

Collective Worship resources
Theme: Advent Appeal 'A place to call home'



Please note: These are just ideas to support your own planning – please change, adapt and tweak for your school and children. You do not have to follow these plans exactly as they have been written. Please also watch any video clips before showing them to check the suitability of them for your school and context.

These acts of worship have been written to compliment the 2018 Advent Appeal resources written for church congregations to raise funds and the profile of Christian Aid and the work for supporting refugees in Canterbury Diocese and Calais.

We are not asking schools to raise money, but to consider how we can support, help and pray for those who do not have anywhere to call home.

These acts of worship explore what home is, why some people don't have a home and real life stories of those who have fled the country they were born in. The worship outlines also link the plight of refugees today to the Holy family and how they had to find somewhere to stay in Bethlehem and when they fled to Egypt after Jesus was born.

Please also see the Posada guidelines and prayer space resources to support these acts of worship.



1 – 'What is home?'			
Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
Light the candle <i>God is love all the time. All the time God is love.</i>	What makes a home? (Think, pair, share) Discuss the answers the children give. Is it the walls and roof, the things or the people that make it a home? I wonder which one is the most important? Have some large images prepared of important things in a home, ask some children to come up and hold them at the front of the hall. (bed, food, family, toys, sofa, computer, shower, toilet, garden, clothes, pets, walls and roof, front door, safety) What one thing could you not live without in your home? (Think, pair, share) Link to images at the front. Is your home important to you? Why? Why is it important to have a home? Do all homes look the same?	I wonder how it makes you feel knowing there are children your age, not that far from here who don't have a warm bed to sleep in tonight? I wonder how God feels when he sees his children suffering like this? I wonder what he would do? Look at this verse from the Bible, I wonder what you think these verses might mean? (Think, pair, share) Hebrews 13 1:2	<i>May God's blessing surround you each day. Amen</i> I wonder what we might be able to do to help?

	<p>Explain that during Advent we are going to be thinking about what it means to call a place home and for all those who don't have anywhere to call home.</p> <p>I wonder what it might feel like to not have a home? I wonder what it might feel and be like to not have these things around you? Refer to images being held up by the children. I wonder how it might feel to be living in a forest, where you can't wash or go to the toilet when you want. Imagine how it might feel to not know where your older brothers and sisters were?</p> <p>There are lots of families who have had to leave their homes because of fighting and war. They didn't want to leave their homes, but they didn't have a choice, it was too dangerous to stay where they were.</p> <p><i>Many migrants from Syria and Eritrea end up in Calais as they want to come and live in Britain. Unfortunately getting into Britain is not that easy, which is why families make the very difficult decision to sneak into lorries to get across the channel. Many of these migrants have not chosen this life, but they had no choice but to flee the danger and war of their home country.</i></p> <p><i>Phil and Ben spent a day with refugees in Calais, this is what they saw: 'Along barbed wire high walls and fences, young arrivals sit in groups at the edges of the motorway and under bridges, others walk around in circles. Since refugees can't put up tents, they live in the woods 24/7 regardless of the cold, rain, and wind.'</i></p> <p><i>I wonder what life must be like for these refugees who have nowhere to call home? I wonder how they must be feeling? I wonder how hearing stories like this makes you feel?</i></p> <p>For more information on the work in Calais and Dunkirk to support refugees, see https://seekingsanctuary.weebly.com/</p>	<p>Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.</p> <p>I wonder what we might be able to do to help?</p> <p>Pray together Father God, We thank you for all that we have, our families, our homes, the food we eat, clothes we wear and toys we have to play with. We ask you now that you will protect all those who do not have homes, for those living in Calais, for those who are scared, cold and hungry. Please provide all they need to keep them safe and well. Thank you for all those who are already helping them, but we ask for peace to come to our world, so all can have a place to call home. Amen.</p> <p>Sing I've got you Lord by Doug Horley.* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N94BBGiq_vQ</p>	
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Lyrics for 'I've got you Lord'

Note: The words of this song are really appropriate for the theme of these acts of worship – however, please be aware that they do ask children to sing 'Lord I love you' when they may not have a Christian faith. Be mindful of this when singing it.

I GOT, YOU LORD

Thank You, You're ev'rything I ever wanted

I got, You Lord (x3)

I got, You Lord

Thank You, thank You

Help me be Your eyes Lord Jesus

Seeing where Your love is needed

May I be Your hands to help?

Hey, hey, hey, hey!

Now jump! Jump! Jump! Jump! Jump! Jump!

