

Autumn 2014

From Helen
Matter, Diocesan
Schools' Adviser



A Collective Worship Newsletter for all Primary Schools

Welcome back! Hope you had a good summer break and enjoyed the sun *and* rain.

Here is an update on good resources for Collective Worship and a reminder of some training taking place this term. The course list includes our free monthly drop-in surgeries for anyone wanting one-to-one help with Collective Worship / assemblies.

For primary schools, the **Basics of CW** is perfect for NQTs, Foundation governors or new head-teachers. The new round of **biennial Collective Worship conferences** began in the summer: repeats of **ROOTED** (for church schools) run this term and **INSPIRED** for community schools runs in the spring. A 'Worship Think Tank' will run in January for those who like more depth to their thinking; this time we will chew over silence, meditation and reflection. I hope also to be able to invite church schools to a School Eucharist when we get a volunteer.

Need some specific help with Collective Worship?

If you want me to work with staff or governors on Collective Worship, please contact me. I am happy to cover aspects of the law on CW, suggest ways of improving practice and help you develop exciting ways of involving children, staff and local churches. I can work in both church and community schools.

If you want to add a personal email to my distribution list for RE and CW newsletters, let me know. Previous newsletters can be found on the Diocesan website by following 'schools, collective worship'.

Best wishes for a good term, Helen

Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

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helen.matter@cofesuffolk.org / www.cofesuffolk.org (see schools' pages)

Collective Worship Inset ~ 2014- 2015

All enquiries / bookings by phone / email please to Sally Fitch, Education Administrator, St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich (sally.fitch@cofesuffolk.org) who will invoice your school.

NB The courses do not appear on the Suffolk CPD website and must be booked direct.

Date	Details	Venue and cost	Leader/s
Sept 4 th and monthly from then DC 4/9	<p>RE and CW surgery 4.00 - 6.00 (drop in)</p> <p><i>A drop-in time for teachers, governors or clergy to discuss individual issues or to come with colleagues. Please book and let us know what you want so we are prepared. For code put DC + day/month e.g. DC4/9</i></p> <p><i>Drop-ins this year: Oct.2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan 8, Feb 5, Mar 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2</i></p>	<p>Discovery Centre, The Cathedral, Bury St Eds</p> <p>Free of charge</p>	<p>Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser, and Helen Woodroffe, Cathedral Educ. Officer</p>
Oct 9th BCW 9/10	<p>The Basics of Collective Worship: (1.00-3.30)</p> <p><i>Introduction to worship in primary schools, including strategies for improvement / impact. For heads, NQTs, governors, clergy</i></p> <p>This course will also run at the same times on:</p> <p>Jan 8-Discovery Centre, Cathedral, Bury St Eds</p> <p>Apr 23-Worlingham CEVC Primary, nr Beccles</p>	<p>St Nicholas Centre, Cutler St, Ipswich IP1 1UQ</p> <p>Cost £40 church schools £80 community schools et al</p>	<p>Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser</p>
Nov 18th CSCW 18/11	<p>Rooted – CW conference for church schools 2014-5 (9.30 - 3.30)</p> <p><i>Biennial conference with many new ideas and resources to develop and enrich CW in church schools while rooting it in Christian faith</i></p> <p>Repeated in Ipswich – Jan 22nd (CSCW 22/1)</p>	<p>Worlingham CEVC Primary</p> <p>Cost £80 church schools (just £160 for a group of between 2 -4 delegates)</p> <p>Please state code for the event you wish to attend.</p>	<p>Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser, And other teachers / clergy</p>
Jan 14th WTT 14/1	<p>Worship Think Tank: Use of silence, reflection and meditation (2.30-4.30)</p> <p><i>Come and chat about these areas and their use with pupils in schools in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. All interested welcome.</i></p>	<p>St Nicholas Centre, 4, Cutler St, Ipswich IP1 1UQ</p> <p>Free of charge but please book as places limited</p>	<p>Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser</p>
Jan 27th CW 27/1	<p>Inspired – Assemblies conference for community primaries 2015 (9.30 - 3.30)</p> <p><i>Biennial conference full of new ideas and resources to develop your assemblies and refine their contribution to pupils' lives</i></p> <p>Repeated on Feb 5 at Cathedral Conference Centre, Angel Hill, Bury St Eds - CW 5/2</p>	<p>St Nicholas Centre, 4, Cutler St, Ipswich IP1 1UQ</p> <p>Cost £160 community schools et al (just £320 for 2-4 delegates)</p> <p>Please state code for the event you wish to attend.</p>	<p>Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser And other teachers/ clergy</p>
Saturday March 7th	<p>Advance notice of 'Open the Book' team training. Please encourage your team to put the date in their diaries.</p>	<p>Venue to be decided. More details to follow</p>	<p>Details from Helen Matter</p>

