The Colours of the Church Year:

a guide for schools

2023-24

**The Anglican Church Year**

Anglican churches follow a liturgical calendar. This is a pattern for their worship (liturgy) throughout the year. As a church school, this provides an ideal opportunity to mirror what is happening in your parish/local church. By following the liturgical calendar, you will be able to mark Jesus’ life events and teachings throughout the school year. It also provides a colourful and visual way to mark the festivals.

Most churches will use different coloured vestments (priest’s clothing) and altar cloths as signs of the season of the church year. In school, this can be mirrored through simply changing the cloth on the worship table, or a themed 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 also is used for saints who didn’t 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 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 feasts 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 event in Jesus’ 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, reminding us that Jesus was left alone to face the bare wooden cross.

There is a good summary of the seasons of the church year here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/liturgical-year> You can download daily prayers and reading apps from <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps> to support your worship planning.

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| **September 2023** | | | **October 2023** | | | **November 2023** | | | **December 2023** | | | **January 2024** | | | **February 2024** | | |
| 1 | Fr |  | 1 | Su |  | 1 | We | **All Saints’ Day** | 1 | Fr |  | 1 | Mo | Naming of Christ | 1 | Th |  |
| 2 | Sa |  | 2 | Mo |  | 2 | Th | All Souls | 2 | Sa |  | 2 | Tu |  | 2 | Fr | **Candlemas\*\*** |
| 3 | Su |  | 3 | Tu |  | 3 | Fr |  | 3 | Su | 1st Sunday in Advent | 3 | We |  | 3 | Sa |  |
| 4 | Mo |  | 4 | We | St Francis of Assisi | 4 | Sa |  | 4 | Mo |  | 4 | Th |  | 4 | Su |  |
| 5 | Tu |  | 5 | Th |  | 5 | Su |  | 5 | Tu |  | 5 | Fr |  | 5 | Mo |  |
| 6 | We |  | 6 | Fr |  | 6 | Mo | St Leonard | 6 | We |  | 6 | Sa | **Epiphany** | 6 | Tu |  |
| 7 | Th |  | 7 | Sa |  | 7 | Tu |  | 7 | Th |  | 7 | Su | Baptism of Christ | 7 | We |  |
| 8 | Fr |  | 8 | Su |  | 8 | We |  | 8 | Fr |  | 8 | Mo |  | 8 | Th |  |
| 9 | Sa |  | 9 | Mo |  | 9 | Th |  | 9 | Sa |  | 9 | Tu |  | 9 | Fr |  |
| 10 | Su | Education Sunday | 10 | Tu |  | 10 | Fr |  | 10 | Su | 2nd Sunday in Advent | 10 | We |  | 10 | Sa |  |
| 11 | Mo |  | 11 | We |  | 11 | Sa | Remembrance Day | 11 | Mo |  | 11 | Th |  | 11 | Su |  |
| All | Tu |  | 12 | Th |  | 12 | Su | Remembrance Sunday | 12 | Tu |  | 12 | Fr |  | 12 | Mo |  |
| 13 | We |  | 13 | Fr | Edward the Confessor | 13 | Mo |  | 13 | We |  | 13 | Sa |  | 13 | Tu | (Shrove Tuesday) |
| 14 | Th | Holy Cross Day | 14 | Sa |  | 14 | Tu |  | 14 | Th |  | 14 | Su |  | 14 | We | **Ash Wednesday** |
| 15 | Fr |  | 15 | Su |  | 15 | We |  | 15 | Fr |  | 15 | Mo |  | 15 | Th |  |
| 16 | Sa |  | 16 | Mo |  | 16 | Th |  | 16 | Sa |  | 16 | Tu |  | 16 | Fr |  |
| 17 | Su |  | 17 | Tu |  | 17 | Fr |  | 17 | Su | 3rd Sunday in Advent | 17 | We |  | 17 | Sa |  |
| 18 | Mo |  | 18 | We | St Luke the Evangelist | 18 | Sa |  | 18 | Mo |  | 18 | Th |  | 18 | Su | 1st Sunday in Lent |
| 19 | Tu |  | 19 | Th |  | 19 | Su |  | 19 | Tu |  | 19 | Fr |  | 19 | Mo |  |
| 20 | We |  | 20 | Fr |  | 20 | Mo |  | 20 | We |  | 20 | Sa |  | 20 | Tu |  |
| 21 | Th | St Matthew | 21 | Sa |  | 21 | Tu |  | 21 | Th |  | 21 | Su |  | 21 | We |  |
| 22 | Fr |  | 22 | Su |  | 22 | We |  | 22 | Fr |  | 22 | Mo |  | 22 | Th |  |
| 23 | Sa |  | 23 | Mo |  | 23 | Th |  | 23 | Sa |  | 23 | Tu |  | 23 | Fr |  |
| 24 | Su |  | 24 | Tu |  | 24 | Fr |  | 24 | Su | 4th Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve | 24 | We |  | 24 | Sa |  |
| 25 | Mo |  | 25 | We |  | 25 | Sa |  | 25 | Mo | **Christmas Day** | 25 | Th | Conversion of St Paul | 25 | Su | 2nd Sunday in Lent |
| 26 | Tu |  | 26 | Th |  | 26 | Su | Christ the King | 26 | Tu | St Stephen | 26 | Fr |  | 26 | Mo |  |
| 27 | We |  | 27 | Fr |  | 27 | Mo |  | 27 | We | St John the Evangelist | 27 | Sa |  | 27 | Tu |  |
| 28 | Th |  | 28 | Sa | St Simon & St Jude | 28 | Tu |  | 28 | Th | Holy Innocents | 28 | Su |  | 28 | We |  |
| 29 | Fr | Michael & All Angels | 29 | Su |  | 29 | We |  | 29 | Fr |  | 29 | Mo |  | 29 | Th |  |
| 30 | Sa |  | 30 | Mo |  | 30 | Th | St Andrew | 30 | Sa |  | 30 | Tu |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 31 | Tu |  |  |  |  | 31 | Sun |  | 31 | We |  |  |  |  |

