



DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

Diocesan Education Team

The Anglican Church Year

Anglican churches follow a liturgical calendar. This is a pattern (liturgy) for their worship through the year. As a church school, this provides an ideal opportunity to mirror what is happening in your parish / local church. It also provides a colourful and visual way to mark the festivals throughout the year.

Most churches will use different coloured vestments (a priest's clothing) and altar cloths as signs of the season of the church year. In school, this can mirrored through simply changing the colour of cloth on the worship table; or theme a whole display using the relevant colours. Soon you will find that the children recognise the colours and their meaning, that when they enter the worship space, they will notice the colours have changed and begin to make links between the seasons and the festivals throughout the year.

The meaning of the colours (dates are coloured on the attached calendar)

Green	Used during 'Ordinary time' between the main festivals and seasons. This covers most of the year and can represent growth.
Red	Used to either mark saints' days where it represents their death as a martyr, or to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit (for Pentecost / Whitsun).
White	Represents being pure, in celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and some funerals. Also used for celebrations either on its own or with gold. It is also used for saints who did not die as martyrs.
Gold	Key celebrations, for example Christmas Day and Easter Sunday. Provision is also made for gold days to be dressed in white.
Purple	Used for times of preparation and waiting, the reflective seasons. Key times are Advent and Lent.

The Liturgical Calendar

The attached calendar is designed for the school year 2023-24. The church year starts at the beginning of Advent, and ends with the following Advent, completing a circle as shown on the front page. The colours used in worship are shown on the relevant days, any uncoloured dates are 'white' days. There are **twelve principal feast and holy days** in the church year, these are indicated in bold on the calendar. The main saints' days are also shown, but you do not need to mark all of them. If you use the main colour for the week, you can then pick out the key festivals for your school, especially those that mark a key part in Jesus's life or a transition in the year. You could also celebrate the patron saint's day for your school and / or church. Key festivals such as Christmas and Easter, fall in the holidays, meaning the children don't get to see the gold cloth for celebrations. A good way to mark these festivals would be to change the colour of the cloths as part of your end of term worship for Christmas and Easter.





*On Maundy Thursday churches will often be stripped bare of any colour furnishings and decorations (coloured grey on the calendar), reminding us that Jesus was left alone to face the bare wooden cross. Churches will remain bare until Eater Sunday. You can download daily prayers and reading apps from{HYPERLINK "https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps" \h}{HYPERLINK "https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps" \h}{to support your worship planning. ** Candlemas is also known as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. ***For 2023 in the church year, provision is made to celebrate Harvest any time between 10th September and 22nd October.

September 2023	October 2023	November 2023		December 2023		Jan	uary 2024	February 2024	
l Fri	l Sun	l Wed	All Saints' Day	l Fri		l Mon	Naming of Christ	l Thu	
2 Sat	2 Mon	2 Thu	All Souls' day	2 Sat		2 Tue		2 Fri	Candlemas**
3 Sun	3 Tue	3 Fri		3 Sun	I st Sunday in Advent	3 Wed		3 Sat	
4 Mon	4 Wed	4 Sat		4 Mon		4 Thu		4 Sun	
5 Tue	5 Thu	5 Sun		5 Tue		5 Fri		5 Mon	
6 Wed	6 Fri	6 Mon		6 Wed		6 Sat	The Epiphany	6 Tue	
7 Thu	7 Sat	7 Tue		7 Thu		7 Sun		7 Wed	
8 Fri	8 Sun	8 Wed		8 Fri		8 Mon	Baptism of Jesus	8 Thu	
9 Sat	9 Mon	9 Thu		9 Sat		9 Tue		9 Fri	
10 Harvest*** Sun	10 Tue	10 Fri		10 Sun	2 nd Sunday in Advent	10 Wed		10 Sat	
l I Mon	II Wed	l I Sat	Remembrance Day	l I Mon		۱۱ Thu		l I Sun	
I2 Tue	l2 Thu	l 2 Sun	Remembrance Sunday	l2 Tue		12 Fri		12 Mon	
I3 Wed	13 Fri	I3 Mon		13 Wed		13 Sat		I3 Tue	Shrove Tuesday



