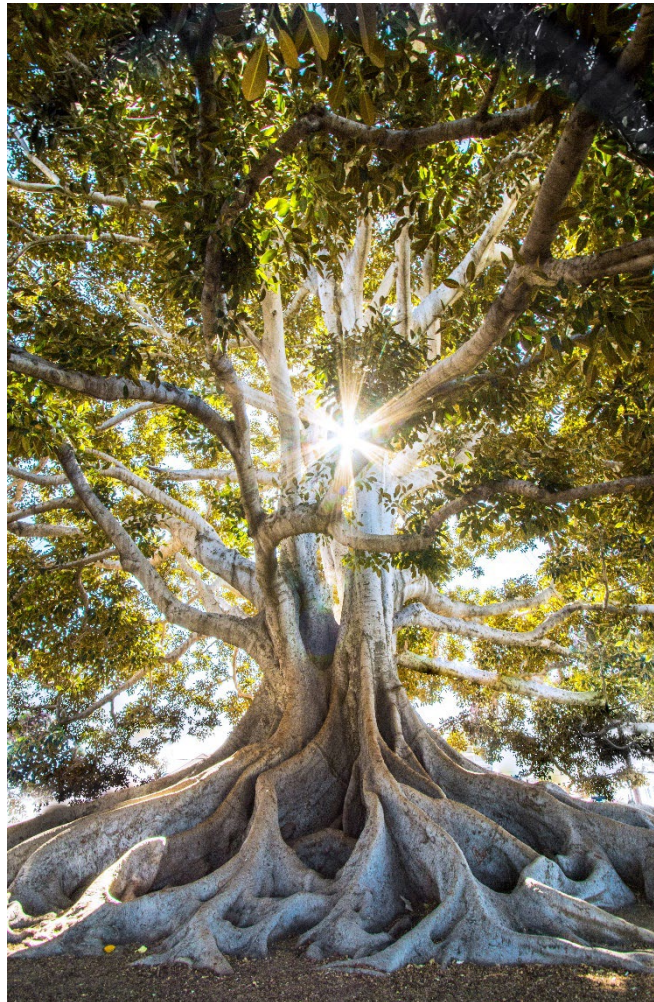


# **BISHOP DAGMAR'S LENT CHALLENGE 2024**

The Diocese of Ely in partnership with USPG

## **'This is the Time'**



**'For I know the plans I have for you...  
plans to give you hope and a future'**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

## Vision and Overview

*“For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future” - Jeremiah 29:11*

The **Lent Challenge 2024** is about taking action to care for creation in a time of climate crisis, remembering that we have hope in God and God’s plans for our good future. **This is the Time** to care for our beautiful world.

As we journey through Lent, we’ll hear stories about the environment from the Bible and from around the world - stories of creation and beauty, and stories of loss and damage. We’ll be inspired by adults and children around the world who are agents of change - planning, building, planting and praying - and get ideas for how we can join in.

### Our aims and thoughts

Our world is facing multiple environmental disasters, including sea level rise, changing weather patterns, increasing natural disasters, and pollution of air, land and seas. We must take action now to prevent any further damage. This Lent, we are inviting children and staff to learn, reflect, pray and act to care for our world.

The Bible is full of stories about unlikely people who were leaders and agents of change because they trusted in God and God’s plans. When Jesus was just a young child, he taught adults in the Temple, showing how important the voices of young people are. We want to hear their voices through art, writing, videos, songs, and more.

### Our partner

Our partner for the Lent Challenge 2024 is **USPG**.



USPG is the Anglican mission agency, founded in 1701, that partners with churches and communities worldwide in God’s mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.

Our key focus is on supporting churches and communities in their struggles against injustices associated with gender, climate change, migration, the human rights of indigenous people and inter-religious living. We support Christians across the world to form communities of hope and resistance.

*Reverend Mandy Flaherty - Development Officer for Schools Mission  
Ella Sibley - USPG Regional Manager Europe and Oceania*

## A message from Bishop Dagmar

Dear Friends,

In Jeremiah, God speaks to the prophet assuring him that there is a plan for him and a secure future ahead. Life was turbulent and far from safe in Jeremiah's time. We live in times where we also need that reassurance as we experience increased changes to our climate and our earth. We live day to day with news about how our environment is impacted by human actions. Christians are constantly challenged to think about how we can take action to preserve and restore the earth - including humanity - as God's best creation.

