

Second Year of the Cycle

Summer Term

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: **COURAGE**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship explores the idea of courage from pupils' own perspectives with illustrations from a religious tradition and a holocaust story.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on what it might mean to give oneself for others.

Moral: consider the implications of putting someone else first.

Social: empathise with those in situations demanding a courageous response.

Cultural: reflect on points of contact between religious traditions.

Theme for Week	COURAGE	Day
Theme for Today	Sports day	1

It was Sports Day and Tom was representing form 9A in the fifteen hundred metres - an event which he enjoyed and knew he was good at. Tom could pace himself; he knew just when to break free from the others so as to secure a convincing and lasting lead.

Tom was certainly on form and he soon found himself lapping Daniel - the only boy from 9C willing to have a go at this event.

Tom crossed the finishing line to resounding applause, and was just getting his breath back when he heard another, even louder, round of applause. It rose to a crescendo as Daniel crossed the line, way behind everybody else in the race.

Some of 9C ran over to Daniel - who by this time was ready to drop to the ground. "Well done Dan!" they said. "That showed real guts. We're really proud of you."

Tom was angry. He'd won the race. He deserved the praise, after all.

Reflection/Prayer

Courage was mine and I had mastery

Wilfred Owen

7 Who deserved the most applause?

8 If you were in this story, which character would you be?

9 What do you have to do to deserve praise?

10 How important is winning?

11 When might it not be wise to have a go at something you are not good at?

Theme for Week	COURAGE	Day
Theme for Today	Baisakhi	2

When male Sikhs are baptised as members of the Khalsa or brotherhood, they take the name Singh - which means 'lion'. This is to show that they have the courage to defend their faith. This sort of courage was demonstrated by the first Sikhs to be baptised on the festival of Baisakhi.

On the first day of the month of Baisakhi in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh assembled his followers at Anandpur. It was time to fight back against the attacks of the Mogul Emperor.

"Who is brave enough to die for the Sikh faith?" he asked. There was silence. At last a volunteer came forward. Gobind Singh took him to his tent - and re-appeared with his sword dripping with blood. He called for a second ... third ... fourth ... fifth volunteer. Each man disappeared in turn - and each, it seemed had his head cut off.

But then Gobind Singh reappeared - with the five volunteers by his side! "These are the Five Beloved Ones" he said. He baptised them because they had shown tremendous courage in being prepared to die for their faith.

Reflection/Prayer

Courage was mine and I had mastery

Wilfred Owen

7 Why do you think Guru Gobind Singh chose the first members of his new brotherhood in this way?

8 When have you shown courage or might you need to show courage in standing up for what you believe?

9 When is it fair to test people's courage in this way?

10 Why do some people believe that religion is worth dying for?

11 When is it right for followers of a religion to fight on behalf of their faith?

Theme for Week	COURAGE	Day
Theme for Today	Mother Maria	3

When the German occupation of Paris took place, Mother Maria, a Russian Orthodox nun, felt it was her duty to help persecuted Jews. Her convent became a haven for Jews - but eventually she was arrested by the Gestapo and sent to a concentration camp at Ravensbrück. She had been there two and a half years when a new block of buildings was erected at the camp. The prisoners were told they were to be hot baths. But they were going to be deadly hot baths.

One day a group of prisoners was lined up outside the buildings. A young girl became hysterical. Mother Maria who had not been selected said to her, "Do not be afraid, I shall take your turn". So she passed through the doors into the gas chamber with the other prisoners to be killed. It was Good Friday, 1945.

Reflection/Prayer

Courage was mine and I had mastery

Wilfred Owen

7 How would it have felt to stand in that queue?

8 Was Mother Maria stupid to die when she didn't have to?

9 What was the point of Mother Maria's sacrifice?

10 What can be learned from Mother Maria's death?

11 How might Mother Maria's death be seen as victory over evil?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: A TESTING TIME

Date:

Summary: In the run-up to examination time in school, Collective Worship looks at the idea of testing, its purpose and its ultimate context, in a religious sense.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: think about ways in which they put themselves, or are put, to the test.

Moral; consider how far they are accountable for themselves and their actions.

Social: reflect on the value of self-evaluation in maximising the contribution an individual makes to society.

Cultural: ponder on the notion of judgement as a universal concept crossing many cultures.

Theme for Week	A TESTING TIME	Day
Theme for Today	How are we tested?	1

The examination season is coming up - and it is always a rather unsettling time. But we are quite used to being tested in many ways; school exams are just one of the many kinds of test we have to put ourselves through.

Most of us will be quite used to having medical checks, health tests, eye tests and so on. All of these are useful things, even if they are not a pleasant experience, because they enable the experts to find out exactly what state we are in and to work out appropriate corrective action - glasses or lenses, diet and exercise, or whatever it might be.

We are quite used to testing our bodies in this way and we accept too that we must test our brains and our skills through exams, however uncomfortable that might be.

Reflection/Prayer

To have a good fruit, you must have a healthy tree; if you have a poor tree, you will have bad fruit. A tree is known by the kind of fruit it bears.

Matthew 12 : 33

7 What aspects of ourselves do we not tend to test? Is there anything we should test but don't?

8 How could we assess what kind of person we are turning into?

9 If we want a health check, we go to the doctor. If we want a check-up on our personality, to whom should we go?

10 Would it be possible to fail a personality test?

11 If we were to have our personal character tested - against what standard could we be measured?

Theme for Week	A TESTING TIME	Day
Theme for Today	Training	2

Another kind of challenge which many of us face is physical - the attempt to improve performance in some sport or physical achievement. We can compete both against others, by trying to beat them, or against ourselves, by trying to improve our personal best performance.

But whichever of these we attempt, it is pointless if we do not get ourselves fit, and sharpen up our skills, by training, just like exams in school, for which we need to practise and revise. In both areas, if we want to improve, we need training and practice. Much the same applies to our developing as human beings. If we want to improve and grow, we need to work at it.

Reflection/Prayer

To have a good fruit, you must have a healthy tree; if you have a poor tree, you will have bad fruit. A tree is known by the kind of fruit it bears.

