

## 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. Clergy will often have a range of stoles (a long, narrow strip of fabric, often richly ornamented, worn around the neck by clergy, particularly bishops, priests, and deacons) to symbolise the season of the Churches year.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

# 2025 – 2026

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

**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 often observed:

- 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>

Purple	Gold	White	Red	Green
Preparation and Penance	Joy and Celebration	Purity	Sacrifice	Hope, Life, and Growth
Used in Advent and Lent	Used for special days and celebrations, such as Easter Day and Christmas Day	Used in the seasons of Easter and Christmas, and for saints who were not martyrs	Used during Pentecost, Remembrance Sunday and the Apostles and saints who were martyrs	Used throughout Ordinary Time – Growing Time

### 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 church's 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