

Year Group Reception	Worldview: Christianity
Strand:	Christian Worldviews
Key Question:	What is the church and who goes there?
Focus of study:	Beliefs and faiths Community and Identity
Background information for teachers:	
<p>A church is a special place Christians visit to feel closer to God. Christians pray, sing and celebrate their beliefs in church.</p> <p>The Bible is held and read in church within worship – Christians use The Bible to represent how much God is worth to them.</p> <p>Many churches use stain glassed windows to tell stories from The Bible and big Christian events.</p> <p>Many Christians visit church on a Sunday; this directly links back to Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Sunday. Many Christians go to church for events in the church year, for example, Harvest, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost etc. There are many celebrations that Christians and others visit the church for, such as a wedding, baptism/christening, funerals.</p> <p>There are important people that work in the church for celebrations and services, these people are called Vicars, Bishops.</p>	
Prior learning:	<p>Visits and experiences of the church.</p> <p>What is Christianity and what do Christians believe.</p> <p>Communities and identities of people.</p> <p>*It would be suggested to visit a church before or during this topic.</p>
Building Blocks:	<p>There are things that Christians do that show that they belong – Baptism for example, this can include going to church.</p> <p>Christians read the Bible to get their ideas.</p> <p>Bible stories can be read in different ways.</p>
Outcomes:	<p>Pupils understand the importance of worship in church for Christians.</p> <p>Pupils understand why Christians pray to God in church.</p> <p>Pupils know the Christian symbols and what they mean when used in church.</p>
Resources:	<p>Discovery RE</p> <p>Understanding Christianity</p> <p>Picturing Christianity</p> <p>BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Twinkl</p>
Lesson 1:	Introduction – Stain glassed windows

<p>Begin by showing Picturing Christianity resource, pictures 1 and 3 – stain glassed windows to introduce church buildings. Encourage the pupils to partner talk about what they can see, what colours, patterns, images within the stain glass windows.</p> <p>Look at a range of stain glassed windows from Christian churches, many with stories within. Talk about the stories within the windows, some which we know already – Jesus’ birth and resurrection.</p>	
<p>Activity ideas: Make own stain glassed window.</p>	
Lesson 2:	What is a church?
<p>Look at a picture of outside a church, perhaps the church you have already visited. What is this place? Give the pupils two minutes to discuss any experiences of visiting a church; allow them to feed back to the class. Does anyone know who the church is special to? Explain it is a special place for Christians to feel close to Jesus and God. Many Christians pray, sing and celebrate in church.</p> <p>Split the pupils into groups, give each group a picture from areas inside the church; can they identify what it is and what it is used for? Why is it special? Share as a group. Explain what the different parts of the church are used for. Specify weddings and baptisms/christenings to support child-initiated activities. Share own experiences of visiting a church for celebrations.</p>	
<p>Activity ideas: Make their own church or “special place” using junk modelling, craft materials etc.</p>	
Lesson 3:	Celebrations in church
<p>Introduce the lesson using a picture of a child’s baptism. Give the pupils time to talk with a partner about what they can see, what the pupils are doing and why. Explain that many Christians are baptised by a priest sprinkling water on the person’s head to show their sense of belonging and commitment to God and the Christian religion.</p> <p>Split the pupils into groups with images of different church celebrations: Wedding, baptism/christening, Christingle, Nativity service, Easter service etc. pupils talk with their group about what they can see, what the group is doing and why. Share with the group and talk about the different celebrations and what these mean to Christians - use pictures from own church services to link to their experiences.</p>	
<p>Activity ideas: Sorting images into ‘church’ and ‘non-church’ celebrations.</p>	
Lesson 4:	Leaders of the church

<p>*You could organise a visit from a local vicar or bishop. *See Marion Standing for church year resources.</p> <p>Introduce 'leaders' with images and video snapshots of a range of Christian leaders around the world. For example, The Pope, Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Canterbury, priests, bishops, reverends.</p> <p>Talk about how the Archbishop of Canterbury is the head of the Church of England and has reverends, bishops etc. as his team in churches.</p> <p>Look at what the leaders wear, and discuss their robes. Link to the colours of robes for events in the church year, for example, purple is worn at lent and advent as you are counting down in preparation for the event. Gold is worn for big events in the year for example, Christmas and Easter. Look at examples of these with the class.</p>	
<p>Activity ideas: Design a new set of robes for a bishop, using different collage materials. Tuff tray with the key colours of the church year.</p>	
Lesson 5:	What do Christians use for worship?
<p>Introduce with artefacts: cross, candle, chalice and plate, The Bible. Explain what each artefact is used for in church during worship.</p> <p>Cross: Reference to Jesus' death on the cross and the importance of the cross to Christians.</p> <p>Chalice and plate: Reference to 'The Last Supper' where Jesus shared bread and wine.</p> <p>Candle: You may have a trinity candle which you should name, or a single candle to represent the light of Christ and connection with God.</p> <p>Look at images of The Bible, explain the importance of The Bible to Christians – The Bible is an important book written by disciples of Jesus of stories of Jesus. Many Christians use and read The Bible to show their commitment to Christianity and to feel closer to God.</p>	
<p>Activity ideas: Make their own chalice using clay. Make their own stain glass window cross. Make their own candle using crafts. *Use Pinterest for activity ideas.</p>	
Assessment:	<p>Early Learning Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions. • Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding. • Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. • Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.