







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 (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 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 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' 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. 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.



Church School Year Calendar 2020-21



| September 2020 | October 2020 | November 2020 | | December 2020 | | January 2021 | | February 2021 | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Tu | 1 Th | 1 Su | All Saints' Day | 1 Tu | | 1 Fr | Naming of Christ | 1 Mo | |
| 2 We | 2 Fr | 2 Mo | All Souls' day | 2 We | | 2 Sa | | 2 Tu | Candlemas** |
| 3 Th | 3 Sa | 3 Tu | | 3 Th | | 3 Su | | 3 We | |
| 4 Fr | 4 Su | 4 We | | 4 Fr | | 4 Mo | | 4 Th | |
| 5 Sa | 5 Mo | 5 Th | | 5 Sa | | 5 Tu | | 5 Fr | |
| 6 Su | 6 Tu | 6 Fr | | 6 Su | 2 nd Sunday in Advent | 6 We | The Epiphany | 6 Sa | |
| 7 Mo | 7 We | 7 Sa | | 7 Mo | | 7 Th | | 7 Su | |
| 8 Tu | 8 Th | 8 Su | Remembrance Sunday | 8 Tu | | 8 Fr | | 8 Mo | |
| 9 We | 9 Fr | 9 Mo | | 9 We | | 9 Sa | | 9 Tu | |
| 10 Th | 10 Sa | 10 Tu | | 10 Th | | 10 Su | Baptism of Jesus | 10 We | |
| 11 Fr | 11 Su | 11 We | Remembrance Day | 11 Fr | | 11 Mo | | 11 Th | |
| 12 Sa | 12 Mo | 12 Th | | 12 Sa | | 12 Tu | | 12 Fr | |
| 13 Su | 13 Tu | 13 Fr | | 13 Su | 3 rd Sunday in Advent | 13 We | | 13 Sa | |
| 14 Mo Holy Cross Day | 14 We | 14 Sa | | 14 Mo | | 14 Th | | 14 Su | |
| 15 Tu | 15 Th | 15 Su | | 15 Tu | | 15 Fr | | 15 Mo | |
| 16 We | 16 Fr | 16 Mo | | 16 We | | 16 Sa | | 16 Tu | Shrove Tuesday |
| 17 Th | 17 Sa | 17 Tu | | 17 Th | | 17 Su | | 17 We | Ash Wednesday |
| 18 Fr | 18 Su St Luke the Evangelist | 18 We | | 18 Fr | | 18 Mo | | 18 Th | |
| 19 Sa | 19 Mo | 19 Th | | 19 Sa | | 19 Tu | | 19 Fr | |
| 20 Su | 20 Tu | 20 Fr | | 20 Su | 4 th Sunday in Advent | 20 We | | 20 Sa | |
| 21 Mo St Matthew | 21 We | 21 Sa | | 21 Mo | | 21 Th | | 21 Su | 1 st Sunday in Lent |
| 22 Tu | 22 Th | 22 Su | Christ the King | 22 Tu | | 22 Fr | | 22 Mo | |
| 23 We | 23 Fr | 23 Mo | | 23 We | | 23 Sa | | 23 Tu | |
| 24 Th | 24 Sa | 24 Tu | | 24 Th | Christmas Eve | 24 Su | | 24 We | |
| 25 Fr | 25 Su | 25 We | | 25 Fr | Christmas Day | 25 Mo | Conversion of St Paul | 25 Th | |
| 26 Sa | 26 Mo | 26 Th | | 26 Sa | St Stephen's Day | 26 Tu | | 26 Fr | |
| 27 Su | 27 Tu | 27 Fr | | 27 Su | St John the Evangelist | 27 We | | 27 Sa | |
| 28 Mo | 28 We St Simon & St Jude | 28 Sa | | 28 Mo | Holy Innocents | 28 Th | | 28 Su | 2 nd Sunday in Lent |
| 29 Tu Michaelmas | 29 Th | 29 Su | 1 st Sunday in Advent | 29 Tu | | 29 Fr | | | |
| 30 We | 30 Fr | 30 Mo | St Andrew | 30 We | | 30 Sa | | | |
| | 31 Sa | | | 31 Tu | | 31 Su | | | |