During this time of Lent, we take time to reflect on our actions towards the environment - individually and collectively. Throughout the world there are some wonderful works happening to try and combat climate change and restore the wonder of creation so that humanity can live with the beauty and peace of all creation. We all learn from the examples of others and once we see the success of a small action taken, it encourages us to think that we can do the same, or more, where we are.

I am delighted, therefore, that USPG have joined with our Diocesan Team to create this resource for our 2024 Lent Challenge. They are a key partner in our Anglican mission and I am grateful for their worldwide knowledge that runs throughout this Lent Challenge. It is inspiring to see the steps some communities are taking in order to combat climate change and develop their understanding of God's hope in the midst of difficulty. It is as Jeremiah says:

*'For I know the plans I have for you', says the Lord, 'plans to give you a hope and a future' Jeremiah 29:11*

This Lent, I want to encourage you to explore through the bible, God's involvement with our world and creation. Then it is for you and for us to take small steps to help preserve and restore its beauty and health for future generations so that all of us can have hope for the future.

Prayer leads to action, so I invite you to pray with me:

*God of life,  
through our Lord Jesus Christ who shared your love for the world  
you give us hope.  
May your hope shine brightly among us  
and guide our steps every day.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*



## Bishop Dagmar's Lent Challenge 2024: Collective Worship Ideas - 'This is the Time' - Hope for the Future

### Focus for the Lent Challenge - a note for teachers

This year's Lent Challenge is all about taking a journey through the bible focusing on God's intervention with Creation and our Earth. It challenges us to take an active part in preserving and restoring our earth to the way God wants it to be so that we can live happily in tune with our environment and not battling it.

We are working in partnership with USPG this year and you may wish to do some research on them before you embark on the Challenge. Their key focus, as stated above, is to *support(ing) churches and communities in their struggles against injustices associated with gender, climate change, migration, the human rights of indigenous people and inter-religious living.*

### Content

#### Included with this pack are:

- Thematic ideas for Collective Worship and school activities over four - six weeks in Lent. The themes covered are Flooding, God's Covenant, Creation, Salvation, Restoration and Recreation. There is scope for each school to develop their own creative ideas if they wish.
- Prayer focus on the weekly theme from USPG
- Resources and materials to extend learning in RE lessons
- Contacts for further information

### Children's Work

We invite schools to send materials produced by the children to the diocese in electronic format. We are really looking forward to seeing how creative our children can be. Any and all forms of work showing the ways children have engaged with the challenge will be wonderful to see. Please be aware that any photos of children may be displayed on our website so please obtain the relevant permissions before sending them to us. And it couldn't be easier for you to share!

Simply send content to share to [schoolsmission@elydiocese.org](mailto:schoolsmission@elydiocese.org).

In 2023 we created a page on our website for all materials produced from our schools:

[Bishop's Lent Challenge - Diocese of Ely \(elydiocese.org\)](https://elydiocese.org)

We would love to have uplifting and inspiring work on the actions and steps children and schools undertake and to share this widely with others. We'll be sharing everything with Ely Cathedral, Church Schools of Cambridge and the Diocese of Ely Education, Mission & Ministry Team. And we're sure that parents and carers will love to see all your hard work - so please share on your school websites too.

### Ideas for collective worship and activities

We're excited to bring you four - six weeks (you decide when and how long you want to run the challenge for) of lesson inspiration, classroom and whole school activities and Acts of Worship.

Please be encouraged to use these however works best for your class/school.

There is a suggested Act of Worship on PowerPoints, plus ideas for classroom and whole school activities too. These are intended as a guide; you are the best people to work out ideas for your own school, and we know the children will have lots of ideas too.

This is a framework which can be copied and pasted into teachers' own methods and IT systems. The document is a Diocese of Ely document and all we ask is, that if it is used elsewhere reference is made to The Diocese of Ely.

