**Ely Diocese Collective Worship Theme Plan Exemplar – Big Questions – 15 weeks**

**Week by Week Template**

* + - 1. Remember Me?
			2. Is there power in prayer?
			3. See it to believe it
			4. How do we know you?
			5. What gives you hope?
			6. What drives you to change things?
			7. Stop! Right now! No more?
			8. What would you do?
			9. Would I be there for you?
			10. Is it better to receive or give?
			11. What do I stand for?
			12. Are we all the same? Where is the love?
			13. Does everything have a creator?
			14. And it was good… Is it?
			15. How does God speak to me?

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| **Week no** | **Bible Scripture** | **Suggested Choral Worship** | **Core Question and Story** | **Church Values** | **Other Themed Links** | **Bible stories****Things to note** |
| 1 | Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-20; John 13:1-30 | **Story of the Cross** **Rend Co Kids** | **Remember me?**The Last Supper – At the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples to remember him using bread and wine as symbols for his body and wine, remember that I sacrificed my life for humans.How would you like to be remembered?Tell the children a story of a child who you will always remember for a special reason. Did that child know they will be always be remembered for this reason? Ask the children to strive to find a reason to be remembered… What could you be remembered for? | FaithCompassionServiceLove | Jesus Christ Superstar – The Last SupperRemembrance | This moment is remembered in churches every week and it is called Holy Communion, Eucharist or Mass |
| 2 | Judges 16:241 Samuel 2:1Daniel 6:241 Kings 18Matthew 26:36-46 | **The Lord’s Prayer****Worship Song** | **Is there power in prayer? -** There are many stories in the Old and New Testament that tells us about how talking to God through prayer can help– God is all knowing, all loving and all powerful. Show the children pictures of the following stories: Samson tied in the temple, Hannah praying for Samuel, Daniel in the lion’s den, Elijah and the battle of the Gods, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Choose one example of the above stories and using role play show how God listens to prayers –Samson prayed for strength and pulled down the temple of the Philistines, Hannah prayed for a child because she was unable to have any – God blessed her with a son called Samuel (who went on to do wonderful things for God), Daniel prayed to God and was not eaten by the lions, Elijah prayed and God showed his existence, Jesus prayed for strength to get through the forthcoming torture and crucifixion. Ask the local clergy if they have examples of the power of prayer – I am sure they will have quite a few to share. These are just a few examples of people who believe in God and the power of prayer. Invite the children to share their thoughts, ideas, reaction and reflection to these stories and discuss if there is power in prayer.  | TrustFaithHopePatienceServiceCourage | SamsonHannahDanielElijah | There are lots of Lord’s Prayer songs on youtube, choose your favourite |
| 3 | 1 Samuel 3 | **God’s People****John Hardwick** | **See it to believe it?**A young boy called Samuel was asleep when he kept hearing a voice calling his name. He thought it was the old priest he worked for called Eli. But, repeatedly he was told by Eli it was not him. The voice continued until Eli told Samuel to *really* listen to the voice for it must be someone important… It was God. From that moment Samuel chose to listen to that voice and he did great things because he listened. Samuel could not see God, he could not touch God, he could only hear Him. So, do you think you have to see something to believe it exists? Oxygen – we can’t see it, but it is definitely there otherwise we would not be able to breathe. Love – we can’t see it, but we can definitely feel it. With this in thought, do we need to see God to believe He is with us? | TrustFaithHopePatienceServiceCourageResponsibility |  | You could play a game like Chinese Whispers to emphasise you really need to listen carefully to hear God |
| 4 | Psalm 139 | **Extraordinary me! Extraordinary you!****Out of the Ark** | **How do we know you?**Psalm 139 – “You know all about me”In Psalm 139, the author (David) tells that God knows everything. He knows how we move, our thoughts, our actions and our ideas. They question where to hide because He is all around us, which is good. They praise God saying “I praise You because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What You have done is wonderful, I know this very well” (139:14). I wonder if the people around you know you as well as God. Play this game, choose 2 children who are really close friends, ask them silly questions and get them to write their answers on a wipe board such as what is their favourite colour? Would they choose chocolate or sweets? – Give them a point for every question they get correct. Tell them that God knows all of their answers before they wrote them down, this is what the Psalm is teaching us, if He’d been competing He would have scored 100%! God also knows those thoughts and ideas we have in our heads, the ones which drive us, the ones which pull us back and the ones which trouble us, He is someone good to talk to just like our family, friends and teachers too.  | KoinoniaFriendship |  | David who wrote this psalm is the same David who was a King, is connected to Bethlehem as David’s City and the one who beat Goliath the Giant.  |
