

Title: The church as a community centre	Year: KS1	Timing: half term determined by choice of festival
Links: QCARA 1C 2C Cambs. CFF1 CFF2 CFF3 CRP1 CRP2, P'borough: CRC1, CRC2, CRC3, CRP1, CRP2, N'folk: CP, CLS		
<p>Learning objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To know that Christians celebrate some special events during the year e.g. Christmas • To find out about church service to mark a special event in the life of an individual e.g. marriage • To be able to recognise symbols used in some ceremonies e.g. cross, light, poppy • To hear about the life of the saint after whom the church is named 		
<p>Questions for reflection: What happens in a church? Why are there some special symbols in the church? Who was Saint ... and why is the church called after this person? What does it mean to be married? Are promises really important?</p>		
<p>Activities and experiences: Choose one of the major Christian festivals, as this will determine the timing of the unit. The children should hear the bible story that underpins the festival at an appropriate level and also experience a celebration of that festival in the church if possible. If you choose to study Christmas, use 'Born among us' or another resource that makes it clear that Christianity is culturally diverse. The pack includes excellent material from many cultures, and has suggestions for activities including artwork and cookery. Look at www.request.org.uk/infants/festivals and click on the appropriate one. Learn about the ceremony of marriage by starting with what the children already know, and being particularly careful about those whose parents are and are not married. Ask who might be involved in a marriage service and use a storybook that has a wedding, like 'Here comes the bridesmaid'. Find out what goes on at a real service using photographs and video evidence if you can. Do make it clear that there is a wide variety of practice, but emphasise the rings, the promises, the witnesses ~ the meaning of the ceremony for those people. You may want to read the story of Jesus attending a wedding at Cana either from the Bible or a storybook. Visit the website www.request.org.uk/infants/milestones/wedding01.htm Talk about logos and use some of the church trail cards (resource pages at the end of this booklet) to help you find some in the church. Learn about three logos or symbols, including the cross. Look at a variety of cross designs and choose one to make. Ask the children why Christians put crosses in the church. Record the children's answers in speech bubbles and display with the crosses. Talk about people who are special to the children and what qualities make them stand out. Find out about the life of a saint e.g. Mary, and talk about why s/he is special. Does this person show any of the qualities that the children thought were important? Can anyone be a saint? What are the qualities that the children think are important for sainthood?</p> <p>Resources: Faulkener A. ~ My book of special times in the church, pub. Bible Reading Fellowship 1-84101-0677 'Born among us' pack, pub. USPG, Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church email: bookshop@methodistchurch.org.uk Hughes S. The Bridesmaid in The Big Alfie and Annie Rose Storybook, pub. Bodley Head 0-370-31120-5 'A-cross the world' pack, pub. Church Missionary Society, contact www.cms-org.uk 'Jesus and Mary' from the Looking at Christianity series, pub. Wayland 0-7502-2241-7 Butterworth N. & Inkpen M. The Cat's Tale, pub. Collins 0-551-02878-5.</p>		

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