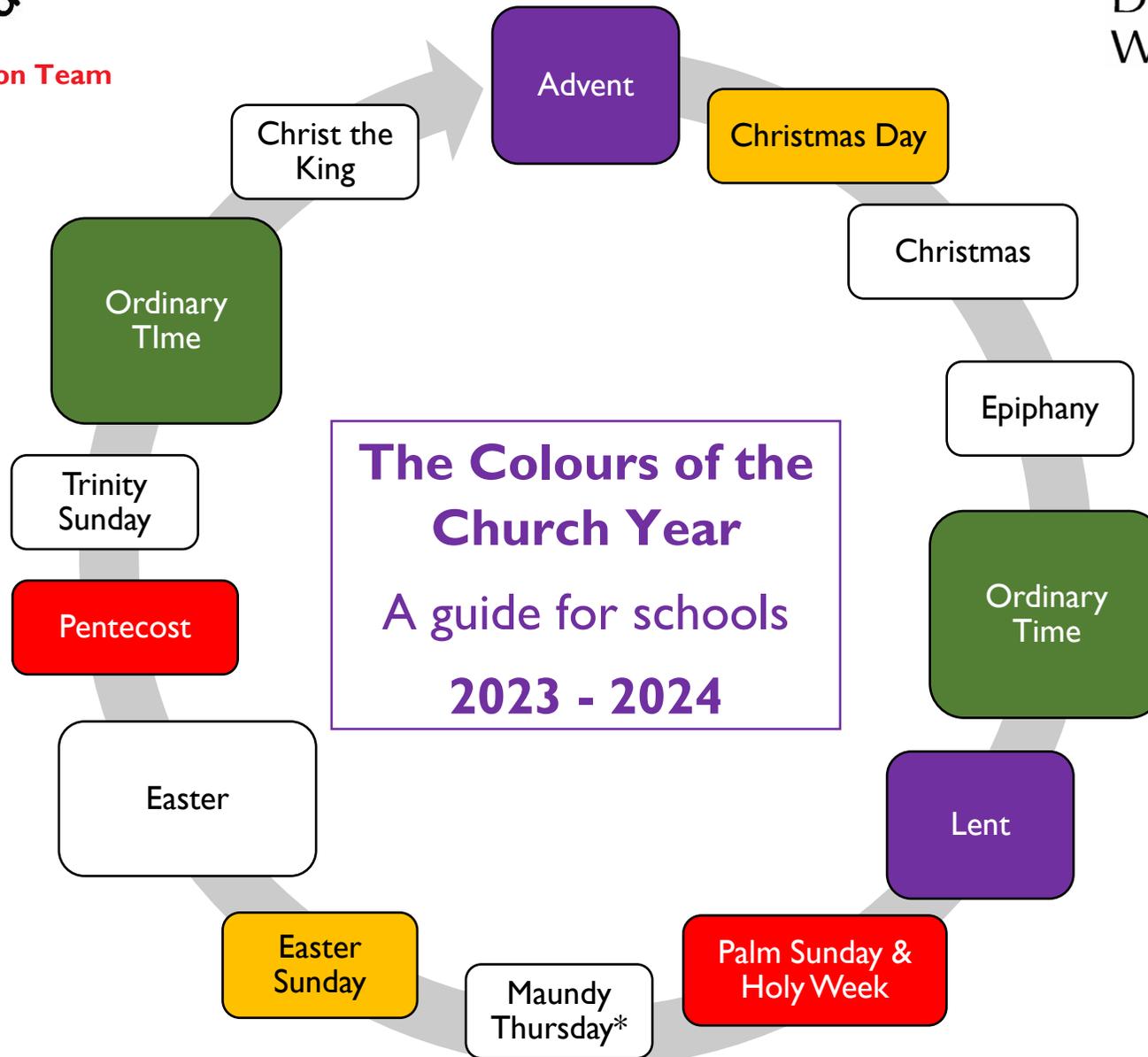
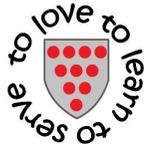


Diocesan Education Team



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
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## The Colours of the Church Year: a guide for schools 2023-24

### The Anglican Church Year

Anglican churches follow a liturgical calendar. This is a pattern (liturgy) for their worship 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.

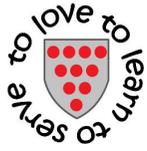
Most churches will use different coloured vestments (a priest's clothing) and altar cloths as signs of the season of the church year. In school, this can be mirrored through simply changing the colour of cloth on the worship table; or theme a whole display using the relevant colours. Soon you will find 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)

<b>Green</b>	Used during 'Ordinary time' between the main festivals and seasons. This covers most of the year and can represent growth.
<b>Red</b>	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).
<b>White</b>	Represents being pure, in celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and some funerals. Also used for celebrations either on its own or with gold. It is also used for saints who did not die as martyrs.
<b>Gold</b>	Key celebrations, for example Christmas Day and Easter Sunday. Provision is also made for gold days to be dressed in white.
<b>Purple</b>	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 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's 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.



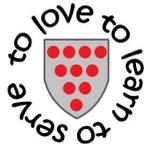
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\*On Maundy Thursday churches will often be stripped bare of any colour furnishings and decorations (coloured grey on the calendar), reminding us that Jesus was left alone to face the bare wooden cross. Churches will remain bare until Eater Sunday. 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. \*\*\*For 2023 in the church year, provision is made to celebrate Harvest any time between 10<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

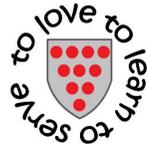
September 2023		October 2023		November 2023		December 2023		January 2024		February 2024	
1 Fri		1 Sun		1 Wed	All Saints' Day	1 Fri		1 Mon	Naming of Christ	1 Thu	
2 Sat		2 Mon		2 Thu	All Souls' day	2 Sat		2 Tue		2 Fri	Candlemas**
3 Sun		3 Tue		3 Fri		3 Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent	3 Wed		3 Sat	
4 Mon		4 Wed		4 Sat		4 Mon		4 Thu		4 Sun	
5 Tue		5 Thu		5 Sun		5 Tue		5 Fri		5 Mon	
6 Wed		6 Fri		6 Mon		6 Wed		6 Sat	The Epiphany	6 Tue	
7 Thu		7 Sat		7 Tue		7 Thu		7 Sun		7 Wed	
8 Fri		8 Sun		8 Wed		8 Fri		8 Mon	Baptism of Jesus	8 Thu	
9 Sat		9 Mon		9 Thu		9 Sat		9 Tue		9 Fri	
10 Sun	Harvest***	10 Tue		10 Fri		10 Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	10 Wed		10 Sat	
11 Mon		11 Wed		11 Sat	Remembrance Day	11 Mon		11 Thu		11 Sun	
12 Tue		12 Thu		12 Sun	Remembrance Sunday	12 Tue		12 Fri		12 Mon	
13 Wed		13 Fri		13 Mon		13 Wed		13 Sat		13 Tue	Shrove Tuesday



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14 Thu	Holy Cross Day	14 Sat		14 Tue		14 Thu		14 Sun		14 Wed	Ash Wednesday
15 Fri		15 Sun		15 Wed		15 Fri		15 Mon		15 Thu	
16 Sat		16 Mon		16 Thu		16 Sat		16 Tue		16 Fri	
17 Sun		17 Tue		17 Fri		17 Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	17 Wed		17 Sat	
18 Mon		18 Wed	St Luke the Evangelist	18 Sat		18 Mon		18 Thu		18 Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent
19 Tue		19 Thu		19 Sun		19 Tue		19 Fri		19 Mon	
20 Wed		20 Fri		20 Mon		20 Wed		20 Sat		20 Tue	
21 Thu	St Matthew	21 Sat		22 Tue		21 Thu		22 Sun		21 Wed	
22 Fri		22 Sun		22 Wed		22 Fri		22 Mon		22 Thu	
23 Sat		23 Mon		23 Thu		23 Sat		23 Tue		23 Fri	
24 Sun		24 Tue		24 Fri		24 Sun	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent /Christmas Eve	24 Wed		24 Sat	
25 Mon		25 Wed		25 Sat		25 Mon	Christmas Day	25 Thu	Conversion of St Paul	25 Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent
26 Tue		26 Thu		26 Sun	Christ the King	26 Tue	St Stephen's Day	26 Fri		26 Mon	
27 Wed		27 Fri		27 Mon		27 Wed	St John the Evangelist	27 Sat		27 Tue	
28 Thu		28 Sat	St Simon & St Jude	28 Tue		28 Thu	Holy Innocents	28 Sun		28 Wed	
29 Fri	Michaelmas	29 Sun	Bible Sunday	29 Wed		29 Fri		29 Mon		29 Thu	
30 Sat		30 Mon		30 Thu	St Andrew	30 Sat		30 Tue			
		31 Tue				31 Sun		31 Wed			

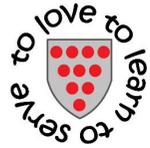


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March 2024		April 2024		May 2024		June 2024		July 2024		August 2024	
1 Fri	St David	1 Mon		1 Wed	St Philip & St James	1 Sat		1 Mon		1 Thu	
2 Sat		2 Tue		2 Thu		2 Sun		2 Tue		2 Fri	
3 Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	3 Wed		3 Fri		3 Mon		3 Wed	St Thomas the Apostle	3 Sat	
4 Mon		4 Thu		4 Sat		4 Tue		4 Thu		4 Sun	
5 Tue		5 Fri		5 Sun		5 Wed		5 Fri		5 Mon	
6 Wed		6 Sat		6 Mon		6 Thu		6 Sat		6 Tue	The Transfiguration
7 Thu		7 Sun		7 Tue		7 Fri		7 Sun		7 Wed	
8 Fri		8 Mon		8 Wed		8 Sat		8 Mon		8 Thu	
9 Sat		9 Tue		9 Thu	Ascension Day	9 Sun		9 Tue		9 Fri	
10 Sun	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday	10 Wed		10 Fri		10 Mon		10 Wed		10 Sat	
11 Mon		11 Thu		11 Sat		11 Tue	St Barnabas	11 Thu		11 Sun	
12 Tue		12 Fri		12 Sun		12 Wed		12 Fri		12 Mon	
13 Wed		13 Sat		13 Mon		13 Thu		13 Sat		13 Tue	
14 Thu		14 Sun		14 Tue	St Matthias the Apostle	14 Fri		14 Sun		14 Wed	
15 Fri		15 Mon		15 Wed		15 Sat		15 Mon		15 Thu	Blessed Virgin Mary
16 Sat		16 Tue		16 Thu		16 Sun	Fathers' Day	16 Tue		16 Fri	



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17 Sun	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent/ St Patrick	17 Wed		17 Fri		17 Mon		17 Wed		17 Sat	
18 Mon		18 Thu		18 Sat		18 Tue		18 Thu		18 Sun	
19 Tue		19 Fri		19 Sun	Pentecost	19 Wed		19 Fri		19 Mon	
20 Wed		20 Sat		20 Mon		20 Thu		20 Sat		20 Tue	
22 Thu		21 Sun		22 Tue		21 Fri		21 Sun		22 Wed	
22 Fri		22 Mon		22 Wed		22 Sat		22 Mon	Mary Magdalene	22 Thu	
23 Sat		23 Tue	St George	23 Thu		23 Sun		23 Tue		23 Fri	
24 Sun	Palm Sunday	24 Wed		24 Fri		24 Mon	Birth of John the Baptist	24 Wed		24 Sat	St Bartholomew
25 Mon	Holy Week/ Annunciation	25 Thu	St Mark the Evangelist	25 Sat		25 Tue		25 Thu	St James the Apostle	25 Sun	
26 Tue	Holy Week	26 Fri		26 Sun	Trinity Sunday	26 Wed		26 Fri		26 Mon	
27 Wed	Holy Week	27 Sat		27 Mon		27 Thu		27 Sat		27 Tue	
28 Thu	Maundy Thursday	28 Sun		28 Tue		28 Fri		28 Sun		28 Wed	
29 Fri	Good Friday	29 Mon		29 Wed		29 Sat	St Peter & St Paul	29 Mon		29 Thu	
30 Sat	Easter Saturday	30 Tue		30 Thu	Corpus Christi	30 Sun		30 Tue		30 Fri	
31 Sun	Easter Day			31 Fri	Mary visit to Elizabeth			31 Wed		31 Sat	