| 5 | Jeremiah 29:11 | **Everywhere Around Me****Out of the Ark** | **What gives you hope?**The world is a pretty big place to be and I hope you all have big dreams for your future on this planet. Around 65% of the jobs, the children will do in the future do not even exist in today’s society – core jobs like doctors, teachers, nurses, vet they probably will exist but it will not look like it does today. Jeremiah was a prophet during the reign of 4 Kings in the Bible in the Old Testament. A prophet was someone who talked about things that would happen in the future – a prediction. A prophecy would give people a **warning** or **hope** for the future. It would have been a tricky time for the people – lots of new rulers, changes, laws and God’s people would need Him to give them hope. God chose Jeremiah to speak to the people of Judah for 40 years, telling them to change their ways and to **warn** them of a war that was coming. Unfortunately, the people of God did not listen and they were captured into captivity by the Babylonians. But, Jeremiah always stayed true and showed great faith in God even in times of difficulty. God told Jeremiah to talk to the captive Jews, to give them **hope** and to let know them He had not abandoned them, “For I know the plans I have for you… Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (29:11). Sometimes, it can be hard to see what those plans are and there is no guarantee that those times will be easy. What this teaches us is that everything is part of God’s plan – we may not understand it, we may struggle with it, we may question it but that is one of the many mysteries about God- only He knows His plans for us. What plans do you think God might have for you? How do you think you will achieve those plans?  | CreativityHopeJusticePeaceHumilityLoveCompassion | JoyPlansSelf-control |  |
| 6 | Matthew 21Mark 11 | **Shine a Light****Kids on the Move**  | **What drives you to change things?**Another prophet called Micah was chosen by God, he came many years after Jeremiah and he helped to spur on the restoration of Judah. In his book, he writes ‘The Lord has told you what is good. He has told you what he wants from you: Do what is right to other people. Love being kind to others. And live humbly, trusting your God’ (6:8) God asks Micah to teach the people of Judah to live with compassion and to do what is right in your heart, God is calling His people to do the right thing. Over 700 years later, Jesus is born and he is still trying to get God’s people to fix their relationship with their creator. Just after Jesus arrives in Jerusalem with all of the jubilation and triumphal entry he goes to the temple. Show the children a painting called ‘The Angry Christ’ by Lina Pontebon. This is a moment in the NT when Jesus shows anger in God’s holy place – the temple – it is not being used as it should be. Jesus erupts in rage when he sees people selling oxen, sheep and doves and money-changers doing business within the temple in Jerusalem. He tells them with passion and angry in his voice: “My Temple will be a house where people will pray… But you are changing God’s house into a den of thieves” He stands up to the people who should know better, he wants them to know that God’s house is a place of worship not dealings of money and theft. Do what is right… God tells his people this in the Old Testament and they are still getting it wrong. During this story of the Bible, it says Jesus upturned tables, shouted and threw people out of the temple. This reaction is not something we would expect to see from Jesus – why do you think he reacted in this way? What could he have done differently? Do you think this is an appropriate way to behave? What changes do you think he wanted? Do you think they have happened? Think about your behaviour in Collective Worship? In Church? | JusticeFaithCompassionHope | Passion Belief Drive  | 3rd Sunday of Lent: Rage Against Evil – Copiosa**The Angry Christ by Lina Ponteban** |