**‘This is the time’** *“For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future” - Jeremiah 29:11*

## Week One: Flooding

**Scripture Focus:** Genesis chapters 6-9 (ICB)

**Key Vocab:** Noah Flood Blameless Climate change Global warming Preserve, Protect Covenant

<b>GATHERING</b>	Song for entry/exit: Waiting on the World to Change - John Mayer
	<p>Lead and Response</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This is the time Lord...</b> <b>We can make a difference</b></p>
<b>ENGAGING</b>	<p><b>Genesis chapters 6-9 - summary</b></p> <p>When God made the world, on day 6, He said ‘It was very good’. He created a wonderful world, filled with awe, wonder, nature, humans and animals. But, the ‘goodness’ did not last long. After Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree they were commanded not to eat, they were made to leave the Garden of Eden and start to make their own path. God tried to help humans over many years but things continued to get worse and the world was no longer ‘good’. So, he chose a special man, who was blameless not sinless, to save his world. That man was called Noah. God spoke to Noah and asked him to build a boat, with very specific instructions and with a very special purpose. Noah would be the first saviour of humanity. God said Noah needed to give people an opportunity to repent - this means to turn back to God, say sorry for their sinful ways and to start living how God wanted them to live. So, whilst he built the boat he spoke to the people. They did not listen and consequently God sent a huge flood to wipe the sin away. All life on Earth, except from Noah and his family died. After 40 days and nights of rain, then 150 days waiting for the floods to disappear, Noah and his family left the boat. God made a covenant (a promise, a deal) with Noah that he would never flood the whole world again and he put his signature in the sky with a rainbow.</p> <p>But, people question why we have massive floods in today’s society if God promised to not do it again. Simple answer is God promised to never flood the whole world again, He will never show his wrath in the same way. We experience extreme floods as a result of heavy rainfall, overflowing rivers, dry or soggy land, climate change and global warming. The more humans misuse and exploit the world, the more issues we will experience. With the world getting increasingly hotter, more moisture is in the air. This increases the amount and the force of rain that falls from the sky. In 1880, records of temperature began. In 2022, the world recorded its hottest ever water temperature and the global surface temperature was the 6<sup>th</sup> hottest since the records began. This year is believed to be even hotter. Humans need to act now, preserve and protect in order to make a difference for the future generations. We cannot stop rain from falling, but we can make a difference through changes and awareness of global warming and climate change.</p> <p>Look at examples of local flooding (fenland), national and global flooding. If we became ‘Agents of Change’ what could we do? What difference can we make? How can we change things? What will be the impact of our actions? How can we prepare now for future generations?</p>

<b>RESPONDING</b>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we prevent future mass flooding events?</li> <li>• How can educate people about the dangers of flooding?</li> <li>• What is the impact of flooding?</li> <li>• How can I make a difference?</li> <li>• How can I help those who are suffering from flood damage?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Songs for Choral Worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sing Up: Drop in the ocean</li> <li>• Peace like a river</li> <li>• Rise and Shine</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>Dear Lord, We pray for those who have responsibility to act and respond quickly to help those who suffer from flooding.</p> <p>We pray for those who struggle from the results of flooding. Let the world be generous in helping them to find new places to live and food to eat.</p> <p>We pray for the human race to make wiser decisions and become agents of change to help the future generations. <i>Amen</i></p>
<b>SENDING</b>	<p><b>Message</b></p> <p>We may only be small now but just like the acorn grows into an oak tree, we will grow big and mighty. We can make a big difference for the future little ones.</p>
	<p><b>Reflection</b></p> <p>God put a rainbow in the sky to show his covenant with humans. What do you think about when you see a rainbow? Is it God talking to us?</p>
<b>CLASSROOM ENRICHMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/geography-ks3-river-flooding/zmdq7nb">https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/geography-ks3-river-flooding/zmdq7nb</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://thefloodhub.co.uk/ks2-flooding-lessons-access/">https://thefloodhub.co.uk/ks2-flooding-lessons-access/</a></li> <li>• Create posters about flooding - the causes and what we can do to help</li> <li>• Learn about local, national or global flooding and what happens to people and God's creation - what are the causes? Is it man made or nature?</li> <li>• Create a poster to put around school and send home to parents to suggest ways to reduce water wastage - template provided.</li> </ul>
<b>ACT</b>	<p>This week look at how you use water. Take steps to reduce your water consumption. Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth. Time your shower and then reduce the time you spend in the shower by half. Ask your parents to run the short cycle on your dishwasher and always make sure it is full or use a cooler temperature on the washing machine. Try to make sure the taps are turn off properly after using the toilet.</p>