Resources, ideas and information

Rooted – the Biennial Collective Worship conference 14-15

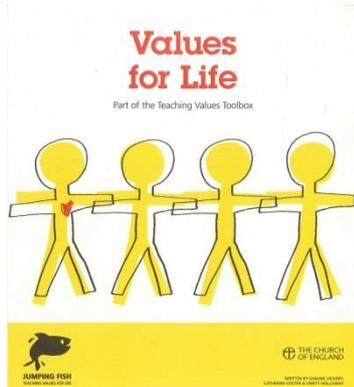
A day packed full of resources for all planning or leading Collective Worship in Church Primary Schools.... A day which aims to help you:

- gather great new ideas and sane advice
- simplify planning and evaluation of worship
- improve participation and ability to lead
- address issues identified in SIAMS inspections

We have run the conference twice so far and will have several more 'outings'. Come and bring others with you to get the full benefit. See flyer at end of newsletter.



Update on 'Values for Life'



In this diocese we continue to recommend a 'values' overview for planning Collective Worship themes, merging these with the annual round of Christian festivals. Most schools use Gloucester Diocese's 'Values for Life' programme which costs £62 from <http://gloucester.anglican.org/schools/jumping-fish-publications/ordering/>.

Gloucester also produces a wide range of additional support materials including posters, reflective journals, and additional KS1 and KS2 materials.

I can introduce Values for Life to your school for you – free for a church school, small charge for a community school. You can see a possible 3 year overview at www.cofesuffolk.org – follow *schools* and *collective worship*.

The new 'Jack in the Box' material for Early years is specifically for church schools; it shows how to bring a liturgical element into classroom worship for younger children. There are some lovely ideas and a DVD showing how the programme works.



Good additional assemblies on values, described and illustrated from the Bible, as well as seasonal, festival and other topical assemblies, can be found at:

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/ideas/>

Looking for a focus

You may be content with flowers, large candles, beautiful artwork or a display connected to your collective worship theme. Here are some other possibilities:

Wooden crosses - Church schools often like to have a cross. Although not cheap, those made by www.jonathonhemingray.co.uk are beautiful and carved individually out of wood in many different shapes. Of course, pupils could make their own crosses: several Suffolk schools have done just that.



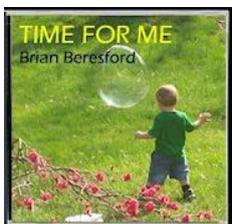
Stained glass - How about making your own stained glass window incorporating aspects of school life or your school values? This company will work with children to produce something truly unique. <http://www.stainedleadedglass.co.uk/Pages/Schools.aspx>

Backdrops - Or what about engaging the help of parents and friends and creating a patchwork backdrop as a focus. This can be hung permanently or even tied daily onto the wall-bars!



Looking for Prayer and Reflection Resources

Instrumental music for reflection



Brian Beresford, a former headteacher, writes reflective music to encourage children to spend time thinking and/ or praying for themselves. You can listen to snippets of several CDs on Brian's website. One of his latest compilations is for Early Years and KS1 specifically: Time for Me. £10 plus p and p.

<http://www.onemoretime.biz/songs-for-schools.htm>

A book of prayers for use by teachers and clergy working in schools

This downloadable booklet from Peterborough Diocese includes prayers for staff meetings as well as ones for children to say or listen to, and also frameworks for prayerful reflections at difficult times, like the death of a child or a world tragedy.

<http://www.spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk/media/Peterborough%20Diocese%20Prayers%20for%20schools.pdf>

The five finger prayer

This can be used for prayer or guided meditation. There are many versions, including one by Pope Francis of the RC church. I also enjoyed the simple and slightly different explanation and video clip from this Christian website: <http://ministry-to-children.com/five-finger-prayer/>

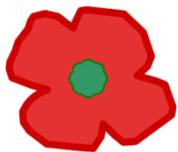


Basically the five finger prayer works like this:

1. The thumb is closest to you. So start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember.
2. The next finger is the index/ pointing finger. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need the support and wisdom to show direction to others.
3. The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger cannot stand straight on its own. It reminds us of the weakest, the sick or those plagued by problems. They need our support and God's.
5. The smallest finger reminds us to pray for ourselves. When we have prayed for others, we are able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective.



Reflective /Prayer spaces for World War Commemorations



Lest We Forget.

http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/assets/downloads/parishlife/worldwar1/reflective_prayer_ideas1.pdf

Eleven reflective station outlines to choose from, including *Difficult Choices*, *Following your Conscience*, *Waiting for News*, *People we miss*.