| 7 | Luke 18:9-14 | **It's Good to Be Me Out of the Ark** | **Stop! Right Now! No More?**The Bible teaches us that God is all Omnibenevolent – all loving. He shows it many times through the Bible but especially when He sacrifices His only son for all of our sins. Jesus teaches us about God’s love in many different ways and sometimes he does this through stories known as Parables. These are stories which tell us a story but actually there is a hidden meaning about God within the story. One of the parables in Luke’s gospel can be used to show us – The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Split the hall into two teams, one side will be on the Pharisee team and the other the Tax Collector. In Biblical times, the Pharisees were the holy men who kept the law; they pursued purity with a passion and wanted nothing more than to live lives that pleased God. They would spend all their lives observing every detail of the scribal law. On the other hand, Tax collectors were not seen as good people. They worked for the Romans even though they were Jews, this made them traitors. Their job meant taking money from the Jews and paying it to the foreign Romans leaders. The Romans did not pay them either, they told them to take extra from the people and keep some for themselves as a wage. The story Jesus tells takes place in the temple. One day, into the temple walked a Pharisee and a Tax collector. The Pharisee walked into the temple and stayed well away from the Tax collector. When he prayed, he boasted and said how he was better than others and said thank you to God for not being like the Tax collector. On the other hand, the Tax collector went away from others, he would not look up to speak to God. He beat his chest and told God he was a sinner and asks for mercy. Ask the children which man do they think God listened to more? Which man did God loved more? Which man do you think God was more pleased with? What do you think Jesus is teaching about God? Which one should stop, right now and show no more of this behaviour?  | JusticeFaithCompassionHope | Passion Belief Drive | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufe6zouTq8g> Video of the story, no words<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JStxVe_JHqE> Story with words and a good explanation |
| 8 | Matthew 25:14-30 | **Magic Penny** | **What would you do?**Imagine your parents have won the lottery – £110 million pounds in the bank. What do you think could be done with that money? Imagine you are better than the world’s best footballer and earning more than £1.6 million pounds a week. What do you think could be done with that money? These are real possibilities, they could and do happen in reality. However, the chances of it happening are very unlikely. Jesus teaches another parable (remind what a parable is) to his followers called ‘The Ten Talents’. In this story we see a man with 3 servants and he gives them bags of gold to look after while he goes travelling. 2 of them invest wisely and expand their riches, taking care of the money reaping the reward. 1 buries the gold to keep it safe, hide it in fear. Jesus teaches that we should share with others our talents and riches as the rewards we get are three-fold. God gives each of us talents and wants us to use them. Our gifts are to be tools and we are entrusted with building others up through our blessings. When we share what we have with others, ultimately we wind up with more than we started out having. We are blessed in order to pass on good things to others and we give back to God in thanks and gratitude. | WisdomTrustGenerosityResponsibilityCourageCreativity | TalentsSkills | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbPKhYBaWRg> Video of story, no words<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGaGTuGtro4> Story with words and explanation |
| 9 | Matthew 2:1-12 | **We Will Go****Watoto Children’s Choir** | **Would I be there for you?**Is there anything that would stop you being friends with someone? What kind of things might make you question your relationship with someone? What kind of behaviours would make you question someone’s intentions?Over 2000 years ago, a new baby was born and the excitement over his arrival made lots of strange and wonderful things happen – including angels coming to Earth singing and a new big star appearing in the sky. Who was that baby? Jesus. During your time today, you will be looking at part of the Christmas story but it does not necessarily have to be discussed at Christmas. 2000 years ago, Magi from the East were studying the stars (Magi – wisemen/Kings/astronomers) and they discovered a new star in the sky, this was very exciting. It shone so brightly and majestically they knew it meant something incredible – a special sign – a new and important King had been born. Where would you go if you thought a King had been born? Palace. So, they followed the star until they reached a palace near to where the star was shining. But they did not find a new King. They found a King called Herod who was very much alive and with no baby being born in the palace, it was all news to him. Intrigued by this, Herod spoke with his advisors and they discovered it could mean the ‘Messiah’ had been born, most likely in Bethlehem. Worried and scared about his Kingdom, he instructs the Magi to go to Bethlehem and find this baby so he could worship him. Do you think his intentions were as innocent as he made out? Do you think he had a bigger plan? Why do you think he wanted the baby gone? Do you think the Magi would have taken the baby to him if they hadn’t been warned by the angel? King Herod was in-charge of the land – do you think the Magi broke the law by not returning to him? God warning the Magi through a dream shows that He is always with us, guiding us to do the right thing, sometimes without us even understanding why.  | FriendshipHonestyServiceHopePeace | MiraclesDivinity | The journey of the Magi and visiting of the newborn Jesus is called the ‘Epiphany’ which means ‘revealed’. It is during this time that Jesus is revealed to be someone great – the Messiah, God’s son.  |
