

TEACHERS' NOTES: This is aimed at KS2 children and goes a bit more in depth about the building and significance of some of the things inside. We also take a look at some of the abstract themes to encourage discussion. This is by no means a definitive guide but should help to give you a few ideas to add to your own.

EXPLORING THE CHURCH BUILDING.

What is the external appearance in terms of materials, construction, age, size, shape, features and impressions?

Where does it fit into the landscape?

Inside: Examine the shape and the plan.

Look at the furniture and decorations: altar, font, lectern, pews, windows, memorials.

WHAT HAPPENS AT ST DUNSTAN'S?

Have a look around. What can you see? There are notice boards, parish magazine, church guides and hymn books.

Main service is on a Sunday worship. Why? Explain the significance of the Holy Communion.

Look at the key parts of the service. Where do things happen and what do people do?

What things are used in the service? Cups, plates, clothes etc. What is their symbolic significance?

Examine the meaning and significance of the service. Jesus's words at the Last Supper, why bread and wine.

What other services are held here? Baptisms, weddings, funerals, midweek services, private prayer, confirmation.

How else is the building used? Concerts and exhibitions.

WHO GOES TO CHURCH?

Christians or worshippers: What happens on a Sunday? What is it like? What activities are they involved in? What does it mean to be a Christian? How important is the role of worship?

Vicar: What does the job involve? Preparing for Sunday – what's involved? Does he just work one day a week? What is important about worship? What do they want people to experience? How else do they help people live Christian lives?

Other people involved with the church – cleaner, warden, choir, reader, flowers. When do they come to church? What do they do? Why?

The wider Christian Community: parish structures – PCC, wardens, diocese, bishop.

What does the community do together? Social events/fundraising.

How do they serve the community's needs? Money to charity, projects, visiting.

WHY IS ST DUNSTAN'S IMPORTANT?

The historic building. Look at its place in the local landscape; what do non-churchgoers think? Who pays for the upkeep?

AFTER THE VISIT

What other religious buildings are there?

What are the 'brands' of Christianity?

Do only Christians follow the Ten Commandments?