Matthew 12 : 33

7 What kind of training might be needed to improve as a person?

8 If we do not train physically, we get unfit. What happens if we do not try to improve as a person?

9 Shouldn't we stop all this navel-gazing and just accept ourselves as we are?

10 What sets the standard for which we should aim as individual human beings?

11 Who is to judge whether we have reached an acceptable standard?

Theme for Week	A TESTING TIME	Day
Theme for Today	Judgement	3

In many religions there is a belief that when we die, or after we die, we shall face the biggest and most important test ever - the last judgement on what we have done with our lives. Sometimes this tradition has been used to inspire people to live better lives; sometimes it has been used to make people afraid of what might happen if they step out of line.

Either way, the thought of this kind of final judgement makes the mind boggle - and suddenly GCSEs don't seem so bad! Religions don't agree on how it could happen, or what the consequences might be; but most have the idea of a judgement of some kind.

Reflection/Prayer

To have a good fruit, you must have a healthy tree; if you have a poor tree, you will have bad fruit. A tree is known by the kind of fruit it bears.

Matthew 12 : 33

7 If there is such a judgement, is it something to be afraid of?

8 How could one prepare with confidence for such a judgement?

9 In some traditions, it is God who does the judging. If you had the chance to get your own back and judge God, what would your reaction be?

10 Who has the right to judge others?

11 Who would be the harsher judge - God or yourself?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: POLITICS: THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship encourages pupils to reflect on how well decisions are made.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: think for themselves about how fairly decisions are made, and what a concept of 'fairness' might be.

Moral: reflect upon compromise in a desire to be fair to all people.

Social: consider how decisions are made and the part they may have to play in this process.

Cultural: reflect on how good government ensures that all people are valued.

Theme for Week	POLITICS: the art of the possible	Day
Theme for Today	Always arguing?	1

Every day in Parliament begins with prayers and those who pray do so because they are asking for God's help to make decisions which affect the lives of millions of people.

It seems strange that after prayers, politicians can argue very fiercely with each other. Usually, the arguments are between the party in power and the Opposition (all the other parties) about how the country should be run.

Yet all this argument and debate is the way in which everyone can share in the process of making decisions. The Conservatives, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Welsh, Scottish and Irish Parties all have different thoughts and ideas - and through their discussions attempt to bring about wise government.

Argument is not always a bad thing!

Reflection/Prayer

*I disapprove of what you say,
but I will defend to the death your right to say it.*

Attributed to Voltaire

7 Do you ever watch or listen to programmes from Parliament? How important do you think Parliament is? Why?

8 Can you argue with people and still be friends?

9 How well do you **listen** to people with whom you usually disagree?

10 What are the good points about an argument?

11 Do you think that arguments in Parliament are the best way of running a country? Why?

Theme for Week

POLITICS: the art of the possible

Day

Theme for Today

Voting for your choice

2

There are 650 politicians in Parliament, and they represent nearly 60 million people. Once every few years, and at least every five years, a General Election is held to choose the MPs - the Members of Parliament.

Years ago, they were chosen by only the richest people, but over the last 150 years or so, things have changed. Now men and women over the age of 18 have the right to vote; have the right to say whom they want to represent them.

If you were to vote, how would you choose? How would you know which person would be the best for the job? Or would you vote for the person's political party, and not worry too much about the person?

The really important point is that in this country, every adult has the right to choose who they want to run the country. Every adult has the right to say what they think on the voting paper.

Reflection/Prayer

*I disapprove of what you say,
but I will defend to the death your right to say it.*

Attributed to Voltaire

7 In a school election, how do you decide who to vote for?

8 If you could vote, and there was a General Election tomorrow, who would get your vote?

9 Is it fair that the vote of an 18 year old person could cancel out the vote of a 50 year old person? Why?

10 In Australia, the law say you **must** vote. In Britain, you vote if you want to. Which do you think is right?

11 Voting is about making a choice. How good are you at making choices?

Theme for Week	POLITICS: the art of the possible	Day
Theme for Today	Living with compromise	3

We cannot always get what we want! We cannot buy two things costing £4 each if we have only got £5. So we have to decide which to buy and which to go without. It's not always easy to choose if we really want both.

Politicians have the same problem. They have to decide how taxes should be spent, and how much should be spent on, for example, schools, hospitals and road-building.

They have to look very carefully at 'priorities' and decide which they think need the money the most - and how much they will spend on each.

Sometimes, politicians have to accept less than the ideal, less than the best. They have to live with second best. We call this having to 'compromise'. It means accepting something, even if it's not the ideal.

Reflection/Prayer

*I disapprove of what you say,
but I will defend to the death your right to say it.*

Attributed to Voltaire

7 How often do you moan about not having enough money?

8 When have you found it difficult to decide how to spend the money, because you could not afford everything you wanted?

9 What is the order of importance of schools, roads and hospitals? Why?

10 How good are you at accepting a compromise rather than demanding what you want?

11 Do you think you should always have your own way? Why?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: **DO UNTO OTHERS**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship encourages pupils to live for others.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: contemplate the implications and benefits of putting others first.

Moral: challenge their own treatment of people they do know or do not like.

Social: realise the importance of empathising with others.

Cultural: understand that the ideal has an expression in many cultures and traditions.

Theme for Week	DO UNTO OTHERS	Day
Theme for Today:	Wesak	1

For many Buddhists, Wesak is the most important festival of the whole year. It is a time when they remember and celebrate the life of the Buddha who rejected his wealthy lifestyle to search for the truth about the really big questions that worried him. One of the biggest questions was about suffering. When he found his answers, he became enlightened.

On this important day, Buddhists celebrate the Buddha's birth, his enlightenment and his death. They try especially hard to live up to his teachings. Being kind and generous to each other is an important aspect of that teaching. It is good to give hospitality, which often means food, to friends and especially to any monks or nuns in the locality. They are prevented by their vows from eating anything unless it is offered to them.