Looking for Songs

The 'Sing Out' series deserves to be far better known and offers a good range of upbeat songs with some challenge in the words for KS2 but enough bounce for the younger ones to enjoy too. I particularly like Sing Out Volume 5 and Volume 2 as well as the two volumes based around values. Look them up and have a listen.



www.gottalife.com



For younger pupils why not try Songs 4 Assemblies from:

<http://www.learn2soar.co.uk/>

This company provides a series of songs for younger children. Sing along at the website and see what you think!

Looking for an Open the Book Team

Open the Book uses the Lion Storyteller Bible, a team of local church members, costumes and props to tell Bible stories in Collective Worship. The project now involves more than 100 schools in Suffolk. There are local managers in Bury, Ipswich and Sudbury and an area co-ordinator for Suffolk. Learn more about at www.openthebook.net.



If you have stories of a local team or are interested in having one, contact Helen Matter, who will pass your name and details onto the relevant organiser.

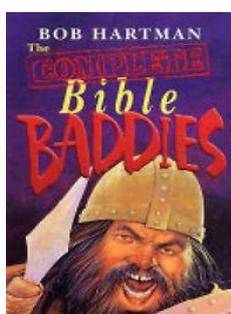
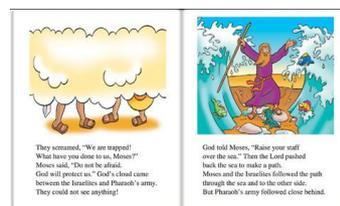
Looking for harvest resources

Resources were listed in last autumn's Collective worship newsletter which can be found on www.cofesuffolk.org.uk – follow Schools, Collective worship and look for the link. However, if you are a fan of **Harvest Samba**, do try this as well.

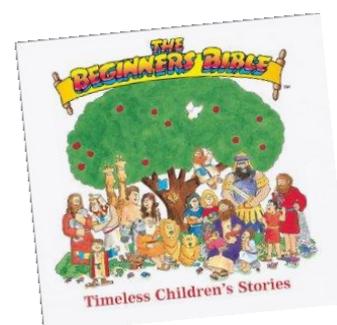
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTdlrITIXks>

Looking for good Bible Stories

The **Beginner's Bible** is quite an old resource now but its pictures are still good and the language works well for reading aloud to younger children. It is available on an App and in various DVD formats.



Bible Baddies is the other end of the age-scale, written by the author of the Lion Storyteller Bible (as used by Open the Book teams in schools). Great for talented storytellers on the staff. Grab your storytelling chair and go! In fact, go the whole hog, get a colleague dressed up each week to play the main part!



Looking for a School Eucharist



We are looking for a church school to trial a Eucharist. Several Suffolk schools have already taken the plunge and put a service together with the help of local clergy, using RE to learn about the service. **If you would like to be this year's volunteer, please contact Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser.** You will need to work with your local clergy on this enterprise but Helen can also be on hand to help.

We like to invite other clergy and school staff to visit your Eucharist and to offer an hour after the service as a discussion for others to consider taking this step.

The **'Take a Look at: Our School Eucharist'** pack helps schools to plan and prepare a Eucharist and also provides material for RE with the primary age group.

Copies are available from the Diocesan Education Team (01473 298570 or helen.matter@cofesuffolk.org) at £15 + p & p.

Looking for help to develop good practice

The **'Working on Worship'** series can be used to make a real difference to your Collective Worship in small bite-size steps. There are more than 20 different subjects in the series. Print one out to try in a brief spot in a staff meeting.

<http://www.cofesuffolk.org.uk/index.cfm?page=cyp.content&cmid=633>

Church Schools' Collective Worship Conferences 2014-5 (**CSCW 18/11**)

This newsletter is produced twice a year. Back copies available on www.cofesuffolk.org

Rooted

Resources for those who plan or lead worship

- ❖ Gather great new ideas and sane advice
- ❖ Simplify planning and evaluation of worship.
- ❖ Improve participation and ability to lead.
- ❖ Address issues identified in SIAMS inspections



in Church of England Primary Schools

For: heads, governors, clergy and others

Date/time: Tuesday Nov 18th 9.30am to 3.30 pm

Leader: Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser

Cost: £80 (group of 3-4 delegates just £160)

Venue: Worlingham CEVC Primary, nr Beccles NR34 7SB

Don't miss it!

All Church of England Primaries should aim to attend this biennial conference which will run several times over the next three terms. It will update you and provide you with the help you need to 'ensure worship is relevant to the life experience of the whole school community - engaging, inspiring and transformative.' (SIAMS schedule). Try to come as a group if you can. Contact us if you wish to be kept informed of future dates / venues.

To be repeated on January 22nd in Ipswich CSCW 22/1

Book either date with Sally Fitch (Education Administrator) on 01473 298570 or sally.fitch@cofesuffolk.org. Quote the CODE please.