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| **March 2024** | | | **April 2024** | | | **May 2024** | | | | **June 2024** | | | **July 2024** | | |
| 1 | Fr | St David’s Day | 1 | Mo |  | 1 | We | St Philip & St James | 1 | | Sa |  | 1 | Mo |  |
| 2 | Sa |  | 2 | Tu |  | 2 | Th |  | 2 | | Su |  | 2 | Tu |  |
| 3 | Su | 3rd Sunday of Lent | 3 | We |  | 3 | Fr |  | 3 | | Mo |  | 3 | We | St Thomas the Apostle |
| 4 | Mo |  | 4 | Th |  | 4 | Sa |  | 4 | | Tu |  | 4 | Th |  |
| 5 | Tu |  | 5 | Fr |  | 5 | Su |  | 5 | | We |  | 5 | Fr |  |
| 6 | We |  | 6 | Sa |  | 6 | Mo |  | 6 | | Th |  | 6 | Sa |  |
| 7 | Th |  | 7 | Su |  | 7 | Tu |  | 7 | | Fr |  | 7 | Su |  |
| 8 | Fr |  | 8 | Mo | Annunciation | 8 | We |  | 8 | | Sa |  | 8 | Mo |  |
| 9 | Sa |  | 9 | Tu |  | 9 | Th | Ascension Day | 9 | | Su |  | 9 | Tu |  |
| 10 | Su | 4th Sunday of Lent & Mothering Sunday | 10 | We |  | 10 | Fr |  | 10 | | Mo |  | 10 | We |  |
| 11 | Mo |  | 11 | Th |  | 11 | Sa |  | 11 | | Tu | St Barnabus | 11 | Th |  |
| 12 | Tu |  | 12 | Fr |  | 12 | Su |  | 12 | | We |  | 12 | Fr |  |
| 13 | We |  | 13 | Sa |  | 13 | Mo |  | 13 | | Th |  | 13 | Sa |  |
| 14 | Th |  | 14 | Su |  | 14 | Tu | St Matthias the Apostle | 14 | | Fr |  | 14 | Su |  |
| 15 | Fr |  | 15 | Mo |  | 15 | We |  | 15 | | Sa |  | 15 | Mo |  |
| 16 | Sa |  | 16 | Tu |  | 16 | Th |  | 16 | | Su |  | 16 | Tu |  |
| 17 | Su | 5th Sunday of Lent & St Patrick | 4 | We |  | 17 | Fr |  | 17 | | Mo |  | 17 | We |  |
| 18 | Mo |  | 18 | Th |  | 18 | Sa |  | 18 | | Tu |  | 18 | Th |  |
| 19 | Tu | Joseph of Nazareth | 19 | Fr |  | 19 | Su | **Pentecost/Whitsun** | 19 | | We |  | 19 | Fr |  |
| 20 | We |  | 20 | Sa |  | 20 | Mo |  | 20 | | Th |  | 20 | Sa |  |
| 21 | Th |  | 21 | Su |  | 21 | Tu |  | 21 | | Fr |  | 21 | Su |  |
| 22 | Fr |  | 22 | Mo |  | 22 | We |  | 22 | | Sa |  | 22 | Mo | Mary Magdalene |
| 23 | Sa |  | 23 | Tu | St George | 23 | Th |  | 23 | | Su |  | 23 | Tu |  |
| 24 | Su | **Palm Sunday** | 24 | We |  | 24 | Fr | (John & Charles Wesley) | 24 | | Mo | Birth of John the Baptist | 24 | We |  |
| 25 | Mo | Holy Week | 25 | Th |  | 25 | Sa |  | 25 | | Tu |  | 25 | Th |  |
| 26 | Tu | Holy Week | 26 | Fr | St Mark the Evangelist | 26 | Su | **Trinity Sunday** | 26 | | We |  | 26 | Fr |  |
| 27 | We | Holy Week | 27 | Sa |  | 27 | Mo |  | 27 | | Th |  | 27 | Sa |  |
| 28 | Th | **Maundy Thursday\***  traditionally a bare altar | 28 | Su |  | 28 | Tu |  | 28 | | Fr |  | 28 | Su |  |
| 29 | Fr | **Good Friday** | 29 | Mo |  | 29 | We |  | 29 | | Sa |  | 29 | Mo |  |
| 30 | Sa | **Holy Saturday**  **(no colour)** | 30 | Tu |  | 30 | Th | Corpus Christi | 30 | | Su | St Peter & St Paul | 30 | Tu |  |
| 31 | Su | **Easter Day** |  |  |  | 31 | Fr | Mary’s visit to Elizabeth |  | |  |  | 31 | We |  |