## Week Two: God's Covenant

Scripture Focus: Genesis 9:8-13 (ICB)

Key Vocab: Covenant    Worldviews    Indigenous    Rituals    Spirits    Sacred

<b>GATHERING</b>	Song for entry/exit: I thank God - CJ and Friends
	<p>Lead and Response</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This is the time Lord...</b> <b>We can make a difference</b></p>
<b>ENGAGING</b>	<p>Play the game: On my island. Tell the children you have an island and they can join you if they can add something to your list that follows the 'rule'. For example show a picture of a tiger, lion, leopard - all types of big cats - children could say panther. Butterfly, ladybird, caterpillar... all types of insect - children could say woodlouse. Stick to the theme of nature. Do a few rounds of this.</p> <p>Reflect back on the story from Genesis last week. When the flood waters disappeared imagine how Noah must have felt. He must have questioned how his family would they survive on the empty earth? Then God speaks to Noah and makes a covenant. It comes in 4 parts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Noah and his family will be fruitful and multiply in number. What does that mean? Who has God said that to before?</li> <li>2) Noah and his family will have dominion over the animals/ be the masters of the world. What does that mean? Who will they be masters of? What does the word dominion mean?</li> <li>3) Humans may now eat animals.</li> <li>4) Humans may not kill one another as we are made in God's image so all human life is sacred.</li> </ol> <p>This covenant was with Noah but God tells him that it applies to all of mankind, for all future generations. It became a covenant with creation as it involved every living thing. God gave Noah a visual sign in the sky - like a signature on deal and sealed his covenant with a rainbow.</p> <p>The belief that humans are in-tune with nature is not something new. The indigenous Cordillera and Lumad people of the Philippines have the worldview that all human beings share the Earth with spirits of the trees, rivers, rocks, hills and mountains. And because of this belief, they do not damage, abuse or harm nature in order to not upset the spirits. If action is taken to destroy nature they believe that the spirits will act causing illness, misfortunes or disaster. They believe the only way to put things right again is through rituals (and sacrifice). This is part of the Igorot concept of <i>Inayan</i>. This concept teaches that one must do to others (including nature) what they want to be done to them.</p> <p><i>Lumad persons is a collective term for a number of indigenous people groups located in the south of the Philippines. Cordillera and Igorot describes a number of people groups from the Cordillera mountains in the north of the Philippines.</i></p> <p>Do these three examples of purpose have anything in common? How are they similar? Can you make links between Noah and the two examples of worldviews in terms of how we value Creation?</p>



<b>RESPONDING</b>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you/humans have in common with other living creatures?</li> <li>• What makes us different?</li> <li>• In what ways do you feel like a part of nature?</li> <li>• In what ways do you feel separate?</li> <li>• How can Christians learn from other worldviews?</li> <li>• How do we ensure that indigenous worldviews and voices are heard and not lost?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Songs for Choral Worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When I look - KidSpring Children’s Ministry</li> <li>• Waymaker - Allstars Kids Club</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>Creator God, Breathing your own life into being, you gave us the gift of life: you placed us on this Earth with its minerals and waters, flowers and fruits, living creatures of grace and beauty. You gave us the care of the Earth. Teach us, Creator God of Love, that the Earth and all its fullness is yours, the world and all who dwell in it. Call us yet again to safeguard the gift of life. <i>Amen</i></p> <p>(USPG Prayer - For a time such as this)</p>
<b>SENDING</b>	<p><b>Message</b></p> <p>Remember all life is sacred, human, animals and nature.</p>
	<p><b>Reflection</b></p> <p>Christians believe that humans are made in God’s image, how do you show that all life is sacred?</p>
<b>CLASSROOM ENRICHMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spending time outside - go on a nature trail, share story time, look at the changes in God’s creation in recent months</li> <li>• Take photos or draw pictures to track changes of things around you - Template provided</li> <li>• Discussion Time: If you could ask God one question about creation, what would it be?</li> <li>• What is the climate crisis? What can we do about it to make a difference? - Template provided</li> </ul>
<b>ACT</b>	<p>Go on a nature walk, notice all of nature around you, take photographs. Talk about how things change over the months and years. Look at ways to make your environment more beautiful, can you plant some bulbs or flowers? Can you collect any lost rubbish? Can you tidy away things that have been left out? Can you help to trim some of the bushes? Can you collect some of the dead leaves?</p>

