The Colours of the Church Year:

a guide for schools

2024-25

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2023-24

**The Anglican Church Year**

Anglican churches follow a liturgical calendar. This is a pattern for their worship (liturgy) throughout the year tied to the festivals and scripture readings for the year (lectionary). 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 can mark Jesus’ life events and teachings throughout the school year. It also provides a colourful and visual way to mark the festivals.

Most churches use different-coloured vestments (priest’s clothing) and altar cloths to signify the season of the church year. This can be mirrored in school by simply changing the worship tablecloth or creating a themed display using the relevant colours. Soon, you will find that the children recognise the colours and their meanings. When they enter the worship space, they will notice the colours have changed and begin to link the seasons and the festivals throughout the year.

**The Meaning of the Colours (dates are coloured on the attached calendar)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Green** | It is 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 describe the flames of the Holy Spirit (for Pentecost/Whitsun). |
| **White** | Represents being pure, in celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and some funerals.  It is also used for celebrations, either on its own or with gold, and 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 displayed 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 principal 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 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 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 2024** | | | **October 2024** | | | **November 2024** | | | **December 2024** | | | **January 2025** | | | **February 2025** | | |
| 1 | Su |  | 1 | Tu |  | 1 | Fr | **All Saints’ Day** | 1 | Su | 1st Sunday in Advent | 1 | We | Naming of Christ | 1 | Sa |  |
| 2 | Mo |  | 2 | We |  | 2 | Sa | All Souls | 2 | Mo |  | 2 | Th |  | 2 | Su | **Candlemas\*\*** |
| 3 | Tu |  | 3 | Th |  | 3 | Su |  | 3 | Tu |  | 3 | Fr |  | 3 | Mo |  |
| 4 | We |  | 4 | Fr | St Francis of Assisi | 4 | Mo |  | 4 | We |  | 4 | Sa |  | 4 | Tu |  |
| 5 | Th |  | 5 | Sa |  | 5 | Tu |  | 5 | Th |  | 5 | Su | **Epiphany** | 5 | We |  |
| 6 | Fr |  | 6 | Su |  | 6 | We |  | 6 | Fr |  | 6 | Mo |  | 6 | Th |  |
| 7 | Sa |  | 7 | Mo |  | 7 | Th |  | 7 | Sa |  | 7 | Tu |  | 7 | Fr |  |
| 8 | Su | Education Sunday | 8 | Tu |  | 8 | Fr |  | 8 | Su | 2nd Sunday in Advent | 8 | We |  | 8 | Sa |  |
| 9 | Mo |  | 9 | We |  | 9 | Sa |  | 9 | Mo |  | 9 | Th |  | 9 | Su |  |
| 10 | Tu |  | 10 | Th |  | 10 | Su | Remembrance Sunday | 10 | Tu |  | 10 | Fr |  | 10 | Mo |  |
| 11 | We |  | 11 | Fr |  | 11 | Mo | Remembrance Day | 11 | We |  | 11 | Sa |  | 11 | Tu |  |
| All | Th |  | 12 | Sa |  | 12 | Tu |  | 12 | Th |  | 12 | Su | Baptism of Christ | 12 | We |  |
| 13 | Fr |  | 13 | Su |  | 13 | We |  | 13 | Fr |  | 13 | Mo |  | 13 | Th |  |
| 14 | Sa | Holy Cross Day | 14 | Mo |  | 14 | Th |  | 14 | Sa |  | 14 | Tu |  | 14 | Fr |  |
| 15 | Su |  | 15 | Tu |  | 15 | Fr |  | 15 | Su | 3rd Sunday in Advent | 15 | We |  | 15 | Sa |  |
| 16 | Mo |  | 16 | We |  | 16 | Sa |  | 16 | Mo |  | 16 | Th |  | 16 | Su |  |
| 17 | Tu |  | 17 | Th |  | 17 | Su |  | 17 | Tu |  | 17 | Fr |  | 17 | Mo |  |
| 18 | We |  | 18 | Fr | St Luke the Evangelist | 18 | Mo |  | 18 | We |  | 18 | Sa |  | 18 | Tu |  |
| 19 | Th |  | 19 | Sa |  | 19 | Tu |  | 19 | Th |  | 19 | Su |  | 19 | We |  |
| 20 | Fr |  | 20 | Su |  | 20 | We |  | 20 | Fr |  | 20 | Mo |  | 20 | Th |  |
| 21 | Sa | St Matthew | 21 | Mo |  | 21 | Th |  | 21 | Sa |  | 21 | Tu |  | 21 | Fr |  |
| 22 | Su |  | 22 | Tu |  | 22 | Fr |  | 22 | Su | 4th Sunday in Advent | 22 | We |  | 22 | Sa |  |
| 23 | Mo |  | 23 | We |  | 23 | Sa |  | 23 | Mo |  | 23 | Th |  | 23 | Su |  |
| 24 | Tu |  | 24 | Th |  | 24 | Su | Christ the King | 24 | Tu | Christmas Eve | 24 | Fr |  | 24 | Mo |  |
| 25 | We |  | 25 | Fr |  | 25 | Mo |  | 25 | We | **Christmas Day** | 25 | Sa | Conversion of St Paul | 25 | Tu |  |
| 26 | Th |  | 26 | Sa |  | 26 | Tu |  | 26 | Th | St Stephen | 26 | Su |  | 26 | We |  |
| 27 | Fr |  | 27 | Su |  | 27 | We |  | 27 | Fr | St John the Evangelist | 27 | Mo |  | 27 | Th |  |
| 28 | Sa |  | 28 | Mo | St Simon & St Jude | 28 | Th |  | 28 | Sa | Holy Innocents | 28 | Tu |  | 28 | Fr |  |
| 29 | Su | Michael & All Angels | 29 | Tu |  | 29 | Fr |  | 29 | Su |  | 29 | We |  |  |  |  |
| 30 | Mo |  | 30 | We |  | 30 | Sa | St Andrew | 30 | Mo |  | 30 | Th |  |  |  | \*\* Candlemas is also the Presentation of Christ in the temple. |
|  |  |  | 31 | Th |  |  |  |  | 31 | Tu |  | 31 | Fr |  |  |