Reflection/Prayer

*By my practice of generosity and the other virtues,
may I find Buddhahood for the benefit of all.*

Buddhist Prayer

7 Whose teaching do you try to follow?

8 What is the most important day in your year?

9 What really big questions worry you?

10 What causes suffering?

11 Where do you find your answers to ultimate questions?

Theme for Week **DO UNTO OTHERS**

Day

Theme for Today: Bhai Ghavana

2

The Guru led a strong army in battle against the enemy. The fighting was fierce and many soldiers on both sides were killed and injured. When the worst was over, the battlefield was littered with the dead and dying. The Guru sent a group of his men to do what they could for those soldiers who were dying and those who were struggling to stay alive, to ease their last moments or strengthen their spirits.

After some time, the Guru looked out of his tent at the battlefield, only to see one of his men, a water carrier called Bhai Ghavana, tending an enemy soldier. As he watched, the Guru saw him move on to one of his own men and then kneel by the side of another man who was not a Sikh. The Guru summoned Bhai Ghavana and demanded to know what he was doing.

Bhai Ghavana explained that out on the battlefield he saw the face of the Guru in every wounded man, whether Sikh or not. The Guru was moved by these words and assured the water carrier that he was indeed a true Sikh.

Reflection/Prayer

*Whoever God inspires to follow his way,
Gains every possible blessing.*

Guru Arjan (AG 268)

7 How do you treat people you don't know?

8 What does this story tell you about what a 'true Sikh' might be?

9 What could you learn about yourself from this story?

10 Where does the Sikh's loyalty lie?

11 What is an enemy life worth?

Theme for Week **DO UNTO OTHERS**

Day

Theme for Today: A New Commandment

3

On the night before he was killed, Jesus had a farewell meal with his friends. He showed them how they were to remember him and gave them some new rules for the way they were to live their lives.

"A new commandment I give to you," Jesus said to them all, "that you love one another as I have loved you".

They all knew what commandments were because they had grown up as Jews living by the laws of Moses. But this was new. To show what he meant, Jesus had washed their feet before the meal, just like a servant. They had been puzzled then; now they were not sure they understood any better, but they realised something was going to happen that would change their lives and Jesus was commanding them to love one another.

"By this," he said "people will know you are my disciples".

And that would be important one day.

Reflection/Prayer

Jesus taught, "Love one another as I have loved you".

7 Whom do you love?

8 Whom do you find it difficult to love?

9 How do people know who you are?

10 Why is it difficult to love some people?

11 How would you like to be remembered?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: THE SPIRIT MOVING

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship marks the Christian festival of Pentecost and looks at the implications of human reactions to change.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: contemplate the endless possibilities of change in their own lives and in those of others.

Moral: reflect on the right of the individual to be heard or to make a difference.

Social: be open to the unexpected in themselves and other people.

Cultural: understand the meaning of a Christian festival.

Theme for Week **THE SPIRIT MOVING**

Day

Theme for Today The events of Pentecost

1

The festival of Pentecost - or Whitsun - is coming up. It is a Christian festival which celebrates the time when the lives of Jesus' followers were changed after his death.

The story is told in the Book of Acts in the Bible. Jesus' followers had hoped he would change the world; but the world seemed to have beaten him. He had been arrested on a false charge, condemned at a fixed trial, and killed on a cross; and although they believed they had seen him after his death, he had now gone away for good. They were lonely and depressed, and gathered together in secret to comfort one another. And while they were gathered together, something happened that changed them for ever - and sent them out into the streets shouting about good news and about the power of God and Jesus.

If you want to read in detail about what happened, you'll find it in the Bible - Acts chapter 2. But the point is, it was something that completely changed their lives - there was no going back to the way things were before. They could only explain this change by saying it was the work of God, and that God had sent his Holy Spirit to inspire them, and to give them a new vision. The people around could see that their whole behaviour and attitude had changed. Some people said they were drunk, but they denied it. And the changes lasted a lifetime.

Reflection/Prayer

*There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere
Praise the love that Christ revealed
Living, working in our world.*

Brian Wren

7 If you see someone's behaviour suddenly change very dramatically, what explanations could you think of for it?

8 If you had seen these men's sudden change in behaviour - would you have thought they were drunk, or would you have believed what they said about God?

9 It is easy to use God to explain something that is otherwise difficult to explain. Is this what they were doing?

10 How could you decide if they were telling the truth or not?

11 'Mad, bad, or inspired by God' - what would be your verdict on these men - and for what reason?

Theme for Week

THE SPIRIT MOVING

Day

Theme for Today

The Guidance of the Spirit

2

The first Christians believed that at Pentecost the Holy Spirit of God inspired the first followers of Jesus, and showed them the right way to preach the good news of Jesus and build up the Church. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit still guides them and inspires them, and they often pray for the wisdom to work out what the Holy Spirit is guiding them to do.

But they do not always agree about what the Holy Spirit wants. The Church of England has recently been through a lot of argument about whether women should be allowed to be priests. They are now allowed to be - but a lot of church members do not like it, and some have even left the Church over this issue. Those who campaigned for women to be allowed to become priests believed that the Holy Spirit was guiding the Church towards a new atmosphere of justice and equality, and towards a proper recognition of what women could offer; but the other side believed that the Holy Spirit did not want this change, and that the Church should stay as it always had been. There were very strong feelings on both sides.

Reflection/Prayer

*There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere
Praise the love that Christ revealed
Living, working in our world.*

Brian Wren

7 Why do many people tend to resist changes?

8 Why do you think Christians find it so hard to decide what the Spirit wants them to do?

9 Is there any way of working out which side is right in a disagreement like this one?

10 Do you think the church should try to stay like it was in the first century? Or should it be always changing?

11 People outside the church generally favoured women becoming priests, on the grounds of equality of the sexes. Do you think the views of 'outsiders' are at all relevant?

Theme for Week	THE SPIRIT MOVING	Day
Theme for Today	Things that change your life	3

Christians believe the Spirit of God can totally change their lives, by inspiring them and showing them the way they should be living. The problem is working out exactly what God wants, and what guidance the Holy Spirit is giving. They need to be constantly on the lookout for the ways in which God is working in their lives.

