

“The Pick and Mix Church”

We have called this book “pick and mix” because that is exactly what we hope teachers will do with it. There are already a number of very helpful non-statutory schemes on the Church in place from Cambridgeshire LEA and QCA, as well as RE schemes teachers have developed for themselves over the years and which fit their individual school circumstances. In putting these materials together we have not tried to replace what is already available, but have been thinking what *additional* materials would help primary pupils come to a great understanding of what the Church is all about. We have started with four enormous questions “Why? Where? Who? What?” and tried to consider how *Christian church members* would wish these to be answered.

The Index page is laid out in the shape of four question boxes and you will find here some possible answers to the questions “Why? Where? Who? What?” when these are asked of the Church – these answers are also the titles of the units. Under each of the “W words” material has been written for both Foundation/ KS1 and KS2. **Teachers can “pick and mix” by:**

- Supplementing an already existing scheme with ideas from one of the units to give it more depth
- Looking carefully at the number of church topics a pupil undertakes during their primary career, and including materials from some of the units to ensure that there is progression, rather than repetition, when topics are revisited in KS2
- Picking units from several of the “Why? Where? Who? What?” boxes to put together a new scheme of work on the Church to replace one which is perhaps getting a little jaded
- Using some of the units to produce additional challenging work for high-flyers or to allow for differentiation
- Church Schools which have given over a significant proportion of their RE time to Christianity should also find new ideas here to help them with their planning.

A final thought: “Pick and mix church” or “pick and mix religion” are phrases you sometimes hear in our modern society where people do not commit whole-heartedly to a particular faith(s) but literally pick up the bits they find attractive and discard the rest. From the 2001 Census data we find that 71.75% of the population of England and Wales label themselves as Christian (52,041,916 people). In our area this breaks down to 68.32% of the population of Peterborough, 71.32% of Cambridgeshire (77.68% in Fenland) and 78.18% in Kings Lynn with West Norfolk. But what percentage of the census list of Christians would you find in church this Sunday? I think we can guess the answer would be in the region of 15%. So, although there is general goodwill towards the Church, and when asked formally many of our local families align themselves with Christianity, a teacher cannot depend on pupils coming with anything more than a “pick and mix” knowledge of the faith. We hope that the ideas in this booklet may assist teachers and pupils together to work towards a greater understanding of the Christian faith.