## Week Three: Creation

Scripture Focus: Psalm 8 and 19 (ICB)

Key Vocab: Psalm Psalmist Awe Wonder Perfection Realistic Agents of change

<b>GATHERING</b>	Song for entry/exit: Psalm 8 - Corner Room
	<p>Lead and Response</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This is the time Lord...</b> <b>We can make a difference</b></p>
<b>ENGAGING</b>	<p>Psalm 8 speaks of how wonderful the Creator of this world must be, it praises him for the awesome nature of the world. Psalm 19 speaks of how God is always sending messages and teaches Christians that when they look around them, they see the work of God. Choose to focus on one of the Psalms and discuss what the messages it teaches about God. Ask the children what they think is amazing, moments of awe and wonder.</p> <p><b>Contrast: Philippines - USPG</b> In the Philippines, there is a great amount of commercial interest in the land. This means large companies are taking land to develop their business. As a result, vast amounts of forests are being stripped of trees. Mountains are being mined to find copper, coal and gold. In addition to this, agricultural land which is used for growing crops have been poisoned and rivers/lakes are being polluted. Filipinos native to these lands are also suffering, loss of homes, land and opportunities to earn.</p> <p>The Psalmist paints an almost perfect picture of Creation. Christians would say that human greed and sin have spoiled that perfection. What is your perception of Creation before the Fall? Is the world still perfect? Is the Philippines just one example or are there more?</p>
	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What beautiful things do you notice in creation?</li> <li>• What is unfamiliar or strange in this description?</li> <li>• How realistic is this?</li> <li>• How similar to your experience of the world around you?</li> </ul>
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<p><b>Songs for Choral Worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What a wonderful world - Playing for Change</li> <li>• 'For the Beauty of the Earth' - traditional hymn written by Folliett Sandford Pierpoint (1864)</li> <li>• Power in me - YVTV (Young Voices)</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>All-powerful God, You are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. <i>Amen</i></p> <p>(USPG Prayer - For a time such as this)</p>
<b>SENDING</b>	<p><b>Message</b></p> <p>We should say thank you for what we have, well done for what has been achieved and work towards becoming agents of change for the future generations.</p>
	<p><b>Reflection</b></p> <p>How can we make the world good again?</p>
<b>CLASSROOM ENRICHMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine examples of good stewardship vs poor stewardship - what can we address in school?</li> <li>• Write a prayer of thanks to God for his wonderful creation - Template provided</li> <li>• Create a piece of art for a museum to show Psalm 8/19 - Templates provided</li> <li>• Explore and write poems about creation and human damage</li> <li>• Learn about mining in the Philipians - what can we do?</li> </ul>
<b>ACT</b>	<p>This week focus on how much plastic you use. At least 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans each year. Marine wildlife is often entangled in plastic causing death and injuries. Can you look at ways to reduce the amount of plastic we use? Can you create posters for making people more aware of the damage? Can you bring a reusable bottle or pots to reduce plastic bags for food?</p>

## Week Four: Salvation

Scripture Focus: Romans 8:18-25 (ICB)