Of course, all of us, whether religious or not, need to be on the lookout in a similar way, for the things that may change our lives. There are lots of things that could completely change the way our lives will go - people we meet, maybe someone who will be very special in our lives. Later on, having children will change us for good; or maybe some special achievement or idea will change us for ever.

Of course, things can change our lives for the worse as well - one stupid act can lead to arrest, trial, and a criminal record for life. One puff of a cigarette can lead ultimately to disease and death. One attempt to look cool by using drugs can ruin you for good. When you learn to drive, one attempt to show off could put you - or someone else - in a wheelchair for life.

Reflection/Prayer

*There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere
Praise the love that Christ revealed
Living, working in our world.*

Brian Wren

7 What has already changed your life for good?

8 Are you tempted to do things that could change your life for the worse?

9 Why not just drift through life and see what happens?

10 Can you work out what direction your life is going in?

11 How have you been changing the lives of other people recently?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship uses a common phrase to explore notions of authenticity and fairness.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

- Artefacts
- Posters
- Video
- Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: think about how they shape their own identity.

Moral: reflect on the merits of a truthful, trustworthy approach to situations.

Social: consider the implications of truthfulness in sustaining relationships.

Cultural: understand the origin and implications of a traditional phrase in common usage.

Theme for Week	THE HORSE'S MOUTH	Day
Theme for Today	From the Horse's Mouth	1

"I got it from the horse's mouth."

This is an old saying - it might be used by someone who is saying that the information they have is true, because they got it from a good source. A reporter might use it to assure her editor that the story she has written is reliable, because it came to her from a really authoritative source.

The saying originates from horse markets, where people would go to buy and sell horses. It was easy to make a horse look better than it really was, by special grooming - rather like re-spraying a used car to cover up the rust - but someone who really knew about horses could tell how healthy it was, or how old, by looking inside its mouth. So the 'horse's mouth' was the bit of evidence that could not let you down - the thing you could trust.

Reflection/Prayer

Are we really what we think we are?

7 How do you decide whom you can trust?

8 Have you ever been let down by someone you thought you could trust? How did that change your relationship?

9 'Trust no-one!' How good is this advice?

10 Is there anything you can trust absolutely?

11 Can people trust you?

Theme for Week

THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Day

Theme for Today

The Gift Horse

2

Here's another horse saying: "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth."

Looking in the horse's mouth is the one sure way of telling if it is healthy or not, and so whether it is worth having - so this saying means that if someone is giving you a gift, you should not examine it too suspiciously to see if it is any good. Instead, you should accept it gracefully and be glad of it - a gift freely offered is a good thing, however it turns out.

Obviously it is insulting to be too suspicious about a gift that is freely offered; but is this always good advice?

Reflection/Prayer

Are we really what we seem to be?

7 When might it be right to be suspicious of a gift?

8 If you follow this advice you might end up with a useless gift. Does that matter?

9 'There's no such thing as a free lunch' - this saying warns you to be suspicious of all gifts, because the giver is after something from you. Which advice is better?

10 The positive side of being suspicious is that you are less likely to be fooled. What is the negative side?

11 Should people be suspicious of gifts from you?

Theme for Week	THE HORSE'S MOUTH	Day
Theme for Today	The Trojan Horse	3

You may have heard the story of the Trojan Horse. The ancient Greeks had been fighting a war against the city of Troy for ten years. The Trojans were walled up in their city of Troy, and the Greeks were camped outside; every now and again they had a battle, but they were evenly matched and neither side could beat the other.

The Greeks decided that if they could not win by fair means, then they must cheat. One day they all sailed away, leaving an enormous wooden horse in their camp. They left a message with the horse saying they had given up the fight, and left the horse as an offering to the gods of Troy. So the Trojans took the horse into the city and put it in their biggest temple, and then celebrated their victory. But the horse was a trick, full of armed men - and at dead of night they let themselves out, let in the rest of the Greeks who had sailed back after nightfall, and killed all the Trojans, who were totally taken by surprise. So the Greeks destroyed Troy and won the war.

Reflection/Prayer

Are we really what others think we are?

7 This was one gift that people should have been suspicious about! Why were the Trojans not suspicious?

8 Does this story mean it is better to cheat than be honest?

9 What was the nastiest bit of the Greek trick?

10 How in modern life do people use gifts to deceive others?

11 In a sense, whenever we accept a gift, we lower our defences. Is this good or bad?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: OUR SENSES

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship encourages reflection on the 'lesser senses' of taste, smell and touch - and offers the opportunity for expressing thanks for them.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: to reflect on the whole person - and the means by which an individual relates to (and thereby discovers meaning and purpose in) the world.

Moral: reflect on their attitudes to those whose senses may, in some way or another, be diminished.

Social: appreciate the environment which they share with others.

Cultural: consider the variety of ways in which religions are accessible through the senses - especially in relation to Judaism and Orthodox Christianity.

Theme for Week	OUR SENSES	Day
Theme for Today	The sense of taste	1

We know what is going on in the world through our five senses. Some people think that sight and hearing are the most important senses. Without being able to hear or see, we would miss a lot of what was going on.

Our other senses of touch, taste and smell are still important. We are going to think about these over the next few days. Today, taste. For some people, the taste of a McDonald's burger is a taste of heaven. Others disagree completely. We all have our favourite foods. It is not always easy to explain why we like them - but we do. As people get older, their tastes change. They prefer a cup of tea to a cold drink. They start to like vegetables. They do not always have to have tomato sauce with everything!

Sometimes some foods have a special memory. Maybe it is the flavour of food which was eaten on holiday - like frog's legs in France! When you get the taste again it reminds you of the past and the places and the people you saw.

Jewish people eat bitter tasting food sometimes. At Passover, they eat bitter herbs as a reminder of sad times in their past. It helps them remember that life is not always easy.

Reflection/Prayer

Let us be thankful for the sense of taste.

7 Which flavours do you associate with particular times or events in your life?

8 Which flavours can you conjure up in your mind?

9 When have you ever been surprised by the taste of something?

10 What experience has ever 'left a nasty taste' in your mouth?

11 When have you eaten food that had some symbolic significance?

Theme for Week	OUR SENSES	Day
Theme for Today	The sense of smell	2

Some of the best smells in the world are found outside a bakery or amongst honeysuckle at the end of a sunny day, or around freshly made coffee. They are smells which make us feel happy and contented - or hungry!

