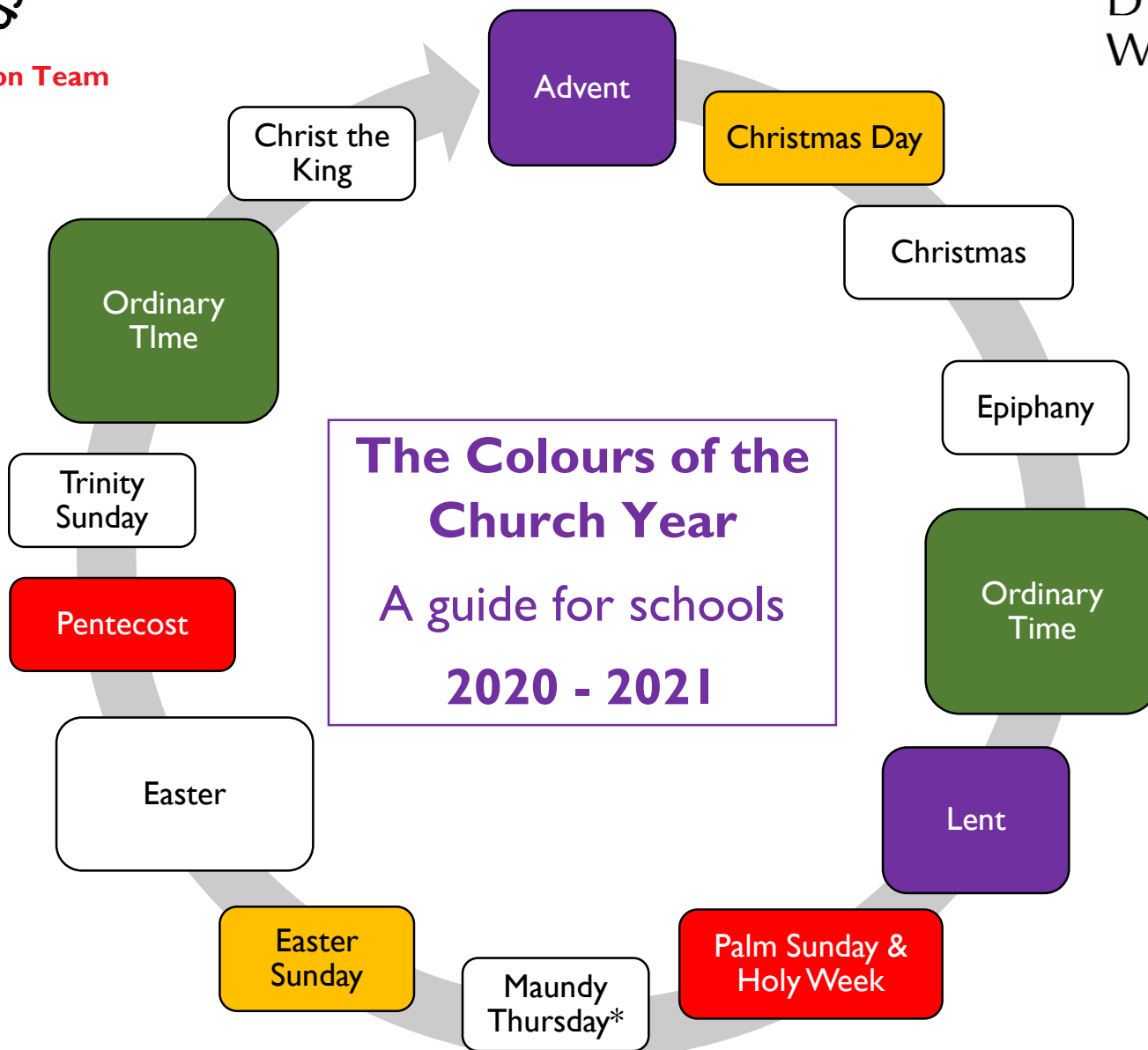


Diocesan Education Team



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER





Diocesan Education Team

The Colours of the Church Year: a guide for schools 2020-21

The Anglican Church Year

Anglican churches follow a liturgical calendar. This is a pattern for their worship (liturgy) 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.
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 2020-21. 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.



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*On Maundy Thursday churches will often be stripped bare of any colour furnishings and decorations, reminding us that Jesus was left alone to face the bare wooden cross. You can download daily prayers and reading apps from <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps> to support your worship planning.

** Candlemas is also known as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8 Birth BVM	9	10	11	12
	13	14 Holy Cross Day	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21 St Matthew	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29 Michaelmas	30	1	2	3
October	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18 St Luke	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28 St Simon & Jude	29	30	31
November	1 All Saints	2 All Souls	3	4	5	6	7
	8 Remembrance Sunday	9	10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22 Christ the King	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29 Advent Sunday	30 St Andrew					



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	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 St Stephen
	27 St John	28 Holy Innocents	29	30	31	1 Naming of Christ	2
January	3	4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9
	10 Baptism of Christ	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25 Conversion of St Paul	26	27	28	29	30
	31	1	2 Candlemas **	3	4	5	6
February	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16 Shrove Tuesday	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28						



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	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March		1 St David	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14 Mothering Sunday	15	16	17 St Patrick	18	19 St Joseph	20
	21	22	23	24	25 Annunciation	26	27
	28 Palm Sunday	29	30	31	1 Maundy Thursday*	2 Good Friday	3 Holy Saturday
April	4 Easter Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23 St George	24
	25 St Mark	26	27	28	29	30	1 St Philip and St James
May	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13 Ascension Day	14 St Matthias	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23 Pentecost	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30 Trinity Sunday	31 Visitation of Mary					



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	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June			1	2	3 Corpus Christi	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11 St Barnabas	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24 John the Baptist's Birth	25	26
	27	28	29 St Peter and St Paul	30	1	2	3 St Thomas
July	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22 St Mary Magdalen	23	24
	25 St James	26	27	28	29	30	31