| 10 | Mark 12:41-44 | **Living and Learning****Out of the Ark** | **Is it better to receive or give?**Imagine it is your birthday – you have absolutely everything you need and ever wanted. Your birthday list is empty. What should you do? Hands up only once:1. Ask for toys you don’t need or want but it is your birthday so it is only fair
2. Go to Smyth’s Toyshop and choose random things you like the look of because it will make you happy
3. Pack up some of toys you no longer play with and give to a children’s charity so someone else can enjoy them
4. Sell your toys and use the money to buy something newer
5. Ask for money and bank it for later
6. Ask for money and give it to a children’s charity so they can help those who do not have toys or food or clothing

Keep that decision in your mind…. In the Bible, Jesus teaches about the nature of true giving. In Mark’s gospel he tells about Jesus watching people putting donations into the collection. He watched the rich people drop some treasure or money into the collection for God, things and amounts that did not amount to even a portion of their property/ riches. Then he watched a poor woman, take her last coins and place it into the collection box. She gave everything she had to the Lord and contrasted it with the gifts given by others that involved hardly any sacrifice. Jesus was teaching that the rich have plenty and they gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had. This is the same in life today. Jesus is teaching about what we love most. Most of us place the greatest value on our money, gifts and the things it can give us. This story is teaching us that it is not necessarily how much money does God want from us but questioning if we are willing to give everything to God and asking the question of who we should help as good neighbours. Now ask the questions again – and ask the children if anyone would change their mind now.  | GenerosityHumilityCompassionServiceThankfulnessHonesty |  | This may lead to some debate. You could use the Sainsbury Christmas advert from 2016 – Greatest Gift is Me! |
| 11 | Proverbs 31:8-9 | **I’ve got the power** | **What do I stand for?**“In a world, where you can be anything, be kind” (Caroline Flack)– just allow the children to sit, reflect and think about that saying. It is not from the Bible, it is a saying that has become famously spoken by a celebrity when she was having struggles in her life. Be kind – that it is absolutely exactly what God wanted from his creation – man**kind**. Ask the children to think about 5 ways they can show kindness in the world. In the book of Proverbs (31:8-9) it teaches us the importance of standing up for what you believe in, it tells us to speak up, to defend, judge fairly and help those who are needy and poor. I think these are all about showing kindness and standing up for those who are treated differently. Explain to the children that many people around the world choose to support charities in order to demonstrate love and kindness towards those who are struggling – have no voice, are penalised because of their gender, who are poor, who are needy, who need a home. Can the children think of any charity, who they help and why? How do they demonstrate kindness in this world? How are they supporting those who need help? As a school, ask the children to think about ways they could respond to the Proverbs 31:8-9 and then action it.  | JusticeHumilityPerseveranceResilienceTrustCompassionWisdomCourageLoveCompassion | Self controlPeace  |  |
| 12 | Genesis 1:27Psalm 139Romans 12:6-8 | **As One****Out of the Ark** | **Are we all the same? Where is the love?**The Bible teaches us that God made us in His image (Genesis 1:27) and we are all fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14)– so with this in mind, are we all the same? There are billions are humans alive all over the world – as a species we are all different from size to shape to tone to eye colour to skin colour but DNA of all human beings living today is 99.9% alike! And yet, all over the world people are treated different because of the way they look, their beliefs, their behaviour and even their life choices. Jesus teaches us through the story of the Good Samaritan and God’s Greatest Commandment (read it if you really need to) that we need to love one another as ourselves therefore we need to show one another love and respect despite our differences. In Romans 12:6-8 it teaches us we all have gifts and they should be shared – to be teachers, leaders, preachers and servers. It also says that some of us have the gift of showing kindness to others and that person should do so with joy – perhaps we should all demonstrate this gift and the world would be a better place. Afterall we are 99.9% genetically alike… Listen to the song ‘Where is the love?’ By the Black Eyed Peas (check the version is safe for little ears) and draw attention to the lyrics – “***Father, Father, Father, Help us,******Send some guidance from above,*** ***'Cause people got me, got me questionin'******Where is the love?’*** | KoinoniaFriendshipKindnessGentlenessLove Compassion  | UniquenessIndividual CommunityJoy   | Place around school the red question mark set in a black box like in the video – create a questioning forum. During CW watch the video from the Black Eyed Peas. |
| 13 | Genesis Revelation 22:13 | **Our God is a great big God** | **Does everything have a creator?**Does anyone know what the word ‘Genesis’ means? It literally translates to mean ‘beginning’. The first book of the Bible is called ‘Beginning’. Does anyone know the opening words in the ‘Beginning’ book of the Bible? ‘In the beginning’. The first book of the Bible introduces the **beginning** of everything – there was nothing there and then there is something… the world is formed, the plants, the sky, the land, animals, humans, nations and sin. All of these things have been ‘created’ or made to come into existence as the result of God’s spoken words. This supernatural, great being beyond our imagination spoke words and these things appeared. According to many Christians and Jews, there is no more of an explanation than God spoke and the masterpiece of this world we live on came into existence. Words spoken by a God who cannot be seen or touched or smelled or felt and created the world and billions of people believe that this is exactly how the world began. However, there are also many other people who think that explanation is just too far beyond any understanding – there is no logic, no evidence, no explanation to show this is true. Scientists have been working for many years to prove that religious stories such as Genesis is just not possible. They have discovered that the world began from a ‘single point of light’ that came into being and then it pulled rocks and dust from around the galaxy (gravity) and it started to form a hard surface | CreativityAppreciationWisdom  | Goodness  | Show this symbol to represent the Alpha and Omega – what can the children see within the design?See the source image |
| 14 | Genesis 1-2 | **God, You’re good to me** | **And it was good… Is it?**When God made the world, after each day He said ‘And it was good’, after He had made humans he said ‘And it was *very* good’. Then Adam and Eve disobey His commandment and as a result sin enters the world. Does anyone know what sin is? Ask the children to share their ideas. The dictionary definition says *‘an immoral act considered to be a wrong doing against divine law’.* Tell the children that although there is sin in the world – there is also a lot of good things. Examine different examples of what makes the world good – landscape, people, animals, nature, compassion towards others, people are living longer. Emphasis that things are not perfect but most of the time, things are good.  | ThankfulnessAppreciationRespectServiceHopeResponsibilityWisdomCourage  | Joy GoodnessGratitudeStewardship  |  |
| 15 | Genesis 6Genesis 17Exodus 3Joshua 1  | **Waymaker****Allstars Kids Club** | **How does God speak to me?**Remind the children of the story of Samuel – refer to week 3 of this planning. He heard God speak to him and he followed what God wanted. Other people throughout the Old Testament spoke to God- Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua and they heard Him, followed Him and obeyed what was asked of them. Christians believe that God still speaks to them today, in different ways. For example1. Through the Bible – His word can be heard in His book
2. Inner voice – His words are heard or sense phrases from God in our hearts or in our thoughts.
3. God stirs our hearts or gives us a gentle nudge from His Spirit about something.
4. Wise counsel - God can speak into our lives through other believers
5. Dreams or visions – like Joseph
6. Direction in choice making - God can direct us through circumstances in our lives, or through “opening or closing” opportunities.
7. Prayer – when we talk to Him, we feel He responds to our words
8. Testimonies of others – those who have experienced God
9. Personal experience
10. Nature – God gives you that feeling of His presence
11. Internal moral compass – what we feel to be right or wrong inside
12. Spiritual awakening

God speaks to us in different ways, at different times in different places. Have you ever felt an experience of God? What do you think God would say to you? To world? | TrustFaithHumility Friendship HopeWisdom  | Holy SpiritPatience  |  |