**Candlemas\*\***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **March 2025** | | | **April 2025** | | | **May 2025** | | | | **June 2025** | | | **July 2025** | | |
| 1 | Sa | St David’s Day | 1 | Tu |  | 1 | Th | St Philip & St James | 1 | | Su |  | 1 | Tu |  |
| 2 | Su |  | 2 | We |  | 2 | Fr |  | 2 | | Mo |  | 2 | We |  |
| 3 | Mo |  | 3 | Th |  | 3 | Sa |  | 3 | | Tu |  | 3 | Th | St Thomas the Apostle |
| 4 | Tu | (Shrove Tuesday) | 4 | Fr |  | 4 | Su |  | 4 | | We |  | 4 | Fr |  |
| 5 | We | **Ash Wednesday** | 5 | Sa |  | 5 | Mo |  | 5 | | Th |  | 5 | Sa |  |
| 6 | Th |  | 6 | Su | 5th Sunday of Lent | 6 | Tu |  | 6 | | Fr |  | 6 | Su |  |
| 7 | Fr |  | 7 | Mo |  | 7 | We |  | 7 | | Sa |  | 7 | Mo |  |
| 8 | Sa |  | 8 | Tu |  | 8 | Th |  | 8 | | Su | **Pentecost/Whitsun** | 8 | Tu |  |
| 9 | Su | 1st Sunday of Lent | 9 | We |  | 9 | Fr |  | 9 | | Mo |  | 9 | We |  |
| 10 | Mo |  | 10 | Th |  | 10 | Sa |  | 10 | | Tu |  | 10 | Th |  |
| 11 | Tu |  | 11 | Fr |  | 11 | Su |  | 11 | | We | St Barnabus | 11 | Fr |  |
| 12 | We |  | 12 | Sa |  | 12 | Mo |  | 12 | | Th |  | 12 | Sa |  |
| 13 | Th |  | 13 | Su | **Palm Sunday** | 13 | Tu |  | 13 | | Fr |  | 13 | Su |  |
| 14 | Fr |  | 14 | Mo | Holy Week | 14 | We | St Matthias the Apostle | 14 | | Sa |  | 14 | Mo |  |
| 15 | Sa |  | 15 | Tu | Holy Week | 15 | Th |  | 15 | | Su | **Trinity Sunday** | 15 | Tu |  |
| 16 | Su | 2nd Sunday of Lent | 16 | We | Holy Week | 16 | Fr |  | 16 | | Mo |  | 16 | We |  |
| 17 | Mo | St Patrick | 4 | Th | **Maundy Thursday\***  traditionally, a bare altar | 17 | Sa |  | 17 | | Tu |  | 17 | Th |  |
| 18 | Tu |  | 18 | Fr | **Good Friday** | 18 | Su |  | 18 | | We |  | 18 | Fr |  |
| 19 | We | Joseph of Nazareth | 19 | Sa | **Holy Saturday**  **(no colour)** | 19 | Mo |  | 19 | | Th | Corpus Christi | 19 | Sa |  |
| 20 | Th |  | 20 | Su | **Easter Day** | 20 | Tu |  | 20 | | Fr |  | 20 | Su |  |
| 21 | Fr |  | 21 | Mo |  | 21 | We |  | 21 | | Sa |  | 21 | Mo |  |
| 22 | Sa |  | 22 | Tu |  | 22 | Th |  | 22 | | Su |  | 22 | Tu | Mary Magdalene |
| 23 | Su | 3rd Sunday of Lent | 23 | We |  | 23 | Fr |  | 23 | | Mo |  | 23 | We |  |
| 24 | Mo |  | 24 | Th |  | 24 | Sa | (John & Charles Wesley) | 24 | | Tu | Birth of John the Baptist | 24 | Th |  |
| 25 | Tu | Annunciation | 25 | Fr |  | 25 | Su |  | 25 | | We |  | 25 | Fr | St James |
| 26 | We |  | 26 | Sa |  | 26 | Mo |  | 26 | | Th |  | 26 | Sa |  |
| 27 | Th |  | 27 | Su |  | 27 | Tu |  | 27 | | Fr |  | 27 | Su |  |
| 28 | Fr |  | 28 | Mo | St George | 28 | We |  | 28 | | Sa |  | 28 | Mo |  |
| 29 | Sa |  | 29 | Tu | St Mark the Evangelist | 29 | Th | **Ascension Day** | 29 | | Su |  | 29 | Tu |  |
| 30 | Su | 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday | 30 | We |  | 30 | Fr |  | 30 | | Mo | St Peter & St Paul | 30 | We |  |
| 31 | Mo |  |  |  |  | 31 | Sa | Mary’s visit to Elizabeth |  | |  |  | 31 | Th |  |