Some smells make us screw up our noses in disgust. The smell of rotten eggs or blocked drains can be terrible. Our noses are quite good at keeping us safe. In fact, an unpleasant smell is added to gas to make sure that we smell the danger and open the windows quickly if there is a leak.

For some people, the smell of a hospital has an effect upon them - a mixture of fear and worry, despite it being a hopeful place.

In Orthodox churches, incense is burnt to make a beautiful smell. It reminds the people there that God is everywhere. When someone goes to another church - perhaps because they have moved house - the same smell is very comforting. It makes them realise that God is there as well.

Reflection/Prayer

Let us be thankful for the sense of smell.

7 When does your sense of smell get you into trouble?

8 What smells jog your memory?

9 What does your nose tell you?

10 When does a smell raise your expectations?

11 What smells hit you in the pit of your stomach?

Theme for Week **OUR SENSES**

Day

Theme for Today The sense of touch

3

Helen Keller was a person who became seriously ill when she was only a few months old. The illness meant that she became both blind and deaf. Because she could not hear, she did not speak either. By the time she was six she was described as a 'little savage'.

She became a very famous person through the work of her teacher, Anne Sullivan. What Anne Sullivan did was to help Helen Keller feel the world through the sense of touch. She guided her hand to stroke the dog, then wrote the letters D-O-G in her hand. She put her hand under some cold water and wrote W-A-T-E-R in her hand.

Helen Keller, with her teacher's help, made excellent progress at school and college. Her ability - and her determination - started to become well known in America and later in Britain too. She devoted her life to improving conditions for all people who had a disability. She is perhaps best known for what she achieved for people who were born blind.

Few of us can fully imagine what life was like for her. Communication just by touch seems so difficult. But we all know that a handshake or a hug can mean a lot without any words being said.

Reflection/Prayer

Let us be thankful for the sense of touch.

7 When does touch become very important for you?

8 Some people - like those who suffer with leprosy - lose their sense of touch. What do you think that would be like?

9 What do teachers do for you?

10 When is a touch all that's required?

11 How does touch go beyond words?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: INSTANT IS NOT ALWAYS BEST

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship takes as its focus instant solutions and reactions - the product of technological advance - and asks whether they always lead to improvement.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: think about enduring values.

Moral: consider issues of fairness.

Social: reflect on how they maintain relationships.

Cultural: recognise that culture difference crosses time as well as continents.

Theme for Week	INSTANT IS NOT ALWAYS BEST	Day
Theme for Today	Take time to think	1

In India in the last century, political power was in the hands of the British Governor. If he had a really serious problem, he had to consult his bosses back in London.

He could not just pick up the phone - he had to write a report and send it by boat. It would take about three months to get to London, and the reply would take another three months.

By then, the problem was probably solved, or different, or did not matter anymore. There was a time for people to think, and they did not rush into the answer.

Nowadays, life has speeded up. Phones, faxes and satellite communications mean that sharing the problem is easier - but it is very hard to find the time to think carefully.

So these days, we can react faster - but are we always sure it is better?

Reflection/Prayer

Nuclear warheads can be fired further and faster than arrows from a bow.

7 What does 'look before you leap' mean?

8 How many arguments happen in school because people don't think?

9 How much thinking time do you usually give yourself?

10 When do you really have time to think about life?

11 Which problems go away with time?

Theme for Week	INSTANT IS NOT ALWAYS BEST	Day
Theme for Today	Instant available food!	2

In India in the last century, and in the rest of the world, there were no deep freezes or fridges, and food could not be kept fresh very easily. Supplies of food from Britain had to be salted, or dried, and the British Governor had to accept that he could not always have the food he wanted.

He also had to learn to appreciate the Indian food available at different times of the year. A good lesson to learn.

Nowadays, in most homes in this country, you will find food from all over the world, fresh, tasty and available all the year round.

This is so much better and certainly an improvement on the past - except that it is not always available for everybody. Two thirds of the world won't have instantly available food. Two thirds of the world won't have enough to eat today.

Reflection/Prayer

A grace once said before a meal at a College of Oxford University was:

"Forgive us Lord, because as we eat, others starve".

7 How would you cope if food was rationed? What would you miss most?

8 When was the last time you missed a meal? Why did you miss it?

9 What attitudes go with 'instant' food?

10 Whose responsibility is it to make sure that others can eat?

11 How often do you complain about your food?

Theme for Week

INSTANT IS NOT ALWAYS BEST

Day

Theme for Today

One day at a time

3

In India in the last century, the British Governor did not have a television. No one did! So the Governor relied on *The Times* newspaper to find out what was happening - and he used to get three months' copies each time the ship arrived from Britain.

Every morning at breakfast, he picked up the next on the pile and read it. He could have read them all at once, and he might have been tempted to when one day he read that Queen Victoria had been taken ill.

But he knew that there were some things which were beyond his control - and even if he looked at the most recent paper, it would still be at least three months out of date. He had to accept that he could only live one day at a time.

Nowadays, everything is instant, from the news to a lottery ticket and because of that there is the pressure to cram too much into every single day - just in case we miss out on something.

Perhaps we can learn something from the Governor.

Reflection/Prayer

A prayer often used by Christians is:

*Lord, give me the strength to change the things which must be changed
the serenity to accept the things which cannot be changed
And the wisdom to know the difference.*

7 What do you do badly because you are trying to fit in something else as well?

8 Can homework always be done in an instant?

9 How sensibly do you manage your time? Are there some things which you try to do which really are a waste of time?

10 Who is under the most pressure where you live?

11 Who or what have you neglected by rushing to fit everything in?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: MONEY MATTERS

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship considers religious attitudes to a teaching about the use of money.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

- Artefacts
- Posters
- Video
- Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: consider the relative value of money in relation to the things of real worth.

Moral: question their own use of money and its value.

Social: challenge their own values and those of an acquisitive society which values wealth highly.

