



A RESOURCE FOR CHURCHES & LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Pilgrim Explorers around Cornwall

Pilgrim Explorers is a way of connecting the local church with local primary schools, using the theme of journeying, transition and pilgrimage. A group of people in the Diocese of Truro have worked together to produce various resources which can be used in any church setting. These include crafts, drama, mini pilgrimage and prayer stations.



There is a pack of free resources available for you to use, edit, adapt or add to, according to your setting and your capacity.

The idea is that each church can offer to put on activities in the church building for the local school, focussing on the transition from primary schools (year 6). Ideally these will take place in the summer term. These activities could be for one session, or for a whole week, depending on the number of schools invited and your capacity to run the event.



HERE IS A PLAN FOR WHAT TO DO, IN BRIEF

- There will be a team leader in each church who co-ordinates the activities, dates, times etc.
- The team leader will contact local schools to invite them, perhaps giving a choice of dates, as schools get very busy in the summer term!
- Inviting one class to each event would mean there are around 30 children, which is easier than working with a larger group.
- You will need to collect a group of volunteers to help you run the event.
- You can use the pack of resources for ideas if you want, or you can do your own pilgrim-based activities, depending on your setting. Choose from these activities, but keep it simple!
- Decide how many sessions you can run.
- Collect the resources you need and set up the church in advance.
- Pray with your volunteers before the event.

HOW IT MIGHT WORK

Children come into the church building and sit down. You give a brief welcome and introduction to the day. What is pilgrimage? What does it mean? Explain a bit about journeys and Christians going on a special journey to get closer to God. Keep it brief (5 minutes).

Explain how the activities are going to run. The children will work in groups (maybe 4 or 5 groups) and will rotate around the church so that everyone will do everything. All the activities need to take the same amount of time. We suggest around 20 minutes, so that the whole session doesn't go on too long. When everyone has rotated around all the activities, come back together and sit down.

It could look like this:

DRAMA

Make sure there is enough space for a drama activity.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Make sure there is a suitable table for the crafts.

PRAYER STATIONS

Set up the prayer stations in a quieter area (maybe down a side aisle) so that the children are not disturbed by others.

PILGRIMAGE AROUND THE BUILDING

The pilgrimage activity needs to lead the children on a trail around the inside and/or outside of church. Prepare this in advance. What key features will be interesting for 11 year olds? Are there some Cornish saints? Or a wonderful stained glass window to look at? Can the children find small details in the pew ends, or the wooden screen? (an acorn, a mouse, a flower). Outside, are there any interesting graves to look at? Perhaps a well-known local family or a tin miner, or search for the oldest grave. This will be setting specific, so you need to do a bit of planning ahead of the event.



REFLECTION TO END

Schools like to have a reflection point to take away.

Ask the children: what have you learned today? What have you thought about? Which prayer station did you like best and why?

Leave some silence, or play quiet music for 2 minutes, while children have time to think, reflect, breathe. You can end with a prayer, but say "if you want to make it your prayer, then say Amen at the end".

They can take home anything they have made or you might give them something as a gift to take home.



Please contact Jane Wheeler if you have questions or if you need some advice by emailing jane.wheeler@newstreetchurch.org

You can find other Pilgrim Explorer routes here: trurodiocese.org.uk/whats-on/pilgrim-explorers/

DON'T FORGET TO POST & TAG YOUR PHOTOS ON INSTAGRAM: #PILGRIMEXPLORERS



*Join us for
another pilgrimage
adventure soon!*