Lord I love You

Help me give Your love away

2 – 'Lost home'			
Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>Light the candle</p> <p>Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	<p>Who has been camping or on holiday in a caravan? When you go on these holidays what do you take with you? (everything! Camping stove, fridge, plates, sleeping bags etc) Why do you take all these things? (Keep you warm, fed) What would happen if you forgot something or your air bed burst? (probably go to the shop to buy a new one)</p> <p>Imagine you are going to have to go on a long journey, but can't take any of these things with you, nothing to cook on, sleep in or have shelter from the weather or night. How would you feel? You might say I could do this for 1 or 2 nights, but imagine months of it. You also might not have any money or shops to buy what you need.</p> <p>This is the reality of many refugees around the world. They don't have what they need to keep them warm, fed and safe. Show a world map and where Syria is. Explain that there has been a war in Syria since 2011 and in that time over 9 million Syrians have had to flee their homes.</p> <p>Show the children of refugees getting out of boat in the sea. Follow this link for a suitable image. https://www.glasgowuniversitymagazine.co.uk/the-refugee-crisis-glasgows-response/</p> <p>I wonder how seeing this image makes you feel? I wonder how these people must be feeling? They have had to leave everything behind to travel to safety.</p>	<p>My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Isaiah 32:18</p> <p><i>Isaiah was a prophet. This meant he listened and heard from God, then passed on God's messages to God's people.</i> <i>These verses were part of a prophecy Isaiah had about Jerusalem. The verses that come before this verse explain that there will be times of hardship, where land and crops would be destroyed and people would cry out in grief and pain. The later verses then look forward to when the situation will be reversed and healing, through God's spirit, come upon the land.</i> <i>This verse acts as a promise that God says, all my people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes.</i></p> <p>This isn't the case for many people around the world because of human mistakes and greed, but we can pray this verse as a promise for all those who don't have a home to live in.</p> <p>We are going to pray that all people will have a peaceful dwelling in a secure home in undisturbed places of rest. This is a big prayer that we need to keep praying. Explain about the prayer area - In our prayer area there will be cards that you can write prayers on to pray for all those who don't have a home or safe place to sleep.</p> <p>Pray together Listen and reflect on this song Love others by Israel Houghton https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0fAIUiaQA</p>	<p><i>Extinguish the candle May God's blessing surround you each day. Amen</i></p> <p>I wonder what you can do to help? I wonder what you might pray for?</p>



3 – ‘Far from home’ Written by Christian Aid

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/far-home-assembly>

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/far-home-assembly-presentation>

Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>Light the candle</p> <p>Christ the light of the world is here</p> <p>Lord Jesus shine on us</p>	<p>Around the world, many people are on the move. Some are travelling for holidays or for work. Some are seeking to start a new life somewhere else. And some are forced to love – running away because their lives are in danger.</p> <p>You may have heard terms such as refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people. These names have slightly different meanings, but they refer to people who have been forced to leave their homes because they were afraid of what might happen if they stayed. Sometimes they are running away from war or being mistreated, and sometimes they are running away from a disaster such as a flood.</p> <p>Show the children the selection of items you have brought along. If you had to leave your home in hurry and could only take one things, which thing would you take?</p> <p>Ask for a volunteer to come up to the front. Ask them to choose which item they would take. Why did you choose this item? Was it difficult to choose just one thing?</p> <p>Ask the pupils: How would you feel if you had to leave your home in a hurry? How might you feel if you knew you could never go back?</p> <p>Most of us have plenty of time to pack our things if we were going to move. But for many people this isn't possible, they have to flee quickly leaving everything they have behind.</p> <p>Christian Aid is a charity that works with poor communities all over the world. https://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/indonesia-tsunami-appeal The Tsunami and earthquake in Indonesia has left 70,000 people displaced. Christian Aid is on the ground providing</p>	<p><i>There are always going to be poor and needy people among you. So, I command you: Always be generous, open purse and hands, give to your neighbours in trouble, your poor and hurting neighbours.</i> <i>Deuteronomy 15:11 (The Message)</i></p> <p>I wonder how this Bible verse makes you feel? I wonder what it says to you? How does God want his people to behave? I wonder what you could do to follow this teaching?</p> <p>Reflect Ask the children to hold the things that are the most important to them in their head. (For many of us, that isn't things it is our family and those people who love us.) Sit quietly and reflect as we say thank you for all we have and what it must be like to not have those things or people around us.</p> <p>Pray together We pray for all the children and families who have been forced to move away from their homes whatever the circumstance. We pray you will keep them safe and provide all they need. Thank you, God for Christian Aid, and for all they are doing around the world to support all those who are most in need. Amen</p> <p>Sing together Father I place into your hands. https://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/songs-and-hymns/hymns/father-i-place-into-your-hands/</p>	<p>In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p>Amen</p> <p>Extinguish the candle</p>

temporary housing and emergency food and medical supplies.


See the Christian Aid plan and powerpoint (web addresses above) for further stories – choose the one you feel is most appropriate for your school.