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

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March 2024		April 2024 May 2024		June 2024		July 2024		August 2024		
l Fri	St David	l Mon	l Wed	St Philip & St James	l Sat		l Mon		l Thu	
2 Sat		2 Tue	2 Thu		2 Sun		2 Tue		2 Fri	
3 Sun	3 rd Sunday of Lent	3 Wed	3 Fri		3 Mon		3 Wed	St Thomas the Apostle	3 Sat	
4 Mon		4 Thu	4 Sat		4 Tue		4 Thu		4 Sun	
5 Tue		5 Fri	5 Sun		5 Wed		5 Fri		5 Mon	
6 Wed		6 Sat	6 Mon		6 Thu		6 Sat		6 Tue	The Transfiguration
7 Thu		7 Sun	7 Tue		7 Fri		7 Sun		7 Wed	
8 Fri		8 Mon	8 Wed		8 Sat		8 Mon		8 Thu	
9 Sat		9 Tue	9 Thu	Ascension Day	9 Sun		9 Tue		9 Fri	
۱٥ Sun	4 th Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday	10 Wed	10 Fri		10 Mon		10 Wed		10 Sat	
II Mon		l I Thu	 Sat		l I Tue	St Barnabas	l I Thu		l I Sun	
I2 Tue		l2 Fri	l 2 Sun		l2 Wed		12 Fri		I2 Mon	
13 Wed		13 Sat	I3 Mon		I3 Thu		13 Sat		I3 Tue	
l4 Thu		l4 Sun	I4 Tue	St Matthias the Apostle	l4 Fri		l4 Sun		I4 Wed	
15 Fri		15 Mon	15 Wed		15 Sat		15 Mon		I5 Thu	Blessed Virgin Mary
l6 Sat		l6 Tue	l6 Thu		l 6 Sun	Fathers' Day	l6 Tue		l6 Fri	



Diocesan Education Team

The Colours of the Church Year: a guide for schools 2023-24

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

17	5 th Sunday of Lent/	17		17		17		17		17	
Sun	St Patrick	Wed		Fri		Mon		Wed		Sat	
18		18		18		18		18		18	
Mon		Thu		Sat		Tue		Thu		Sun	
19		19		19	Destaura	19		19		19	
Tue		Fri		Sun	Pentecost	Wed		Fri		Mon	
20		20		20		20		20		20	
Wed		Sat		Mon		Thu		Sat		Tue	
22		21		22		21		21		22	
Thu		Sun		Tue		Fri		Sun		Wed	
22		22		22		22		22		22	
Fri		Mon		Wed		Sat		Mon	Mary Magdalene	Thu	
23		23		23		23		23		23	
Sat		Tue	St George	Thu		Sun		Tue		Fri	
24		24		24		24	Birth of John the	24		24	
Sun	Palm Sunday	Wed		Fri		Mon	Baptist	Wed		Sat	St Bartholomew
25	Holy	25	St Mark the	25		25	•	25		25	
Mon	, Week/Annunciation	Thu	Evangelist	Sat		Tue		Thu	St James the Apostle	Sun	
26		26		26	T : : : 0 1	26		26		26	
Tue	Holy Week	Fri		Sun	Trinity Sunday	Wed		Fri		Mon	
27		27		27		27		27		27	
Wed	Holy Week	Sat		Mon		Thu		Sat		Tue	
28		28		28		28		28		28	
Thu	Maundy Thursday	Sun		Tue		Fri		Sun		Wed	
29		29		29		29		29		29	
Fri	Good Friday	Mon		Wed		Sat	St Peter & St Paul	Mon		Thu	
30	Factor Colored	30		30	Come Chaini	30		30		30	
Sat	Easter Saturday	Tue		Thu	Corpus Christi	Sun		Tue		Fri	
31	Factor Davi			31	Mary visit to			31		31	
Sun	Easter Day			Fri	Elizabeth			Wed		Sat	