

# IDEAS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP & WELCOME FOR A *New Incumbent*



Birmingham Diocesan  
Board of Education

Any welcome in Collective Worship would need to be planned in collaboration with the new minister being welcomed.

The following ideas speak of a new Incumbent but can be used and adapted to welcome any new Church Minister who will be working regularly with the Church School e.g. a Curate or a Youth and Children's Worker...

## *Welcome & Introductions*

### **Your Story... Our Story... God's Story...**

Welcome and introduce the new Incumbent as a visitor who is new to the School, but who is going to become over time a member and close friend of the School community as Incumbent of our Church and Parish.

#### **Introduction:**

Ask the children to name their favourite books

Then ask the Incumbent to share with the school their favourite book? (NOT the Bible! and Ideally it will be a book that is age appropriate and accessible to the children at School)

Ask the Incumbent to say a bit about the story and when they first read it and what they like about it?

Thank the Incumbent for sharing their book

## Thought for reflection

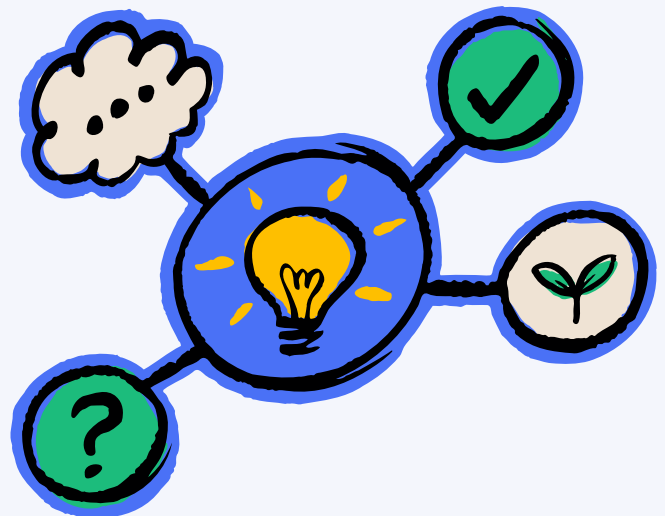
Life in our School community is a bit like a library full of different books and stories.

Every member of the School community has their own story, and every other member of the School community is part of your story. From now on the new Incumbent will be part of the story of our School community and each one of us will become part of their story.

Christians believe that the Bible is God's story, and that story tells us that every person is part of God's story and that God wants to be part of the story of every person's life.

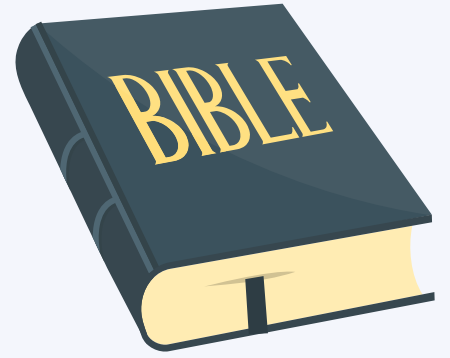
Our new Incumbent will share with us in the life of our School community especially through Collective Worship and the festivals of the Christian Church. Together we will learn how we are part of God's story and how God wants to be part of our stories here in School and beyond.

*Some pupils are invited to give a symbol of or image from one of the Schools favourite Bible stories or verses to the new Incumbent.*



## Bible Reading

John 1:1-14 The Word became flesh... we can become part of God's story as His children by receiving and believing in Jesus as the Word of God living with us



## Prayer

We thank God for all the good books and stories we can read and share. We pray that together with X our new Incumbent we may hear God's story and enjoy the adventure of discovering God's part in our own life stories. **Amen.**



Welcome and introduce the new Incumbent of our Church and Parish who we will get to know better over time.

## **Introduction:**

*In preparation cut out a circle of paper that stands out and contrasts with the colour of the floor of the worship space.*

*In advance prepare five or six questions with children to ask the new Incumbent to discover something about*

- Where they have come from?*
- Things they like or dislike?*
- Their home and family life?*
- What they are looking forward to?*

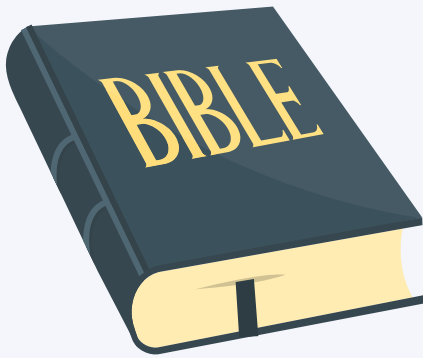
*Place the paper circle “spot” on the floor.*

*Invite the new Incumbent to come and stand on the spot.*

*Invite the children to ask their questions “Putting the new Incumbent on the spot!” and encourage the new incumbent to answer these questions as honestly as they can (but remembering to keep their answers appropriate to the children in School)*



## Bible Reading



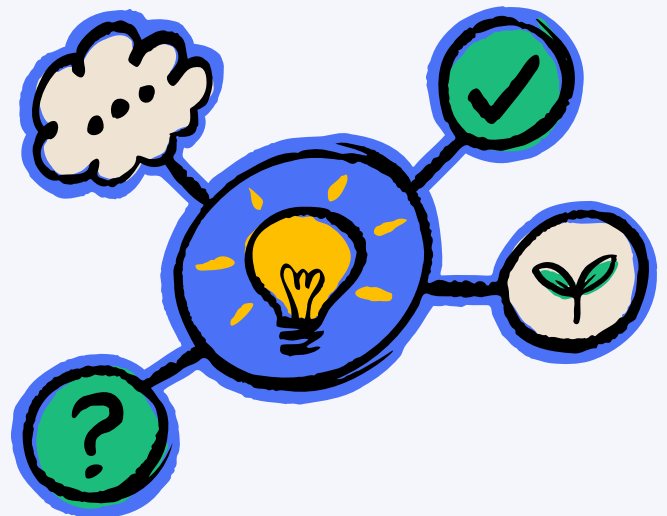
Matthew 16:13-18

Jesus put his disciples on the spot; “Who do you say I am?” and when Simon Peter says that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus responds that God has made this known to him, and he helps Simon Peter to know himself better saying; “You are Peter = the rock”

### Thought for reflection:

Invite one of the children to say to the new Incumbent...

We have learnt a little bit about you today. We are looking forward to getting to know you better. As we share in Collective Worship together with you, we are looking forward to learning, discovering, and exploring more about ourselves and other people, and about God.



## Prayer



We thank God that we are all unique and different, and that we are all made in His image and likeness. We pray that throughout our time in School we will discover and explore more about the world in which we live, that we will learn more about ourselves, and that we will see and learn more of God through our relationships with one another. **Amen.**

*As part of either of these ideas for welcoming a new Minister, or any other form of welcoming Collective Worship for a new Minister, the School may also want to present the new Minister with a gift representing their school.*