**September 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  |  | **1** | **2** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** |
| **Education Sunday** |  |  |  | **Holy Cross Day** |  |  |
| **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
|  |  |  |  | **St Matthew** |  |  |
| **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Michael & All Angels** |  |

**October 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Edward the Confessor** |  |
| **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** |
|  |  |  | **St Luke the Evangelist** |  |  |  |
| **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **St Simon & St Jude** |
| **29** | **30** | **31** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**November 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
|  |  |  | **All Saints Day** | All Souls |  |  |
| **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** |
|  | St Leonard |  |  |  |  | Remembrance Day |
| **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** |
| Remembrance Sunday |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** |  |  |
| **Christ the King** |  |  |  | St Andrew |  |  |

**December 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  |  | **1** | **2** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** |
| 1st Sunday in Advent |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** |
| 2nd Sunday in Advent |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
| 3rd Sunday in Advent |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** |
| 4th Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve | **Christmas Day** | St Stephen | St John the Evangelist | Holy Innocents |  |  |
| **31** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**January 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |
|  | Naming of Christ |  |  |  |  | **Epiphany** |
| **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** |
| Baptism of Christ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** |
|  |  |  |  | Conversion of St Paul |  |  |
| **28** | **29** | **30** | **31** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**February 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  | **1** | **2** | **3** |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Candlemas** |  |
| **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** |
|  |  | Shrove Tuesday | **Ash Wednesday** |  |  |  |
| **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** |
| 1st Sunday in Lent |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** |  |  |
| 2nd Sunday in Lent |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**March 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  |  | **1** | **2** |
|  |  |  |  |  | St David’s Day |  |
| **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** |
| 3rd Sunday of Lent |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** |
| 4th Sunday of Lent |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
| 5th Sunday of Lent  & St Patrick |  | Joseph of Nazareth |  |  |  |  |
| **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** |
| Palm Sunday | **Holy Week** | **Holy Week** | **Holy Week** | **Maundy Thursday** (traditionally a bare altar) | **Good Friday** | **Holy Saturday** |
| **31** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Easter Day** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**April 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** |
|  | **Annunciation** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** |
|  |  | St George |  |  | St Mark the Evangelist |  |
| **28** | **29** | **30** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**May 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
|  |  |  | **St Philip & St James** |  |  |  |
| **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** |
|  |  |  |  | Ascension Day |  |  |
| **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** |
|  |  | St Matthias the Apostle |  |  |  |  |
| **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** |
| **Pentecost / Whitsun** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** | **31** |  |
| **Trinity Sunday** |  |  |  | Corpus Christi | Mary’s Visit to Elizabeth |  |

**June 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **1** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** |
|  |  | St Barnabus |  |  |  |  |
| **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** |
|  | Birth of John the Baptist |  |  |  |  |  |
| **30** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **St Peter and St Paul** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**July 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |
|  |  |  | St Thomas the Apostle |  |  |  |
| **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **14** | **15** | 16 | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** |
|  | Mary Magdalene |  |  |  |  |  |
| **28** | **29** | **30** | **31** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |