



Beneath the flag
Assemblies for the Autumn Term



A look at British values through the work of British Christians.

Introduction:

A year ago the Department for Education published a paper 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: departmental advice for maintained schools' (pub Nov 2014). In this they make it clear that they are currently very keen on schools teaching 'British values', but what does that mean? What are British values and how do/can we show them? The value and legal foundation of Britain was built on Christian values and Christians today believe that much of what the Bible teaches on values still has relevance for modern Britain.

For this assembly pack we have looked at some of the contributions that British Christians have given our society, not because we want to boast about it, but because each of these people demonstrated an aspect of the value system that the government would like taught in primary schools. We have picked people who have been born British and people who have chosen to be British people from the past and present. So, what can we learn from these individuals and what can we each do to make a difference to the world?



Resources:

As a link between each of the assemblies, and a bit of fun to begin with, we are suggesting the use of a different item placed under a Union flag each time. We are suggesting the flag as it is obviously British, but any other method of hiding the objects would be fine. Each one should be related to the assembly in some way, and you could have the previous items on display as a reminder of prior themes. It is for you to decide for your setting what the best way of doing this is. It will usually work well with real items on a table at the front. Another option would be to back an image of the item with foam board, cut it out and stand it up under the flag. However, for large halls they may be difficult to see, so you may prefer a PowerPoint version. For that you'll need to use a 'licenced for reuse' image (see Google image settings), place it on a slide and put an image of the flag in front of it. You could adjust the flag image to make it semi-transparent so that the shape is partially visible behind it. Then, use 'animation' to remove the flag on a mouse click.

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Beneath the flag

Series Outline:

	Title	Story (Bible reference)	Theme
1	How very British!	Romans 5:14 2 Peter 1:5-8	Introducing British values. What makes someone British? Christian values that are also British values.
2	The Foodbank people... Paddy and Carol Henderson	Joseph (Genesis 37-47)	Harvest. There are people who need our help. The meaning of generosity of spirit.
3	The Queen who has fun... Queen Elizabeth II	Book of Esther	Democracy. Everyone has a part to play. Remembering those who run the country.
4	The King who fasted... King George VI	<i>1 Kings 17-18 (James 5:17) Elijah's prayers for drought and rain</i> <i>Psalm 33:20</i>	Remembrance, World War II, VE Day Speech, Humility, Trusting God, Courage
5	The Vicar of Bagdad... Cannon Andrew White	Jacob and Esau (Genesis 27 and 33) 2 Corinthians 5:19	Reconciliation, saying sorry, forgiveness, tolerance, getting along with others
6	The Prison Lady... Elizabeth Fry	Matthew 25:34-40	Compassion - Helping others
7	The Street Pastor... Les Isaac	Ruth and Naomi (The book of Ruth)	Street Pastors, Respecting individual liberty, Caring, listening, helping
8	The Salvation Army People... William and Catherine Booth	The birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-21)	Christmas, Homelessness, Shelters, Salvation Army Selflessness, Guidance, Giving



1. Title: How very British!

Theme: Introducing British Values. What makes someone British? Christian values that are also British values.

Story (Bible reference): Romans 5:14, 2 Peter 1:5-8

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 & KS2

Resources:

A union flag (Union Jack), either real or on a screen. With a real flag, keep it out of sight, in a bag or under a sheet. You will be able to gradually take it out of the bag, being careful not to make it too obvious what it is, too early. On PowerPoint, you can have an image of a flag on slide 2, with slide 1 being blank. Using the transition function, slow the transition right down so the second slide reveals very slowly.

Introduction:

Today we're going to introduce an item that is going to be coming back again and again this term. Put your thumbs up when you know what it is.

Gradually reveal the Union flag. Ask what country/countries have this flag. It is of course the flag for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Some other countries also have it as part of their flag (Australia, New Zealand, Tuvalu and Fiji. If you're wondering where Tuvalu is, it's a Polynesian island, half way between Hawaii and Australia).

This term we are going 'Beneath the flag' to discover some of what it means to be British.

Main Content:

You may have heard that the Government are talking a lot about 'British values' at the moment. They are asking all schools to make sure they teach and promote British values to help you, the children of today, to grow into the good British citizens of tomorrow. But the question is, what makes someone British, and what counts as a British value.

This term we are planning to look at different British values and some people who display them, but let's start with a short quiz about some people who may or may not be British. Your job is to work out which ones are and which ones are not... it may not be easy!

(Show some pictures of people, some British, some not. Make sure that you go away from stereotypes as the point is to show that you just can't tell who is British and who is not by the way they look or sound. The people shown here are famous, but depending on how excitable the children are in your school, you may prefer to show people the children won't recognise.)

The Queen: British - Born in Britain.

Prince Philip: British - But born as a Greek and Danish citizen. Chose to be British as an adult so he could marry the Queen!

Mo Farah: British - But born in Somalia. His Dad was British and Mo moved to UK when he was 8 years old.

Kylie: British and Australian - Chose to be British as an adult.

Vanessa Mae: British, and Thai, and Singaporean - Grew up British, but competed for Thailand as a skier in the 2014 Winter Olympics.

What these pictures show is that you just can't tell if someone is British by the way they look, or the way they dress or sound, or even by the country they were born in. What's great about Britain is that for thousands of years people have migrated to live here and chosen to be British.



The issue these days is that you can to become British as an adult you have to pass a test, and pay up to £1000, which unfortunately suggests that the most important thing about being British is being clever and have a lot of money! But what actually is important about being British? Is it the ability to make a cup of tea, cook a roast dinner, enjoy watching tennis and be able to stand in a queue? (You could show images of some of these things.)

There is a list of the values that are seen as British on the government website. They are: **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.** We actually think that it goes further than that. How about things like **love, care for others.** What other things do you think are values we want to promote in Britain? (You could use talk partners to give a short time to discuss. You could capture what is said on a flip chart or whiteboard.)

Really, when you look at what we are saying are British values, are good values for anyone around the world to aspire to. Actually, much of it is very similar to the values shown in the Bible for Christians to aspire to. In fact, a lot of the people, but definitely not all the people, who have helped to shape this country over the years have been Christians. So, over the term we are going to introduce you to some of these Christians and their stories. Some of these people you will have heard of, others you will know about the things they have done, and still others you won't have heard about at all, but they are all people that can inspire us to do great things and to stand up for good.

Reflection:

In the Bible there are some sections that talk about the sort of values that are good for us to be aspiring to. Here are some of them. As I read them, you might like to close your eyes and reflect on what you want to be like. What values are important to you? What bits of this are you good at, and what bits do you want to work on this term? There are some parts that won't be relevant to everyone, because it was written to people who wanted to live their lives for God, but there is probably something in there that you can relate to. If there's not, you can reflect on what values are important to you.

I am sure that you are full of goodness. I know that you have all the knowledge you need and that you are able to teach each other. (Romans 15:14)

Because you have these blessings, do your best to add these things to your lives: to your faith, add goodness; and to your goodness, add knowledge; and to your knowledge, add self-control; and to your self-control, add patience; and to your patience, add service for God; and to your service for God, add kindness for your brothers and sisters in Christ; and to this kindness, add love. If all these things are in you and are growing, they will help you to be useful and productive... (2 Peter 1:5-8)



2. Title: The Foodbank people... Paddy and Carol Henderson

Theme: Harvest. There are people who need our help. The meaning of generosity of spirit.

Story (Bible reference): Joseph (Genesis 37-47)

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 & KS2

Resources:

- A Union flag
- A box of foodbank donations. E.g. tinned meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, milk, packets of rice and pasta, toilet roll, toiletries.

Introduction:

Have the donations covered by the Union flag as the children come in. You can ask them to be quietly thinking about what might be beneath the flag as they wait for the assembly to start.

See if anyone has any suggestions about what could be beneath the flag today.

It is a box of donations for Foodbank. You may have seen people putting things like this into boxes in shops and Churches. This is all part of the Foodbank movement that is happening in your town and right across the country, bringing food and other supplies to people who need it.

Main Content:

The movement was started in Salisbury in a garden shed and garage in the house of a couple called Paddy and Carol Henderson. Carol's mother, Betty Trussell had died and left them some money so the Henderson's went to work in Bulgaria, feeding destitute people. They set up the Trussell Trust. When they came home to Salisbury in 2000 a woman phoned Paddy to tell him that her children had gone to bed hungry, could he help. Paddy found that many people around Salisbury were unable to afford food. They had emergencies like losing a job, sickness, family problems and the extra cost of heating in winter. So Paddy began collecting food at his home and gave needy people 3 day emergency supplies. This idea spread to other towns and many people were keen to help. Supermarkets and Churches joined in. Now it works through Drs, social workers and policemen who when they find desperate people, give them a voucher for a 3 day emergency pack from a Foodbank. They are also helped to sort out some of their problems. Over 1,000,000 people were helped last year alone. Paddy and Carol might have used Betty's money to have a more comfortable and relaxed life, but they used it all to help others. As Christians they thought it was something that God would have been pleased with. They often think about the story of Joseph in the Bible and relate it to what they are doing.

It's a story in the Bible that shows people doing a very similar thing to foodbanks, but on an even bigger scale. The story of Joseph is a very long one, but it's been made into a 60 second cartoon by Taylormation:

<https://youtu.be/j7O3T6hV69s>

Show on screen if possible. If not, quickly tell the story of Joseph, sticking to the main points and focusing on God using him to develop the food stores.

Joseph ends up being the Prime Minister of Egypt, which was pretty much the most powerful nation on Earth at the time. Because he was able to work out what the Pharaoh's dreams meant, he was able to make a way to help others. 7 good years came along and Joseph made sure as much food as possible was saved up and stored, a bit like a Foodbank, but without the modern packets. Then, when the drought came and the region stopped producing food, Joseph was able to feed not only the people in Egypt, but across the whole region. People of



faith believe that God showed Joseph what to do and helped him support the hungry people nearly 4000 years ago. Paddy and Carol Henderson believe that God has helped them develop the Foodbank movement which is helping hungry people in our country today.

