



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

BULLETIN

For all those in Church schools who have responsibility for collective worship

Second Edition

May 2025

Welcome to this edition of the Collective Worship bulletin for Church schools in the Diocese of Peterborough. I hope to bring this publication to you twice a year with some ideas and inspiration for collective worship and prayer in your school. If you have some examples of what you are doing in collective worship that you think would inspire others, then please let me know. I would love to include it in a future edition.

BISHOP DEBBIE SELLIN'S – 2025 YEAR OF PRAYER

Many thanks to those of you who have sent me your school prayers to share across our schools. It has been wonderful to read them and pray them. I hope that you are enjoying using them in your collective worship and that they are helping to give a sense of connectedness between the family of Church schools.

If you haven't sent me your prayer yet, it is not too late! The Year of Prayer goes on through up to the end of the autumn term, so I still need prayers to cover that term.

Please send to: jane.lewis@peterborough-diocese.org.uk



In this edition of the newsletter, you will find some ideas as to how you can engage your school in 'Thy Kingdom Come', a global prayer initiative, now in its 10th year. The week of 'They Kingdom Come' runs from 29th May to 6th June which means the first week of the term after half-term! This provides you with an opportunity to focus on prayer, and particularly the Lord's Prayer. It would be great if you could take some time that week, maybe a full day or maybe just half a day when you take some time as a school community to engage in some prayer activities. Maybe your local church could help or foundation governors. The activities suggested here are simple to set up and can be done indoors or outdoors. It would be great if you took some photos and sent them to me for inclusion in a further edition of the newsletter.

PASTA prayers

This is a great way to help everyone connect with the whole of the Lord's Prayer. This could be a one-off activity done in classrooms.

Children could make a simple bracelet out of 5 beads – one representing each PASTA letter.



Why not take the whole of the Lord's Prayer and create some reflective stations around the school or the local church.

'God in heaven' – picture of a parent with a child. Talk about how parents and carers show love and how God might show his love.

Thy kingdom Come – A crown and a globe. Invite children to write on sticky notes what they think the kingdom of God might be like – is it a happy place? Who might be there? Might it be like the best theme park ever?

Give us this day our daily bread – have some bread or biscuits available for children to eat as you talk about the importance of food and other things that we need.

P = Praise 'our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Thy Kingdom Come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.' (Here Christians are praising God for who he is and for his greatness)

A = Ask 'Give us this day our daily bread' (Christians ask God for the things they need)

S = Sorry 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. (Christians tell God they are sorry when they get things wrong and know that he forgives them. They also ask that he help them not to keep on doing wrong things that make God sad.)

T = Thanks 'For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.' (Christians thank God for his kingdom – it is partly here, where Christians live as God intended, helping and caring for people and worshipping God, but they know the kingdom of God is not fully here because there are still bad things in the world.)

A = Amen ('So be it' 'I agree')

Forgive us our sins – paper and a bin. Children write on the paper things they are sorry for. They scrunch up the paper and throw it in the bin. Remember that God forgives and does not remember the things we do wrong when we are really sorry.

Lead us not into temptation – have some arrows placed on the floor, or a maze for pupils to walk through. If possible have some negative outcomes posted alongside some of the arrows. Have conversations about what it means to be tempted and the results that might come from temptation.

Kingdom, power and glory – display a globe and a crown or if possible a chair made to look like a throne. Have some pieces of paper for pupils to write on to express what they would like to ask God to do for them or for the world as King of all.

Signing the Lord's Prayer – BSL

[The Lords Prayer BSL](#)

Follow this link.

The Lord's Prayer with actions

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOugEQpcc_k

Labyrinth

Could you set up a simple labyrinth outside or in the hall? Create some spaces on the labyrinth for pupils to pause at to reflect on different elements of the Lord's Prayer. You might use some of the stations described opposite or have a go at creating some others.

Our Father – write words on a large sheet to express ideas about what it means to call God, holy.

Kingdom Come – Pieces of paper on which to draw a simple picture of what heaven might be like

Give us today... - Sticky notes for pupils to write on what they want to say 'thank you' for/ how can you help someone else have more of the things they need?

Forgiveness – write things you are sorry for on a piece of paper. Throw them in the bin or shred them.

Temptation – what does it mean to make good choices? Writing responses on arrows.

Kingdom, power and glory – what helps you to think about God? Draw a picture.

Singing the Lord's Prayer

'Worship for Everyone' have produced a lovely sung version of The Lord's Prayer. Find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDMQcV0-mHQ>

A resource pack to support the use of the song in schools can be found here:

https://worshipforeveryone.com/product/the-lords-prayer-resource-pack?srsltid=AfmBOoqQMIAL8abU9zHsezc_7m4q8ISTLEygGvZnSYCI2ywaXURYi3yz

More prayer ideas!

Arnold, the praying penguin might be a helpful resource for younger pupils to them engage with prayer.

<https://arnoldprays.co.uk/>

Rocket Prayers – All that is needed for rocket prayers is a small piece of paper, a straw, pens and tape. Follow the link to find out more.

<https://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2014/08/straw-rocket-prayers.html>



Use your school's prayer tree

Each day of Thy Kingdom
Come, have a different focus
for prayers on the prayer tree or
board. E.g thank you prayers,
sorry prayers, prayers for
others, prayers for the school,
prayers for those who are ill
etc.

Playdough Prayers

Shape something out of
playdough you are thankful for.

Worry Prayers

You need bubble wrap! Tell
God something that worries
you. Pop a bubble on the wrap
as a sign you have asked God
to help you deal with that
worry. Take a strip of bubble
wrap to use at home when you
feel worried.

Plaster prayers

Write the names of people who need healing and help on plasters!

Jigsaw prayers

Divide a jigsaw into its pieces, giving a piece to everyone. Hold the piece.

Touch the knobbly bits on the piece – pray for people who reach out and help others.

Touch the ‘holes’ on the piece – pray for people who have lost something or someone, who have something missing in their lives. Ask God to help them know they are loved by him.

Put the pieces of the jigsaw together. As they come together they start to make a picture. All our prayers come together when we pray individually and God hears and answers those prayers.

Reflective prayer – finger labyrinth

Print off some finger labyrinths such as the one below. Play quiet music and invite everyone to trace their finger around the labyrinth and reflect on what God be saying to you.



Reflective bottles

What you need:

Plastic bottle

Glitter

Water

Small amount of baby oil in each bottle

Fill the bottles with water and a small amount of baby oil. Add in some glitter. Secure the lid. Shake the bottle and watch the glitter fall through the water/oil mix. Use it as a means of praying to God, telling him how you feel, what you are thinking about, asking him for things. Watch the glitter drop through the liquid and reflect on how good it is to bring prayers to God.

I hope these ideas inspire you to get involved in thy Kingdom Come 2025. Please send me any photos (with appropriate permissions) of any prayer events or prayer activities you engage in. I would love to publish them in the next edition of the collective worship newsletter in the autumn. Please contact me for any further help you might need.