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



Church School Year Calendar 2020/21



| March 2021 | | April 2021 | | May 2021 | | June 2021 | | July 2021 | | August 2021 | |
|--|---------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| 1 Mo St David | 1 Th | Maundy Thursday* | 1 Sa | St Philip & St James | 1 Tu | | 1 Th | | 1 Su | | |
| 2 Tu | 2 Fr | Good Friday | 2 Su | | 2 We | | 2 Fr | | 2 Mo | | |
| 3 We | 3 Sa | Holy Saturday | 3 Mo | | 3 Th | Corpus Christi | 3 Sa | St Thomas the Apostle | 3 Tu | | |
| 4 Th | 4 Su | Easter Day | 4 Tu | | 4 Fr | | 4 Su | | 4 We | | |
| 5 Fr | 5 Mo | | 5 We | | 5 Sa | | 5 Mo | | 5 Th | | |
| 6 Sa | 6 Tu | | 6 Th | | 6 Su | | 6 Tu | | 6 Fr | The Transfiguration | |
| 7 Su 3 rd Sunday of Lent | 7 We | | 7 Fr | | 7 Mo | | 7 We | | 7 Sa | | |
| 8 Mo | 8 Th | | 8 Sa | | 8 Tu | | 8 Th | | 8 Su | | |
| 9 Tu | 9 Fr | | 9 Su | | 9 We | | 9 Fr | | 9 Mo | | |
| 10 We | 10 Sa | | 10 Mo | | 10 Th | | 10 Sa | | 10 Tu | | |
| 11 Th | 11 Su | | 11 Tu | | 11 Fr | St Barnabus | 11 Su | | 11 We | | |
| 12 Fr | 12 Mo | | 12 We | | 12 Sa | | 12 Mo | | 12 Th | | |
| 13 Sa | 13 Tu | | 13 Th | Ascension Day | 13 Su | | 13 Tu | | 13 Fr | | |
| 14 Su Mothering Sunday | 14 We | | 14 Fr | St Matthias the Apostle | 14 Mo | | 14 We | | 14 Sa | | |
| 15 Mo | 15 Th | | 15 Sa | | 15 Tu | | 15 Th | | 15 Su | Blessed Virgin Mary | |
| 16 Tu | 16 Fr | | 16 Su | | 16 We | | 16 Th | | 16 Mo | | |
| 17 We St Patrick | 17 Sa | | 17 Mo | | 17 Th | | 17 Sa | | 17 Tu | | |
| 18 Th | 18 Su | | 18 Tu | | 18 Fr | | 18 Su | | 18 We | | |
| 19 Fr Joseph of Nazareth | | | 19 We | | 19 Sa | | 19 Mo | | 19 Th | | |
| 20 Sa | 20 Tu | | 20 Th | | 20 Su | | 20 Tu | | 20 Fr | | |
| 21 Su | 21 We | | 21 Fr | | 21 Mo | | 21 We | | 21 Sa | | |
| 22 Mo | 22 Th | | 22 Sa | | 22 Tu | | 22 Th | Mary Magdalene | 22 Su | | |
| 23 Tu | 23 Fr | St George | 23 Su | Pentecost | 23 We | | 23 Fr | | 23 Mo | | |
| 24 We | 24 Sa | | 24 Mo | | 24 Th | Birth of John the Baptist | 24 Sa | | 24 Tu | St Bartholomew | |
| 25 Th Annunciation Da | y 25 Su | | 25 Tu | | 25 Fr | | 25 Su | St James the Apostle | 25 We | Thomas Cantilupe | |
| 26 Fr | 26 Mo | St Mark the Evangelist | 26 We | | 26 Sa | | 26 Mo | | 26 Th | | |
| 27 Sa | 27 Tu | | 27 Th | | 27 Su | | 27 Tu | | 27 Fr | | |
| 28 Su Palm Sunday | 28 We | | 28 Fr | | 28 Mo | | 28 We | | 28 Sa | | |
| 29 Mo Holy Week | 29 Th | | 29 Sa | | 29 Tu | St Peter & St Paul | 29 Th | | 29 Su | | |
| 30 Tu Holy Week | 30 Fr | | 30 Su | Trinity Sunday | 30 We | | 30 Fr | | 30 Mo | | |
| 31 We Holy Week | | Maundy Thursday is traditiona | 31 Mo | Mary visit to Elizabeth | | | 31 Sa | | 31 Tu | | |

^{*} Maundy Thursday is traditionally marked by a bare altar with no cloth.