Collective Worship Outlines for Pentecost.

These outlines are intended for use in what we have called the ‘Pentecost’ season. The church actually only has week of Pentecost before turning to the season of Trinity. We have chosen to keep the name Pentecost to keep things simple. Each session has a PowerPoint and a PDF. They are complimentary but not intended to be used together. The PowerPoint is more suited to formal gatherings, the PDF to less formal ones – though the choice is up to you.

The Season is heralded by the famous speech of St Peter in Acts chapter 2. From this beginning a number of Christian communities sprang up around the Mediterranean and it was to these communities (called churches, meaning ‘gatherings’) that St Paul and others wrote letters which form part of the New Testament. It is these letters that form the raw material for our Collective Worship Outlines.

Some of these letters are the oldest part of the New Testament – being written before the gospels. There must have been some stories of Jesus circulating because the letters refer to them but largely assume that the readers know the stories. Such as Paul referring to the Last Supper in 1 Corinthians Chapter 11 or Peter’s reference to the Transfiguration in 2 Peter Chapter 1.

We have picked out short excerpts from the letters as a way of introducing them to children. It must be remembered that these letters were written for adults and, in places, deal with very adult themes. We would not recommend trying to read them in their entirety with children. All of the excerpts from the letters are taken from the Good News Translation.

The sessions pick out various themes from the letters, each session can stand alone. Though there is an introductory outline which gives a little insight into the genre. As you use the PDFs/PowerPoints you may have to remind the pupils that we are thinking about the ideas in these letters written among the first Christians and what these ideas might mean for us today. We have tried to keep questions as open as possible to allow pupils to form their own ideas.

Each outline has an opening and a close as well as a prayer, you may wish to add further prayers and/or song. Please feel free to adapt the material as you wish. In particular you may wish to add your school logo in place of the ODBE one on the PowerPoints and to include reference to your own school vision (and, perhaps, values) where appropriate.

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