The Colours of the Church Year:

a guide for schools

2025-26

The Colours of the Church Year:

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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 2025-26. 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 2025** | | | **October 2025** | | | **November 2025** | | | **December 2025** | | | **January 2026** | | | **February 2026** | | |
| 1 | Mo |  | 1 | We |  | 1 | Sa | **All Saints’ Day** | 1 | Mo | St Andrew | 1 | Th | Naming of Christ | 1 | Su |  |
| 2 | Tu |  | 2 | Th |  | 2 | Su | All Souls | 2 | Tu |  | 2 | Fr |  | 2 | Mo | **Candlemas\*\*** |
| 3 | We |  | 3 | Fr |  | 3 | Mo |  | 3 | We |  | 3 | Sa |  | 3 | Tu |  |
| 4 | Th |  | 4 | Sa | St Francis of Assisi | 4 | Tu |  | 4 | Th |  | 4 | Su |  | 4 | We |  |
| 5 | Fr |  | 5 | Su |  | 5 | We |  | 5 | Fr |  | 5 | Mo |  | 5 | Th |  |
| 6 | Sa |  | 6 | Mo |  | 6 | Th |  | 6 | Sa |  | 6 | Tu | **The Epiphany** | 6 | Fr |  |
| 7 | Su |  | 7 | Tu |  | 7 | Fr |  | 7 | Su | 2nd Sunday in Advent | 7 | We |  | 7 | Sa |  |
| 8 | Mo |  | 8 | We |  | 8 | Sa |  | 8 | Mo |  | 8 | Th |  | 8 | Su |  |
| 9 | Tu |  | 9 | Th |  | 9 | Su | Remembrance Sunday | 9 | Tu |  | 9 | Fr |  | 9 | Mo |  |
| 10 | We |  | 10 | Fr |  | 10 | Mo |  | 10 | We |  | 10 | Sa |  | 10 | Tu |  |
| 11 | Th |  | 11 | Sa |  | 11 | Tu | Remembrance Day | 11 | Th |  | 11 | Su | Baptism of Christ | 11 | We |  |
| 12 | Fr |  | 12 | Su |  | 12 | We |  | 12 | Fr |  | 12 | Mo |  | 12 | Th |  |
| 13 | Sa |  | 13 | Mo |  | 13 | Th |  | 13 | Sa |  | 13 | Tu |  | 13 | Fr |  |
| 14 | Su | Holy Cross Day | 14 | Tu |  | 14 | Fr |  | 14 | Su | 3rd Sunday in Advent | 14 | We |  | 14 | Sa |  |
| 15 | Mo |  | 15 | We |  | 15 | Sa |  | 15 | Mo |  | 15 | Th |  | 15 | Su |  |
| 16 | Tu |  | 16 | Th |  | 16 | Su |  | 16 | Tu |  | 16 | Fr |  | 16 | Mo |  |
| 17 | We |  | 17 | Fr |  | 17 | Mo |  | 17 | We |  | 17 | Sa |  | 17 | Tu |  |
| 18 | Th |  | 18 | Sa | St Luke the Evangelist | 18 | Tu |  | 18 | Th |  | 18 | Su |  | 18 | We | **Ash Wednesday** |
| 19 | Fr |  | 19 | Su |  | 19 | We |  | 19 | Fr |  | 19 | Mo |  | 19 | Th |  |
| 20 | Sa |  | 20 | Mo |  | 20 | Th |  | 20 | Sa |  | 20 | Tu |  | 20 | Fr |  |
| 21 | Su | St Matthew | 21 | Tu |  | 21 | Fr |  | 21 | Su | 4th Sunday in Advent | 21 | We |  | 21 | Sa |  |
| 22 | Mo |  | 22 | We |  | 22 | Sa |  | 22 | Mo |  | 22 | Th |  | 22 | Su | **First Sunday of Lent** |
| 23 | Tu |  | 23 | Th |  | 23 | Su | Christ the King | 23 | Tu |  | 23 | Fr |  | 23 | Mo |  |
| 24 | We |  | 24 | Fr |  | 24 | Mo |  | 24 | We | Christmas Eve | 24 | Sa |  | 24 | Tu |  |
| 25 | Th |  | 25 | Sa |  | 25 | Tu |  | 25 | Th | **Christmas Day** | 25 | Su | Conversion of St Paul | 25 | We |  |
| 26 | Fr |  | 26 | Su |  | 26 | We |  | 26 | Fr | St Stephen | 26 | Mo |  | 26 | Th |  |
| 27 | Sa |  | 27 | Mo |  | 27 | Th |  | 27 | Sa | St John the Evangelist | 27 | Tu |  | 27 | Fr |  |
| 28 | Su |  | 28 | Tu | St Simon & St Jude | 28 | Fr |  | 28 | Su | Holy Innocents | 28 | We |  | 28 | Sa |  |
| 29 | Mo | Michael & All Angels | 29 | We |  | 29 | Sa |  | 29 | Mo |  | 29 | Th |  |  |  |  |
| 30 | Tu |  | 30 | Th |  | 30 | Su | 1st Sunday in Advent | 30 | Tu |  | 30 | Fr |  |  |  | \*\* Candlemas is also the Presentation of Christ in the temple. |
|  |  |  | 31 | Fr |  |  |  |  | 31 | We |  | 31 | Sa |  |  |