Key Vocab: Suffer      Suffering      Struggle      Temporary

<b>GATHERING</b>	Song for entry/exit: Amen - Watoto Children's Choir
	<p>Lead and Response</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This is the time Lord...</b> <b>We can make a difference</b></p>
<b>ENGAGING</b>	<p>Ask the children - 'What does it mean to suffer?' 'What does suffering look like?' Gather the children's responses. The dictionary definition says 'suffering is the state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship' - how close were the children with their definition?</p> <p>In the book of Romans, we learn about suffering and pain. In life we all suffer. But we should not be disheartened because God gives us hope. On Earth, there will be times when we struggle and cannot find our way. We may suffer pain and that is due to living in a world where there is sin and anger. Romans offers humans some light. It teaches Christians that even though we suffer, we know that God is with us in darkest suffering, and that nothing can separate us from God's love. This does not mean that it can't be really tough but it does mean that we are offered hope in suffering: we know we are not alone, and the Spirit of Jesus helps us in our weakness. God comforts us in difficult times and gives joy and hope, even when we're in pain. And it goes further, reminding us that one day we will be reunited with God in heaven and then joy will overflow.</p> <p><i>Romans 8:25 'People do not hope for something they already have'.</i> What do you think this means?</p> <p>In Mozambique, its geographic location means as a country, it suffers from climate change greatly. In the last 2 decades, the country has been damaged by long severe droughts in the central and southern region, devastating cyclones and almost yearly flooding - especially in the central and northern regions (USPG). Millions of people suffer, thousands of people die and many cannot find a way to recover from the damages in their lives. There is chronic hunger, lack of sanitation and large amounts of poverty across the country. To make things harder, people have to live in constant fear of terrorism and conflict. But there is a sign of hope. There are Churches who are actively working together to address climate change and tackle the economic crisis. They are trying to educate the young - teaching about resilience, response and climate change. They are planting more trees to make the land more fertile and trying to reduce pollution. Do you think this helps those who suffering? Does it offer hope?</p>
<b>RESPONDING</b>	<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What gives you hope?</li> <li>• What makes you suffer?</li> <li>• How can you offer others hope?</li> <li>• What ways can you stop others from suffering?</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Songs for Choral Worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hope - Allstars Kids Worship</li> <li>• Hope - Worship for everyone</li> <li>• Hopeity Hope - Lyric Video (Songs of Some Silliness) - Hillsong Kids</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>Dear God, Our climate is changing and we are changing it. We know our carbon footprint and failures think about the consequences of our actions is damaging your world. We have been slow to react. We are sorry for all the times we knew the right thing to do but chose convenience instead. <i>Amen</i></p> <p>(USPG Prayer - For a time such as this)</p>
SENDING	<p><b>Message</b></p> <p>In a time such as this, we need start changing things now, before it is too late.</p>
	<p><b>Reflection</b></p> <p>What is our hope and how can we achieve it as part of a school community?</p>
CLASSROOM ENRICHMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection on quote from St Augustine of Hippo: “Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are Anger and Courage; Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.” How can we show this story creatively? - Suggested template provided</li> <li>• Hand of strength activity - draw around your hand and name five things that you are good at to see where your talents lie? - Template provided</li> </ul>
ACT	<p>Talk to you parents about possibly walking, cycling or taking public transport to school and other places for a week. If this means that getting to places takes a little bit longer use that time to reflect on what you have learnt over the past few weeks. Think about those who walk to school no matter the weather, terrain or distance.</p>

## Week 5: Restoration

Scripture Focus: Luke 2:41-52 (ICB)

Key Vocab: Temple    ‘Green school’    Environment    Crisis    Caretakers    Stewardship  
 Humanity    Preserve    Protect

