

The HOPE Journey Events

Meet the Characters of the Nativity

Year 2 children - Beginning of Advent

Children come into church to explore the Christmas Story through a variety of ways including 'meeting' the characters. Volunteers take on the different roles and through conversation and questioning, transport the children to the heart of the story. A tableau, singing traditional carols forms the culmination of the journey.

Cross Factor

Year 5 children - During Lent

Children come into a church environment to engage with different elements and topics from the Easter story. They think about crosses from around the world, the significance of the Last Supper, engage with Palm Sunday and hear the story of someone who was there. Whilst children engage with a Christian believer's view of the first Easter, the purpose is to deepen understanding, not convert. All are welcome regardless of faith or belief.

Remembering

Year 6 children - Week before Remembrance Sunday

'A HOPE Journey based around remembering past and current conflicts, life in WW2, untold stories, Anne Frank and many other areas. There will be further opportunities to reflect upon people that we no longer see. A difficult topic addressed in a relevant, sensitive and interactive way.'

Sharing Parables

Foundation/Reception children - Anytime (taking place in school)

'A HOPE Journey to explore the parable of the Prodigal Son or The Good Samaritans. Both explore emotion, relationship and forgiveness'

The HOPE Journey Events

Explore

Year 3 children - Anytime

'A HOPE Journey exploring signs, symbols, religious books & artefacts. Exploring these areas in Islam, Judaism and Christianity with the emphasis placed upon our area of expertise, Christianity.'

Cre8

Year 4 children - Anytime

Children are given the opportunity to create imaginative works of art using a variety of materials and methods to portray stories from the Bible and explore images of God.

Boxes of Joy

Year 4/5 children - Ideally September until November

'Boxes of joy' is based on the work of operation Christmas Child's Shoe box appeal. A way of sharing the Christian work of this charity with the local community giving a practical way of sharing Christian values. This workshop also links with areas in school life such as every child matters and world ethics.

Healthy Living

Year 3/4 children - Anytime

Children are given the opportunity in a church environment to explore the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Using a variety of different methods including a labyrinth, food tasting and being food explorers pupils will learn about a balanced diet, good sanitation and the 'Fruit of the Spirit'.

Journey to the Old Testament

Year 3 children - Summer Term

Transported back to Old Testament times, pupils will encounter a variety of different Old Testament characters and engage with them in a variety of different ways.

Journeying through the School Year with



Churches Sharing the Sacred Story with School

What is The HOPE Journey?

Partnership between local church and local Primary school

Sharing the sacred story in a way that informs and not convert - 'learning'

Way of working which enables churches and schools to get together

Inter-generational opportunity which depends on the contribution of people of all ages and experiences

Ecumenical opportunity, when churches in a neighbourhood can offer a range of different stories

An interactive way to teach the beliefs and traditions of the Christian church, engaging the children in active learning

A learning experience in a church setting, supported by volunteers, school staff and parents

Hands-on workshops with stories, craft, role-play and music

Planned to meet areas of the locally agreed Religious Education syllabus, with preparatory and follow-up materials supplied

How can you get involved in The HOPE Journey?

Churches:

- contact your local Hope Journey Co-ordinator to find out:
 - whether there is a local event where you can arrange a 'taster'
 - when the next training event is planned
 - whether you can arrange for the Co-ordinator to attend a church meeting
- start to identify the gifts in your church - people who can make refreshments, tell stories to children, have a knowledge of local schools, willing to share their faith story

Schools:

- contact the local Hope Journey Co-ordinator
- respond to an invitation from a local church and work in partnership, guided by the School Liaison volunteer

The Hope Journey is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All staff and volunteers share this commitment

For Hope Journey Co-ordinators please

contact: thehopejourney@hotmail.co.uk

Hope Journey Co-Ordinator: Nicola Langton-Miller
07531 899 642

What do others think?

"The Easter activity day engaged our children in a variety of fun, interactive sessions which led them through the Easter story from an interview with a Roman guard to discussing symbolism across the Christian church. An added bonus was that the workshops tied in so well with the RE curriculum for the year group and also provided the children with an opportunity to see inside a non-conformist church and raise questions with the minister and other church workers. Many thanks."

Year 5 teacher

"I had a brilliant time! My favourite characters were Mary & Joseph. I was really pleased that all the characters answered my questions. Next time I would like to meet the shepherds and the kings. Thank you." **Year 2 pupil**

"The opportunities for reflection were poignant and touching and impeccably observed by everyone involved indicating an overwhelming sense of worth and value. The children I observed participating in this work left with a very strong sense of connection with the church." **Ofsted Inspector, Headteacher, Adviser to Connexional Team**

"Being part of the Hope Journey team was a very satisfying and enlightening experience. To see the expressions on the children's faces, and some of the questions asked was a soul searching experience. To be part of a team conveying the love of God to children is both a responsibility and a privilege."

Church Steward