30 Su | | 30 We | | 30 Fr | | 30 Mo | St Peter & St Paul | 30 We | |
| | | 31 Th | | | | 31 Tu | | 31 Fr | | | | 31 Mo | | | | 31 Sa | Visit of Mary to Elizabeth | | | 31 Th | |

Colours play an important part in the worship of the Church, and they change according to the seasons of the Church year. Colours are a primary source of symbolism and communicate to worshippers much about the nature of the lessons heard during the Liturgy of the Word (which are themed according to the seasons), and about what is done during worship. The liturgical colours given are not mandatory. Traditional or local use is often observed.

The Principal Feasts which are to be observed are:

- Christmas Day
- The Epiphany
- The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
- The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Easter Day
- Ascension Day
- Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
- Trinity Sunday
- All Saints' Day
- Any significant saints linked to your local church/community

External links:

A free Church of England app called 'Lectionary' is available on Apple and Android devices. You can use this to access Bible readings as well as check the current liturgical colour.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/rules>

<https://www.imaginer.co.uk/church-year/>

<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals>

<http://www.going4growth.com/growth-through-the-year/colours-of-the-church-year>

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| <p>Purple</p> <p>Preparation and Penance</p> <p>Used in Advent and Lent</p> | <p>Gold</p> <p>Joy and Celebration</p> <p>Used for special days and celebrations, such as Easter Day and Christmas Day</p> | <p>White</p> <p>Purity</p> <p>Used in the seasons of Easter and Christmas, and for saints who were not martyrs</p> | <p>Red</p> <p>Sacrifice</p> <p>Used during Pentecost, Remembrance Sunday and the Apostles and saints who were martyrs</p> | <p>Green</p> <p>Hope, Life, and Growth</p> <p>Used throughout Ordinary Time – Growing Time</p> |
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Suggestions for the use of liturgical colours in school worship:

- Use different coloured tablecloths, pieces of fabric to cover or place on your worship table
- Create an interactive display making a large circle (pie chart) of the Church's year in different colours - add information and photos about the season of the churches year as they are celebrated and marked in school
- Ask clergy to show and share the vestments they use in church with pupils – many clergy have significant items, such as ordination stoles – visit local churches to compare how they use the liturgical colours
- Pupils design altar frontals to reflect the different seasons
- Pupils write special prayers for each season that are used in collective worship
- With younger pupils read *The Path That Runs by the Church: A Year in the Life of a Village School* by Lois Rock and Louise Comfort