<b>GATHERING</b>	<p><b>Song for entry/exit:</b> Going Green Song / Earth Day / Environment / Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - Bubble Education</p>
	<p><b>Lead and Response</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This is the time Lord...</b>  <b>We can make a difference</b></p>
<b>ENGAGING</b>	<p>When God had created the world, he told humans they would be the caretakers. This responsibility is called ‘Stewardship’. Whether you believe in God or not, it is all of humanity responsibility to preserve and protect the world for future generations. This means we need to try our best to keep the world going, to not ruin it and to make sure our babies, and the babies of the future, have a place to called home which is safe and harmonious. One way we can do something small as eventually it will make a big difference. What kind of small things can we do to make a big difference? Some examples may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant some flowers</li> <li>• Look after the school grounds</li> <li>• Reduce, reuse, recycle</li> <li>• Compost food waste</li> <li>• Reuse rain water</li> <li>• Tend to a herb garden</li> <li>• Pick up litter</li> </ul> <p>There is a story in the Bible about Jesus as a child and how he made a difference despite being only 12 years old. Mary and Joseph were leaving Jerusalem with a crowd of people when suddenly they realized Jesus was gone. Can you imagine how worried Mary and Joseph must have been? They had lost God’s son! They walked around asking the fellow travelers if they had seen Jesus, they all answered no. So, they headed back to Jerusalem and found him 3 days later. Where do you think Jesus was? He was in the temple talking to the priests and temple people. They were asking him questions and he sat there leading the people, they were amazed by his knowledge and understanding. When Mary found him, she questioned why he had behaved in this way and not followed them when they left. Jesus told his mother it was obvious where he would be ...in his father’s house. She did not fully understand what Jesus meant.</p> <p>There are many stories in the Bible where we are shown that children and young people are precious to God and that they must be taken seriously. Jesus asks the disciples not to stop children coming to him (Mark 10:13-15). And in the Old Testament, think of God calling and speaking to the young boy Samuel, not to the experienced old priest Eli (1 Samuel 3). When it comes to anointing a king, it is, unusually, the youngest son of Jesse, David, who is chosen (1 Samuel 16:10-13). The Bible teaches us that those who are young and their gifts are to be valued.</p> <p>A great example of this is found in South India. Children conduct ‘green audits’ of their schools, assessing their performance in areas such as air quality and waste management. They then make recommendations based on their findings, and the schools plan where necessary to make improvements. School children on the programme have become champions for the environment. They are trained in eco-spirituality, so that they can lead their lives from an ecological perspective. So, if you were to become agents of change, what changes would you want to see and make - in our school, in our local environment, nationally, globally? What small things can we do to make the biggest difference for the future generations?</p>

<b>RESPONDING</b>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What small actions can make a big impact for the future generations?</li> <li>• "The moment we decide to fulfil something, we can do anything." What does Greta Thunberg mean by this statement?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Songs for Choral Worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every Move I Make - CJ and Friends Worship</li> <li>• Together - Out of the Ark</li> <li>• Sing from your heart - Young Voices Choir</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>Father of everlasting compassion, You see your children growing up in an uncertain and confusing world: Show them the path of life enable them to triumph over failure and frustration, To hold fast their faith in you and to keep alive their joy in your Creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, <i>Amen</i></p> <p>(USPG Prayer - For a time such as this)</p>
<b>SENDING</b>	<p><b>Message</b></p> <p>Did you know ... Little people can make big differences.</p>
	<p><b>Reflection</b></p> <p>Put a picture of an acorn and oak tree. From the tiny acorn, a mighty oak tree grows. Be like an acorn, grow and make a mighty change.</p>
<b>CLASSROOM ENRICHMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drama - imagine you were Jesus in the temple, what would you want to talk to the priests about? What would you prioritise as a discussion point? What would the crowd say to you?</li> <li>• Learn about other inspirational young people who fight for justice and social changes - Greta Thunberg, Leah Namugerwa and Jerome Foster II</li> <li>• Envisioning two versions of the future 20 years from now - with and without climate action - what does the world look like? Make it specific - what would a trip to the shops look like? Or a day at school?</li> <li>• If Jesus were to visit again, what would we prioritise to fix in terms of the environment and climate change?</li> <li>• How green is your school? What can be done in your school?</li> </ul>
<b>ACT</b>	<p>This week, look at how much energy you consume. Take steps to reduce the electricity, gas, or oil you use in your school. Does your school have energy efficient light bulbs? Can the classrooms turn the thermostat down by 2 degrees? Are the doors and windows closed properly? Does everyone switch off their lights when you leave the room? Work together to make changes in your school.</p>

