

Icons – Windows into Heaven	Year Group: Y5/6	No. of lessons: 4
Links: Cambs: CPE2, CPE5, CWO1, CWO3, CPL1, CPL2, P'borough: CPE4, CPE5, CWO1, CWO3, CPL1, CPL2, N'folk: CP, CLS, CKF		
Learning objectives: To find out how Christians use icons to help them worship God. To explore Christian symbolism.		
Questions for reflection: What do you own which reminds you of someone special or important to you? How do you treat it?		
Activities and experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Look at some icons together. There are many books available of photographs and they are readily downloadable from the web. A real icon would be even better! Use the notes pages to help you think about some of the different, special features of icons and their meaning. . Note the special features of this style of painting (see notes page). Notice special features such as haloes and colour symbolism ◆ Discuss what it might mean for a believer to say that an icon is a “window into Heaven”. Record your opinions to be used later as part of your display. Research photographs of icons being used in worship e.g. Orthodox Christians kissing icons or an iconostasis. ◆ Working in pairs, choose a saint or a character from the Gospels e.g. one of the evangelists or the disciples or Mary. Use a symbol dictionary to find if he or she has a particular symbol which should be included in a painting to help identify them. Alternatively you could choose a special event such as the Nativity, Jesus’ baptism, the Transfiguration or the Crucifixion. ◆ Create an icon using the “icon rules” (see notes). ◆ Write a prayer to accompany the icon, or a note to say why the painting looks as it does. ◆ Create an “iconostasis” wall display. (in the hall?) Add your comments on what has been discovered about icons as “windows”, and the role that they play in worship. 		