**September 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | | Tuesday | Wednesday | | Thursday | Friday | | Saturday |
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | | 7 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| Education Sunday 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | | 12 | 13 | | Holy Cross 14 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 15 | 16 | | 17 | 18 | | 19 | 20 | | St Matthew 21 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 22 | 23 | | 24 | 25 | | 26 | 27 | | 28 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| St Michael & All Angels 29 | 30 | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
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**October 2024**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | | Tuesday | Wednesday | | Thursday | Friday | | Saturday |
|  |  | | 1 | 2 | | 3 | St Francis of Assisi 4 | | 5 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | | 12 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 13 | 14 | | 15 | 16 | | 17 | St Luke 18 | | 19 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 20 | 21 | | 22 | 23 | | 24 | 25 | | 26 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 27 | St Simon and St Jude 28 | | 29 | 30 | | 31 |  | |  |
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**November 2024**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | | Tuesday | Wednesday | | Thursday | Friday | | Saturday |
|  |  | |  |  | |  | **All Saints** 1 | | All Souls 2 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | | 9 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| Remembrance Sunday 10 | Remembrance Day 11 | | 12 | 13 | | 14 | 15 | | 16 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 17 | 18 | | 19 | 20 | | 21 | 22 | | 23 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| Christ the King 24 | 25 | | 26 | 27 | | 28 | 29 | | St Andrew 30 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
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**December 2024**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | | Tuesday | Wednesday | | Thursday | Friday | | Saturday |
| 1st Sunday of Advent 1 | 2 | | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | | 7 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 2nd Sunday of Advent 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | | 12 | 13 | | 14 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 3rd Sunday of Advent 15 | 16 | | 17 | 18 | | 19 | 20 | | 21 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 4th Sunday of Advent 22 | 23 | | Christmas Eve 24 | Christmas Day 25 | | St Stephens 26 | St John the Evangelist 27 | | Holy Innocents 28 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 29 | 30 | | 31 |  | |  |  | |  |
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**January 2025**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  | Naming of Christ 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Epiphany 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Baptism of Christ 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | Conversion of St Paul 25 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |
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**February 2025**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Candlemas 2** | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Presentation of Christ in the temple |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |  |
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**March 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | St David’s Day 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | 3 | Shrove Tuesday 4 | Ash Wednesday 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1st Sunday in Lent 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd Sunday in Lent 16 | St Patrick 17 | 18 | Joseph of Nazareth 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3rd Sunday in Lent 23 | 24 | Annunciation 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4th Sunday in Lent 30 | 31 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mothering Sunday |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**April 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5th Sunday in Lent 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Palm Sunday 13 | Holy Week 14 | Holy Week 15 | Holy Week 16 | **Maundy Thursday 17** | **Good Friday 18** | Holy Saturday 19 |
|  |  |  |  | Traditionally, the altar is stripped bare to represent Jesus being desperate by his disciples. . |  |  |
| **Easter Day** 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 27 | St George 28 | St Mark 29 | 30 |  |  |  |
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**May 2025**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  | St Philip & St James 1 | 2 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | St Matthias the apostle 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | John & Charles Wesley 24 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | **Ascension Day 29** | 30 | Mary visits Elizabeth 31 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**June 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pentecost/Whitsun 8** | 9 | 10 | St Barnabas 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Trinity Sunday 15** | 16 | 17 | 18 | Corpus Christi 19 | 20 | 21 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | 23 | Birth of John the Baptist 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 29 | St Peter & St Paul 30 |  |  |  |  |  |
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**July 2025**

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