## Week Six: Recreation

Scripture Focus: Revelation 21:1-7

Key Vocab: Revelation Imagination Heaven New Jerusalem humanity

<b>GATHERING</b>	<p><b>Song for entry/exit:</b> Play some relaxing music with a ‘nature’ feel with a video showing God’s amazing world</p>
<b>GATHERING</b>	<p><b>Lead and Response</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This is the time Lord...</b> <b>We can make a difference</b></p>
<b>ENGAGING</b>	<p>What kind of world do you want to see? This is a big question, it has an obvious answer but it is harder to put into action. Make a list in CW of all the things your children want their children to see in the world - for example animals in nature, beautiful trees, flowers, natural habitats, sunny days, happy humans. This is exactly what God wanted from his world, that each generation would look after- preserve and protect what they have for the future generations that would follow. Make a list of all the things your children do not want their children to see. There is a stark comparison no doubt.</p> <p>Give the children a simple puzzle- break it up and ask them to piece it back together. Explain how this was broken but it has been fixed again, making it new again.</p> <p>The Bible teaches in the Book of Revelation about ‘Hope’. In Chapter 21, it describes a New Jerusalem and describes heaven for those who have shown perseverance and endurance. The new heaven and the new earth is something we cannot fully understand or even imagine. However, it is the most beautiful place where the fulness of God’s love fills everyone and everything. There will be peace between people and nations, there will be no more suffering or pain or sadness.</p> <p>When we pray in the Lord’s Prayer “your kingdom come” or “thy kingdom come”, we are praying for this kind of world to come into our world. And as we are praying this and hoping for this, we may find God’s Spirit moving in our hearts to make us agents of this new world, this new creation. In this chapter, God tells us he is the beginning and the end of all things. God created us as humans and one day He will take all things and make them new again (in Heaven). He has always been there, since the beginning and will be with us forever. God will comfort, protect, guide and strengthen us. He will make all things new and transform our lives, on Earth and in Heaven.</p> <p><a href="#">New heaven and a new earth - YouTube</a></p> <p>The best is yet to come - A visual representation of Revelations 21:1-7</p> <p>Communities around the world work to at growing and harvesting from the soil and they do more than just produce food. They re-create their lives. From continuously working the soil, sowing seeds, caring for livestock, and communal harvesting, to meals shared at a common table, the entire process is one of nourishment for the body and the soul. As they gather to share the fruits of one another’s labour, they remember and have our eyes opened to God’s work that brings life out of Creation and, through the community, to one another. As they work the soil, as they train participants, and as they welcome visitors, they see God at work transforming each of them and Creation itself, to the image of Jesus Christ. At the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) they live out a ‘three loves’ theology in its community. In loving God, loving one another, and loving the soil - the three loves - they seek to realise God’s coming heavenly kingdom; a re-Creation of the life that God has envisioned for us. This work is not only about joy, for as the world suffers in the midst of disease and conflict, we also suffer. We face daily difficulties with one another, with the soil and with understanding how God is working in the world.</p>



<b>RESPONDING</b>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bible passage gives us a vision of a ‘transformed’ Earth, restored to its original, God-centered glory. What kind of world do we want to see?</li> <li>• What hope can you offer the future generations?</li> <li>• What do you think Heaven is like?</li> <li>• Do you think we should preserve and protect - even if there is no God?</li> <li>• Should we all be good stewards no matter our religious or non-religious views?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Songs for Choral Worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heaven is our home - Hillsong Kids</li> <li>• When I get to Heaven - Be the light</li> <li>• Walking On Heaven's Road - Christian Songs and Videos</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>God our creator, As individuals and groups, may we come together in solidarity to think and act for the future, keeping sincere eyes on Christ. As you work inside of us and in Creation, may we be alert to the moving of the Holy Spirit, in order to live in ways to sustain life in the future. <i>Amen</i></p> <p>(USPG Prayer - For a time such as this)</p>
<b>SENDING</b>	<p><b>Message</b></p> <p>What hope can we offer to future generations?</p>
	<p><b>Reflection</b></p> <p>Place an image of a plain sheet of paper with a watercolour paint box next to it. What image of Heaven do you see?</p>
<b>CLASSROOM ENIROMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a list of ‘loves and loathes’ about the world - Template provided</li> <li>• Edit with a list of actions that could promote/embrace or stop our feelings above</li> <li>• Design our own image of ‘Heaven’ in response to Revelations 21:1-7 - Templated provided</li> <li>• Create a class jigsaw, each piece to display what part of the world helps to create ‘Heaven on Earth’</li> </ul>
<b>ACT</b>	<p>Look at NATRE Spirited Arts Competition 2024 titled ‘Where is God today?’ - host an in-school competition and create an entry. <a href="https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Spirited%20Arts/2023/Spirited%20Arts%202023%20themes%20-%20Art%20in%20Heaven%20themes.pdf">https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Spirited%20Arts/2023/Spirited%20Arts%202023%20themes%20-%20Art%20in%20Heaven%20themes.pdf</a></p> <p>Don’t forget to send examples to us to share with Bishop Dagmar and on the Ely Diocese Education website.</p>