See also how you could engage further with Courageous Advocacy by exploring the Global neighbours resources.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools/global-neighbours-accreditation-scheme>



4 – ‘Welcoming Jesus’			
Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>Light the candle</p> <p>The Lord is with us Let us praise his name together</p> <p>Listen to Mary did you know by Pentatonix as the children come in. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE</p>	<p>I wonder if you have ever turned up at someone’s house and they weren’t expecting you? Did you get the date or day wrong? Of have you had people turn up at your house on the wrong day or unexpectedly? How did the people involved feel? I wonder what you did? Did you turn them away and say go away we can’t see you now? How might they have felt? Or did you welcome them in and quickly find some food and make them feel you were expecting them? Discuss thoughts and ideas together.</p> <p>https://youtu.be/MOByXwK-g94 Watch this short Christmas appeal advert. The point of watching it is to consider how different the stable was to our homes today for Mary and Joseph to have their baby.</p> <p>Luke 2: 6-7 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.</p> <p>Share the Bible text with the children. I wonder what parts of the Christmas story we add in using the clues in these verses? (manger- born in a stable, inn keepers saying no because there were no guest rooms. Shown kindness by someone as they were given a space) Mary had to make do with what she had. I wonder how Mary must have felt at this time? She was a long way from home, she was young and probably a bit frightened, she then had to give birth to her first baby in a stable. I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt when they went knocking on doors to find somewhere to stay and no one welcomed them in? I wonder how they felt when finally someone did? Is it important to make people feel welcome?</p>	<p>Show the children the Posada figures. Explain that it is a Mexican custom during advent for church families to take it in turns to host Mary and Joseph as they go on their journey towards Christmas Day. It is a privilege to welcome Mary and Joseph into their homes as they also prepare for gift of Jesus at Christmas time. Mary and Joseph must have been shown some kindness, so we are going to remember this kindness by hosting them each day.</p> <p>Explain how this is going to work in your school. Pass the Posada onto the first class using the prayers and words in the Posada pack.</p> <p>I wonder how it might make you feel when you welcome Mary and Joseph into your home?</p> <p>Pray together: Dear Father God, Thank you for the kindness of the stranger who helped Mary and Joseph. Help us Lord to be kind and welcoming to everyone. Help us to love people like you do. Amen.</p> <p>Sing together: Born is a King by Hillsong https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i9US-qbeJE</p>	<p><i>Extinguish the candle May God’s blessing surround you each day. Amen</i></p> <p>I wonder what kindness you could show to those who don’t feel welcomed?</p> 

5 – 'Found home'			
Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>Light the candle <i>Leader:</i></p> <p>Never alone by Tori Kelly https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVMRvVBZgLA Listen to this song as the children come into worship.</p>	<p>Matthew 2: 13-23 Tells the story of how Mary and Joseph had to escape from Bethlehem to Egypt. Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary and Joseph had to escape to Egypt (Use a map to help explain this journey) They had to stay in Egypt for some time. (We don't know how long) When God told, them it was safe to go home, they couldn't return to their former home as it wasn't safe, so they had to settle in a new town in Israel. God guided them and was with them the whole time. (Angel appeared to Joseph) <p>What must this have been like for Mary and Joseph? (They must have been terrified, escaping danger and they moving to a place where they couldn't speak the language etc. It would have been a long journey, which they would have to walked. They didn't know when they could go home, couldn't see family and friends – they must have been worried about them. Had nothing – I wonder where they stayed, I wonder who looked after them, I wonder if they were welcomed? When they could go back to Israel they had to settle in a new land. I wonder what this must have been like for them?</p> <p>This story of Mary and Joseph sounds very familiar to the stories of the refugees we have heard about recently, it is not a new thing.</p> <p><i>'Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it!'</i> Hebrews 13:2 I wonder what this Bible verse says to you?</p> <p>The Bible clearly says we should 'love our neighbour as we love ourselves and to be ready to host and welcome people if needed. Mary and Joseph didn't choose to leave their home, just like most refugees, but through the kindness of strangers we can all make a difference to help and welcome them.</p> <p>I wonder what you / we can do to help?</p>	<p>Say this prayer together as you think about all those people in our world who are fleeing from danger and don't have anywhere to call home.</p> <p>A Prayer for Refugees <i>Almighty and merciful God whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; Look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, loveless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen</i> (by Bishop Trevor)</p> <p>Sometimes it feels as the problem is too big for us to help with, but our prayers matter.</p> <p>Consider a practical thing your school could do to support those who don't have a home.</p>	<p><i>May God's blessing surround you each day. Amen</i></p> <p>I wonder what you could do to support those who don't have a home?</p> 

For further information and resources please see:

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/refugee-crisis-five-ways-to-respond/>

<https://samphiredover.wixsite.com/schools-of-sanctuary/lesson-plans-and-activities>

<https://seekingsanctuary.weebly.com/>