Cultural: explore the teaching about wealth from two religious perspectives.

Theme for Week	MONEY MATTERS	Day
Theme for Today	God and Mammon	1

The saying 'you cannot serve God and Mammon' is a quotation, in traditional language, of some of Jesus' teaching recorded in Matthew's Gospel. Here is a little bit of Jesus' teaching about money:

Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy and robbers break in and steal.

Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal.

For your heart will always be where your riches are.

No one can be a slave of two masters; he will hate one and love the other; he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Matt 6 : 19-21,24.

Reflection/Prayer

The love of money is the root of all evil.

1 Timothy 6 : 10

7 What does this teaching say about money?

8 How can you store up 'riches in heaven' What do you think Jesus meant by this?

9 If you don't believe in God, does that mean you can do what you like with your money?

10 We can't have **nothing** to do with money - that is unrealistic. What **should** our attitude to it be?

11 Does the fact that a person is rich mean he or she cannot please God?

Theme for Week	MONEY MATTERS	Day
Theme for Today	The eye of the needle	2

Here is another extract from the teaching of Jesus - recorded this time by Mark:

As Jesus was starting on his way again, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal, do not accuse anyone falsely; do not cheat; respect your father and your mother.'"

"Teacher", the man said, "ever since I was young, I have obeyed all these commandments."

Jesus looked straight at him with love and said, "You need only one thing. Go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me." When the man heard this, gloom spread over his face, and he went away sad, because he was very rich.

Jesus looked round at his disciples and said to them, "How hard it will be for rich people to enter the Kingdom of God!"

The disciples were shocked at these words, but Jesus went on to say, "My children, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God!" It is much harder for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle."

Mark 10 : 17-25

Reflection/Prayer

The love of money is the root of all evil.

7 Why is it so hard for a rich man to please God?

8 Would it help if a rich man used a lot of his money for charitable purposes - as many rich people do?

9 What would **you** do if you became a multi-millionaire on the Lottery?

10 Does this teaching mean you should not bother to save money for the future?

11 What do you think Christians should do with their money?

Theme for Week	MONEY MATTERS	Day
Theme for Today	Zakat	3

One of the five pillars of Islam is Zakat - the belief that charity and charitable acts are an essential part of a Muslim's faith.

2½% of a Muslim's surplus wealth (ie after money spent on the essentials like food and clothing) is given to the poor. The idea is that this purifies all of a Muslim's money. If a Muslim does not give the Zakat, then all of the Muslim's money is dirty.

Reflection/Prayer

Giving is better than receiving.

7 Many Christians in past times have given 10% in a similar way - but very few do so now. Is 2½% the right kind of figure, in your view?

8 This seems to mean that the more money you make, the more the poor benefit. Does this mean it is good to make as much money as possible?

9 What makes money dirty?

10 Do you think this means that once you have paid your 2½%, you can do what you like with the rest?

11 Even if a Muslim pays his 2½%, he can still be very rich. Does this matter?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: WHAT IS TRUTH?

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship considers three stories which involve truth and falsehood. Is it always right to tell the truth?

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on issues of truth and falsehood, and become sensitive to their complexity.

Moral: explore the motivation which may be involved in revealing or concealing the truth.

Social: reflect on the human consequences of telling the truth in various situations.

Cultural: see the worth of a culture which values truth.

Theme for Week	WHAT IS TRUTH?	Day
Theme for Today	Simon and Martin	1

Two boys, strangers to another, were moved to a small hospital room together. Both were confined to bed - but Martin was very poorly. Simon's bed was by the window and each day he entertained his new friend with lively descriptions of what he could see from the window.

Simon told Martin of the daffodils coming out in the park, the children playing on the swings and roundabouts; he spoke of the old and young people in the street below.

The sad day come when the boys were to be parted as Simon went off home. Martin, of course, asked to be moved to the bed by the window and was upset when the move was not allowed.

At last Martin recovered enough to be allowed out of bed. He went straight to the window to look outside. He was stunned: there was nothing there but a blank brick wall and a yard full of dustbins.

Reflection/Prayer

What is truth?

7 Why did Simon tell Martin things which were not true?

8 How do you think Martin felt when he found out the truth?

9 How far would you describe what Simon did as lying?

10 What difference would it have made if Simon had told the truth?

11 When have you modified the truth for a good reason? Did it work out right in the end?

Theme for Week	WHAT IS TRUTH?	Day
Theme for Today	Protecting Friends?	2

Darren, Wayne and Tracey were all 17 years old, and were out for the evening in Darren's father's car. Darren was driving. When he saw a friend challenging him to a race away from the lights, he gave in to temptation and started racing. And he was winning! The other car was trying hard to pass Darren, pulled out to overtake - and smashed straight into a car coming the other way.

Darren, Wayne and Tracey were shocked but immediately agreed to say nothing to the police about the race, so that Darren would stay out of trouble. Tracey was unhappy about this. She didn't like the idea of concealing the truth, but she didn't want to let her friends down either.

Reflection/Prayer

May we know how best to be loyal to our friends.

7 What do you think Tracey should do?

8 What matters more - what her friends think of her or what she thinks of herself?

9 Has Darren any right to expect Wayne and Tracey to protect him?

10 What are the consequences likely to be if Tracey decides to be dishonest?

11 When might it be right to conceal the truth?

Theme for Week	WHAT IS TRUTH?	Day
Theme for Today	Damaging Truth?	3

Tessa and John were happily married, with two children who gave no more trouble than most children do. They had been married for fifteen years. They had had rough patches in their relationship, but had worked through them. During one of these rough patches, ten years before, Tessa had had a brief affair with a colleague at work - it was over long ago and John had never known about it.

One day, a 'friend' of Tessa's, after an argument with her, decided to cause trouble by ringing John up and telling him about the affair.

Reflection/Prayer

*A truth that's told with bad intent
Beats all the lies you can invent.*

William Blake

7 How much trouble would this cause, and why?

8 When have you said something which was true, but would have been better not said?

9 Did John have a right to know?

10 Is John better off knowing the truth?

11 Is it just as bad to conceal the truth as to tell a lie?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: FINDING THE WAY

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship considers the question of personal goals and aspirations in the context of great achievements.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on the paths their lives are taking/might take.