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| **March 2026** | | | **April 2026** | | | **May 2026** | | | | **June 2026** | | | **July 2026** | | |
| 1 | Su | 2nd Sunday of Lent/David’s Day | 1 | We | Holy Week | 1 | Fr | St Philip & St James | 1 | | Mo | Visit of Mary to Elizabeth | 1 | We |  |
| 2 | Mo |  | 2 | Th | **Maundy Thursday\***  traditionally, a bare altar | 2 | Sa |  | 2 | | Tu |  | 2 | Th |  |
| 3 | Tu |  | 3 | Fr | **Good Friday** | 3 | Su |  | 3 | | We |  | 3 | Fr | St Thomas the Apostle |
| 4 | We |  | 4 | Sa | **Holy Saturday**  **(no colour)** | 4 | Mo |  | 4 | | Th | Corpus Christi | 4 | Sa |  |
| 5 | Th |  | 5 | Su | **Easter Day** | 5 | Tu |  | 5 | | Fr |  | 5 | Su |  |
| 6 | Fr |  | 6 | Mo | Easter Week | 6 | We |  | 6 | | Sa |  | 6 | Mo |  |
| 7 | Sa |  | 7 | Tu | Easter Week | 7 | Th |  | 7 | | Su |  | 7 | Tu |  |
| 8 | Su | 3rd Sunday of Lent | 8 | We | Easter Week | 8 | Fr |  | 8 | | Mo |  | 8 | We |  |
| 9 | Mo |  | 9 | Th | Easter Week | 9 | Sa |  | 9 | | Tu |  | 9 | Th |  |
| 10 | Tu |  | 10 | Fr | Easter Week | 10 | Su |  | 10 | | We |  | 10 | Fr |  |
| 11 | We |  | 11 | Sa | Easter Week | 11 | Mo |  | 11 | | Th | St Barnabus | 11 | Sa |  |
| 12 | Th |  | 12 | Su |  | 12 | Tu |  | 12 | | Fr |  | 12 | Su |  |
| 13 | Fr |  | 13 | Mo |  | 13 | We |  | 13 | | Sa |  | 13 | Mo |  |
| 14 | Sa |  | 14 | Tu |  | 14 | Th | **Ascension Day** | 14 | | Su |  | 14 | Tu |  |
| 15 | Su | 4th Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday | 15 | We |  | 15 | Fr | St Matthias the Apostle | 15 | | Mo |  | 15 | We |  |
| 16 | Mo |  | 16 | Th |  | 16 | Sa |  | 16 | | Tu |  | 16 | Th |  |
| 17 | Tu | St Patrick | 4 | Fr |  | 17 | Su |  | 17 | | We |  | 17 | Fr |  |
| 18 | We |  | 18 | Sa |  | 18 | Mo |  | 18 | | Th |  | 18 | Sa |  |
| 19 | Th | Joseph of Nazareth | 19 | Su |  | 19 | Tu |  | 19 | | Fr |  | 19 | Su |  |
| 20 | Fr |  | 20 | Mo |  | 20 | We |  | 20 | | Sa |  | 20 | Mo |  |
| 21 | Sa |  | 21 | Tu |  | 21 | Th |  | 21 | | Su |  | 21 | Tu |  |
| 22 | Su | 5th Sunday of Lent | 22 | We |  | 22 | Fr |  | 22 | | Mo |  | 22 | We | Mary Magdalene |
| 23 | Mo |  | 23 | Th | St George | 23 | Sa |  | 23 | | Tu |  | 23 | Th |  |
| 24 | Tu |  | 24 | Fr |  | 24 | Su | **Pentecost/Whitsun** | 24 | | We | Birth of John the Baptist | 24 | Fr |  |
| 25 | We | Annunciation | 25 | Sa | St Mark the Evangelist | 25 | Mo |  | 25 | | Th |  | 25 | Sa | St James |
| 26 | Th |  | 26 | Su |  | 26 | Tu |  | 26 | | Fr |  | 26 | Su |  |
| 27 | Fr |  | 27 | Mo |  | 27 | We |  | 27 | | Sa |  | 27 | Mo |  |
| 28 | Sa |  | 28 | Tu |  | 28 | Th |  | 28 | | Su |  | 28 | Tu |  |
| 29 | Su | **Palm Sunday** | 29 | We |  | 29 | Fr |  | 29 | | Mo | St Peter & St Paul | 29 | We |  |
| 30 | Mo | Holy Week | 30 | Th |  | 30 | Sa |  | 30 | | Tu |  | 30 | Th |  |
| 31 | Tu | Holy Week |  |  |  | 31 | Su | **Trinity Sunday** |  | |  |  | 31 | Fr |  |