The Basics of Collective Worship

Date: *Thursday October 9th 2014*

Time: *1.00 – 3.30pm*

Cost: *£40 church schools, £80 community schools*

Course code: *BCW 9/10*

Venue: *St Nicholas Centre, 4, Cutler St, Ipswich IP1 1UQ*



A really practical introduction for new heads, governors, clergy, NQTs and others interested in Collective Worship in primary schools

Programme

Session 1: (1.00 – 2.15)

What are we trying to do in CW?

What does the Law say? How are C of E schools distinctive?

Time to think, time to pray – approaches to prayer and reflection

Being distinctively Christian as well as inclusive

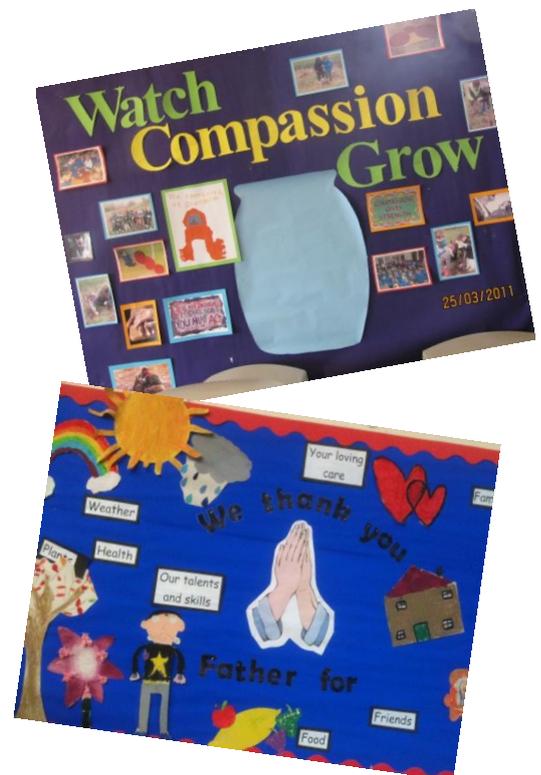
Session 2: (2.30 – 3.30)

Structuring Collective Worship

Making a positive impact and evaluating progress

Guidance on policies, withdrawals, visitors, etc

Pupil involvement and leadership



Course Tutor: Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, St Nicholas' Centre, 4, Cutler St, Ipswich



Register directly with Sally Fitch on 01473 298570 or sally.fitch@cofesuffolk.org.

Please quote name, school, position and course code.

The course will be repeated on January 8th (Cathedral BSE) and April 23 (Worlingham Primary). You may prefer to book on one of these – please ask.

This newsletter is produced twice a year. Back copies available on www.cofesuffolk.org

Inspired!

The Assemblies Conference for Community Primary Schools 2015 (CW 27/1)



For:	heads, governors, clergy and others
Date / time:	January 27 th 2015 9.30am to 3.30 pm
Leader:	Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser
Cost:	£160 (3 to 4 delegates for the cost of 2 i.e. £320)
Venue:	St Nicholas Centre, 4, Cutler St, Ipswich, IP1 1UQ

Only held every four years, don't miss this inspiring conference

- ❖ encounter fresh ideas for engaging pupils and staff, for simplifying planning, and for developing a real sense of shared ethos
- ❖ evaluate new resources and build on good, workable materials such as the 'Values for Life' programme - a widely-used 3 year assembly cycle
- ❖ discuss inclusive approaches to prayer and reflection, and how to use both pupils and visitors better in assembly
- ❖ consider the contribution assembly could make to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development in your school

Book with Sally Fitch (Education Administrator) on 01473 298570 or sally.fitch@cofesuffolk.org.
Quote the CODE please.

*This conference also runs on February 5th in the
Cathedral Lecture Room, Bury St Edmunds. Please
ask if you would rather attend on that date*



The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich

Use of silence, reflection and meditation



All teachers, governors and ministers are invited to join us at this Worship Think Tank which will offer the opportunity for friendly and detailed debate about the use of these techniques as part of Collective Worship in schools.

As usual we will put together information for a new Working on Worship paper on this subject through the sharing of our experiences and questions and the creation of some new ideas for colleagues in school.

Come and join the discussion which will be led by Helen Matter, the Diocesan Schools' Adviser.

When: January 14th 2.30-4.30

Where: Board Rm, St Nicholas Centre, 4, Cutler St, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

There is no cost for the meeting but please let us know you are coming by phoning or emailing Sally Fitch, Education Administrator, at the Diocesan Office (01473 298570 / sally.fitch@cofesuffolk.org)

To download all previous 'Working on Worship' papers, follow 'schools – collective worship – working on worship on www.cofesuffolk.org.uk