Moral: realise the importance of principles, beliefs and aspirations to the individual.

Social: consider the significance of others in their journey through life.

Cultural: recognise that, for some people, religion guides their living.

Theme for Week

FINDING THE WAY

Day

Theme for Today

Guiding stars

1

In the days before satellites and radio, once a ship was out of sight of land it was difficult to find the way. There are no signposts in the water. Deserts have no signposts either. During the day, travellers were guided by the sun and at night they followed the stars.

They were able to recognise the patterns of stars and calculate the direction from them. People travelling in the Northern Hemisphere used the Pole Star, the brightest star in the sky, as a guide. It is at the end of the constellation called The Little Bear and because it is almost directly over the North Pole, it seems always to be in the same position in the sky.

Perhaps because of a real dependence on the stars for directions, stars have a symbolic significance as guides. In the story of the birth of Jesus, the visitors who came from the East followed the star. A star and crescent moon is the symbol of Islam, guiding millions of Muslims all over the world in the way of their faith.

Reflection/Prayer

This is an ancient prayer attributed to St Columba:

*Be thou a bright flame before me
Be thou a guiding star above me
Be thou a smooth path below me
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me
today, tonight and for ever.*

7 How do you think travellers would have found their way if it happened to be cloudy?

8 When does the way ahead feel 'cloudy' for you?

9 Sometimes you might feel at sea, with no landmarks. How would you find your way then?

10 What are the signposts in your life?

11 How do you know that the signpost you're following is the right one?

Theme for Week	FINDING THE WAY	Day
Theme for Today	A walk round the world	2

Have you ever walked 30 miles in one day? For most people, 12 or 15 miles would be a hard day's walking. Imagining covering twice that distance, not just on one day but day after day for thousands of miles.

Ffyoona Campbell has walked round the world. In eleven years she crossed four continents, covering more than 17,500 miles. She was 16 years old when she began, in 1983, by walking from John O'Groats to Lands End. Then, two years later, she walked across America, then Australia, then Africa and finally Europe, breaking distance and time records as she went.

Her walk became more than a journey; it was a way of life, a goal in itself. When she returned after 11 years, she realised she was facing a new challenge.

"I've had a map. I've had a goal and that's very comforting. Now," she said, "I'm without a map."

Reflection/Prayer

This is an ancient prayer attributed to St Columba:

*Be thou a bright flame before me
 Be thou a guiding star above me
 Be thou a smooth path below me
 Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me
 today, tonight and for ever.*

7 Who has helped to draw your map for you?

8 What is the point of walking?

9 Why can it be more difficult once a goal is achieved than it was when you were striving for it?

10 Where is the inspiration for your goals?

11 What would you like to achieve in the next 11 years?

Theme for Week	FINDING THE WAY	Day
Theme for Today	Space journey	3

When the astronauts of Apollo 11 walked on the moon in 1969, many hundreds of thousands of people watched on television. It was a triumph of technology and the whole world thought that the Apollo Space Programme showed how great scientific understanding was. Nothing could ever go wrong.

All that changed, less than a year later, when Apollo 13 took off for the moon. Three quarters of the way to its destination, a liquid oxygen tank exploded, violently shaking the interior of the space-craft. A planned landing on the moon could not happen and the astronauts did not know if they would find their way home. History tells us that the astronauts did get home but only just. Some would say they were very lucky.

James Lovell, the commander of Apollo 13, later described the mission as a 'successful failure'.

Reflection/Prayer

This is an ancient prayer attributed to St Columba:

*Be thou a bright flame before me
 Be thou a guiding star above me
 Be thou a smooth path below me
 Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me
 today, tonight and for ever.*

7 If one of the astronauts had been related to you, how would you have felt?

8 If you had been an astronaut, what would have gone through your mind when the tank exploded and the space craft's systems began to fail?

9 Why does Science think it has all the answers?

10 Who owns the moon?

11 How might the mission really have been a 'successful failure'?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: CHOICES

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship gives pupils the opportunity to consider how and why they make their choices.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

- Artefacts**
- Posters**
- Video**
- Slides**

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: acknowledge their own responsibility as individuals for the choices they make.

Moral: recognise that other people are affected by their decisions.

Social: consider the consequences of their choices.

Cultural: perceive the relationship between culture and religion.

Theme for Week	CHOICES	Day
Theme for Today	Desert or space?	1

Here are the words of a song written and performed by two Welsh Folk singers, Huw and Tony Williams. It was originally written for the charity 'Action Aid' and was included in their fund-raising album.

Making Choices

A million miles from my sofa,
 A million miles from my TV,
 Bare feet and bones in the desert,
 They are hungry, I am weak,

On the moon they were dancing,
 One giant leap, we all stayed up,
 My gran said "I don't believe it,
 Hollywood just made it up,"

Don't tell me 'cos I won't believe,
 That a desert can be bigger than space,
 Making plans, making choices,
 Yesterday may be too late.

Ground control, fuel burning,
 Tonight we'll light the sky,
 Flies buzz around sunken faces,
 Some eyes close and some eyes cry.

Reflection/Prayer

Is it better to choose wrongly than never face the choice at all?

7 What choice is the song about? Does it make sense?

8 What does the writer mean when he says he can't believe a desert is bigger than space? Which of the two is more important?

9 When the first two humans walked on the moon, many people felt great confidence in the power of humanity to achieve what seemed impossible. Were they wrong?

10 What makes you believe in - or despair for - humanity?

11 Is it too late?

Theme for Week	CHOICES	Day
Theme for Today	The Samaritan - and others	2

You may already have met the story of the 'Good Samaritan'. It is a story that can be understood in a number of different ways. If you need to read it again, you can find it in Luke 10:25-37. In the story Jesus told, three characters had to make choices. A man was lying by the roadside oozing blood after being beaten up and robbed. Along came a priest, who saw the man, chose not to help, and went past on the other side. Another religious official came and made the same choice, then a man from Samaria came along, chose to make an effort, and gave all kinds of help, which cost him a lot.