**September 2025**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | | Tuesday | Wednesday | | Thursday | Friday | | Saturday |
|  | 1 | | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | | 6 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | | 11 | 12 | | 13 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| Holy Cross 14 | 15 | | 16 | 17 | | 18 | 19 | | 20 |
| Education Sunday |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| St Matthew 21 | 22 | | 23 | 24 | | 25 | 26 | | 27 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 28 | St Michael & All Angels 29 | | 30 |  | |  |  | |  |
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**October 2025**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | | Tuesday | Wednesday | | Thursday | Friday | | Saturday |
|  |  | | 1 | 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 2025**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | | Tuesday | Wednesday | | Thursday | Friday | | Saturday |
|  |  | |  |  | |  | 1 | | **All Saints 1** |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| All Souls 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | | 8 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| Remembrance Sunday 9 | 10 | | Remembrance Day 11 | 12 | | 13 | 14 | | 15 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 16 | 17 | | 18 | 19 | | 20 | 21 | | 22 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| Christ the King 23 | 24 | | 25 | 26 | | 27 | 28 | | 29 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 1st Sunday in Advent 30 |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
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**December 2025**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | | Tuesday | Wednesday | | Thursday | Friday | | Saturday |
|  | St Andrew 1 | | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | | 6 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 2nd Sunday of Advent 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | | 11 | 12 | | 13 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 3rd Sunday of Advent 14 | 15 | | 16 | 17 | | 18 | 19 | | 20 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 4th Sunday of Advent 21 | 22 | | 23 | Christmas Eve 24 | | Christmas Day 25 | St Stephen 26 | | St John the Evangelist 27 |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| Holy Innocents 28 | 29 | | 30 | 31 | |  |  | |  |
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**January 2026**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  | Naming of Christ 1 | 2 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | 5 | Epiphany 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Baptism of Christ 11 | 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 2026**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | **Candlemas** 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|  | Presentation of Christ in the temple |  |  |  |  |  |
| **8** | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | 16 | Shrove Tuesday 17 | Ash Wednesday 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Frist Sunday of Lent 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**March 2026**

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

**April 2026**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  | Holy Week 1 | **Maundy Thursday** 2 | **Good Friday** 3 | Holy Saturday 4 |
|  |  |  |  | Traditionally, the altar is stripped bare to represent Jesus being desperate by his disciples. . |  |  |
| **Easter Day 5** | Easter Week 6 | Easter Week 7 | Easter Week 8 | Easter Week 9 | Easter Week 10 | Easter Saturday 11 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | St George 23 | 24 | St Mark 25 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |  |  |
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**May 2026**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  |  |  | St Philip & St James 1 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | **Ascension Day** 14 | St Matthias 15 | 16 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pentecost/Whitsun** 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Trinity Sunday 31** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**June 2026**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | Mary visits Elizabeth 1 | 2 | 3 | Corpus Christi 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  | Thanksgiving for Communion |  |  |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | St Barnabas 11 | 12 | 13 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | Birth of John the Baptist 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 28 | St Peter & St Paul 29 | 30 |  |  |  |  |
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**July 2026**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | Mary Magdalene 22 | 23 | 24 | St James 25 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |
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