Reflection/Prayer

Is it better to choose wrongly than never face the choice at all?

7 How do you think the various characters felt about their choices - if they thought about them afterwards?

8 Have you made any choices recently that have made you feel particularly good - or bad?

9 The religious men might say it didn't matter that they didn't help - because someone else did. Are they right?

10 How often have you faced the choice between doing good and doing nothing? And how do you feel now about your choices?

11 Once the choices were made - was it too late for the religious men?

Theme for Week	CHOICES	Day
Theme for Today	Becoming what we choose	3

Our choices tend to influence the way we develop and the sort of people we turn into. If you keep choosing fatty food and taking no exercise, you become overweight and unfit. It works the same way with our character. If we keep choosing to be lazy, we turn into lazy people. If we keep on choosing to do whatever we have to do as well as we can, we become careful and conscientious people.

Choices are habit-forming and the longer we go on making the same kind of choice, the harder it is to change.

Reflection/Prayer

Is it better to choose wrongly than never face the choice at all?

7 What kind of choices have you been making recently: about family life, friends, the way you spend your time?

8 How do you think the choices you are making about your life look to those around you? Take a look from the outside!

9 So what kind of person are your choices turning you into?

10 Do we think enough about the choices we make and **all** their consequences?

11 When is it too late to change?

Responding to the Unexpected

These are summaries of material that has been used at particular times of tragedy in school and in the world. A child killed in a road accident, a very popular young PE teacher killed in an avalanche in the Alps, famine, flood, earthquake or tornado or an horrific atrocity, all must be acknowledged and marked somehow.

Any attempt to help pupils face events of this kind, especially those of a very immediate nature, must be personal in two senses. It must relate specifically to the particular person or situation and it must be material with which the speaker is at ease. These are simply ideas which may act as prompts when all else fails. They may provide a starting point.

A prayer may be appropriate; a brief time of silence at the end will always be needed, as these ideas are absorbed.

DEATH OF A PUPIL

Today, we have some very sad news. As you may have heard, Ann has died in a car accident. We don't know all the details, and now is not the time to try and explain everything. Today, we are stunned by the news, and cannot quite believe it. Our thoughts are especially with her family and closest friends at this time.

We will handle this pain in different ways and will all wonder why it happened. Some will cry, some will be unable to cry, some may feel angry, some may feel depressed.

We must watch out for each other as well, and give what friendship and comfort we can.

Let us now stand/stay standing and be quiet, to think about or to pray for those closest to Ann - and to remember those personal memories of Ann which we have.

DEATH OF A TEACHER

It is an immense shock to come back to school and find that Peter has died during the holiday. We know that he knew the risks and he died doing something he very much enjoyed; we also know that his body still lies among the mountains he loved, and there is something about that which feels right.

Nevertheless, nothing can take away the shock. Our minds are full of memories and reminders of Peter; everywhere around school there are places and things that summon up memories of him. This is as it should be - he was part of this school and of our lives, and he has affected us in many ways.

Soon there will be a young tree outside the main entrance, planted in his memory. But the best reminder of Peter is the relationships he entered into, and our fondness for him. Those relationships and that liking do not stop just because he has died. They last as long as we remember him, and give thanks for his presence among us and that will be for a very long time.

NATURAL DISASTER

You will have seen the terrible news about the earthquake in Japan. Today, rather than follow our usual theme, we need to spend a few moments thinking about what has happened. We cannot explain it, yet our hearts are touched by what the victims have suffered. We may feel angry that more was not done. We may feel frustrated because it seems there is little that we can do. We may feel pain because we have links with that part of the world. And through it all, we want to ask why it should have happened in the first place.

In these few moments, let us quietly think about the real human beings involved ... and if we can, think about practical help that we can offer.

ATROCITY

We have been shocked by the terrible outrage in Oklahoma. People have died or been seriously injured by the wicked actions of fellow human beings. We cannot begin to understand how they could do it, let alone how any cause justified this kind of action. We hope that justice is done - but even more important let us remember those who have suffered and will suffer. Let us hope that they find comfort and strength.

Let us be quiet for a few moments to think of, or pray for these people.

JOHN SMITH

John Smith was the Leader of the Labour Party. He was also the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament - it was his job to question how well the Conservatives were running the country. Yesterday, after a severe heart attack, he died at the young age of 55.

Throughout the day, people who agreed with his views and people who disagreed were united in saying how much he will be missed. John Smith was a Scot and much admired in Scotland. You can tell how much he was respected by the fact that the Scottish Conservative Party stopped their big meeting when they heard about his death. It was wrong, they thought, to carry on after such sad news. Television news was all about his life, and television programmes were changes.

People are sad for a number of reasons. They are sad because he was a possible future Prime Minister. They are sad because he was a very clever man, who used his brains to help people. They are sad because he was a good friend to many people. They are sad because he was a family man, and today his wife and three daughters are left with a terrible gap in their lives.

Many people will write many words about him in the next few days. They will talk about his friendship and his faith. For us, who only saw him on the television, we will also have memories. Perhaps one of the best is to remember him as the man who, as they said on the news last night, was prepared to speak up for the people who couldn't speak up for themselves.

Let us now stand quietly for a few moments and think about his family and his memory.

YITZHAK RABIN

On Saturday, the world heard bad news. The Prime Minister of Israel was shot in the back and died as a result of his injuries soon afterwards.

It is fitting that we pay tribute during Remembrance week to Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated by a right wing Jewish extremist on Saturday, 4 November.

At 73 years of age, in some ways his best years were ahead of him. He had spent years working for peace between Jews and Palestinians. After many years of fighting, bombs and terrorism, there was a chance that long term peace was in sight.

It is desperately sad that one of his people killed him. It is good that those who do not look kindly upon Israel have expressed their sadness, and spoken highly of him.

Now there is a time of uncertainty. Let us hope that the next few weeks and months we will see his work being carried on.

In a few moments of quiet, let us remember those who are especially sad because he has died, and let us remember his work for peace and hope that it will continue.

(Silence)

Yesterday, the Chief Rabbi in Britain said:

"He is one whose memory will stand as a blessing."