It's the first of our British values... Care for others, whoever they are. The government values talk about 'mutual respect for those of different faiths and beliefs'. Many Christians believe that a great way of respecting people is to help them when they are in need.

Reflection:

So how can we help others? Perhaps when we are next at a supermarket that has a Foodbank box, we can ask our grownups if we can put something in. Perhaps there is a charity that you are supporting at school. Perhaps there are other ways you can think of to help people who need it.

Prayer (if appropriate):

Dear God, Thank you for people like the Henderson's who sacrifice their own comfort to help others. Show me how to be more generous with all that I have. Help all the hungry people, especially children in the World today. Amen



3. Title: The Queen who has fun... Queen Elizabeth II

Theme: Democracy. Everyone has a part to play. Remembering those who run the country.

Story (Bible reference): Book of Esther

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 & KS2

Resources:

- £1 coin - or similar item with Queen's head
- Blutak or modelling clay to keep the coin upright.

Introduction:

Have £1 coin standing on edge (Use Blutak) under the flag as the children arrive. Ask them what they think might be under the flag.

A £1 coin. Whose picture is on every £1 coin? Our queen, Queen Elizabeth II.

The Queen's head is always on our coins and our stamps, but why? It's because she is what we call the head of state. In years gone by it would have been that everyone had to do exactly what the king or queen said. That's still the case in some countries around the world, and has been the case in the world for many centuries. In the Bible there is the story of Esther which talks about a king who was so powerful that even his own queen is not allowed to go and see him without being invited. One day he asks the Queen to come and see him and she refuses, so he banishes her and says she is never allowed to come into his presence again! The king then sets out to find another queen who will do as he says. The new queen ends up being a young lady called Esther, and there is a wonderful story about Queen Esther and how she rescues her people, putting herself in great danger from the king.

Our Queen, and her father the King before her and Prince Charles when he becomes king after her, will not be that powerful. That is because our country is set up in a way that gives everyone a say in what happens. Each adult gets a chance to vote to choose the people who are in charge of their local council, and the people who are in charge of the country, the MPs and the Prime Minister. They then talk to ordinary people about what sorts of things matter to them and represent us in Parliament. Did you know that anyone can go to the Houses of Parliament and ask to see their MP? If they are in the building they have to come and see you... it's their job.

Part of the reason for our democracy is because one of our British values is that each person is as important as everyone else. Even the Queen is just an ordinary person. We tend to see pictures of her when she is doing her job, so just for fun, we thought we would show you some clip of the queen, when she's having fun.

Show video: Extremely Rare Queen Elizabeth II Having Fun Footage! <https://youtu.be/YeWEZZ0JODI>

Main Content:

One of the important parts of the Queen's job is that she is the 'Head of the Church of England'. It is her job to choose the Archbishop of Canterbury and quite a lot of ordinary vicars, and to keep an eye on the Church. There are many different types of church in the UK, but the Church of England, or the Anglican Church, is the official name for one type of church that is all across the UK. They are often the big old churches with spires and bell towers. The Queen is a Christian and she prays regularly for the church and all the people in it. And, the people in the Church pray regularly for the Queen and for the government. Christians believe that if people pray, God will help the Government and the Queen to make the right decisions.



Reflection:

Let's remember the Queen, the Government and all those who work hard to keep our country working properly and to keep us safe. Without them we would not have free schools, hospitals, bin collection or roads. So let's be grateful that we have them.

Prayer: (if appropriate)

Dear God; Thank you for our country. Thank you that it is relatively safe and that we have the freedom to live where we want, believe what we want, do the job that we want. Help us to make good choices in our lives. Please help the Queen and the Government to make good choices and to rule the country well. Amen.



4. Title: The King who fasted... King George VI

Theme: Remembrance, World War II, Humility, Trusting God, Courage

Story (Bible reference): 1 Kings 18 (James 5:17) Elijah's prayers for drought and rain, similar to 'the miracle of Dunkirk'

Psalm 33:20 (He is our help and shield) alluded to by the King in the extract from VE Day address

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 and KS2

(Separate PowerPoint option for KS1 without the audio clip, if required - due to complex language)

Resources:

- A Union flag
- An army hat (or similar article that relates to World War II)

References:

[Seven National Days of Prayer in World War II](#)

[Churchill's speech to the Commons on 4th June 1940 referring to Dunkirk as a miracle of deliverance \(The "We shall fight them on the beaches" speech\).](#)

[Text of King George VI's V. E. Day address](#)

Introduction:

Have the army hat covered by the flag as the children come in. Again, suggest they might like to think about what the item is underneath.

Ask what the item is, then ask what wars people remember at this time of year. The Second World War was about standing up to someone who wanted to take liberty (freedom) away from people. The British King and his government were keen to preserve this for the British people, as that's one of the things that are important in this country, everyone being free to make their own decisions about what they believe and how to live their lives.

Main Content:

1. Last time we found out more about our Queen, Queen Elizabeth II. Everyone in this room (probably!) can only remember one Monarch (Queen or King), but Elizabeth was once a princess and her dad was the king. King George VI was king from 1936 to 1952, which included the time of the Second World War, from 1939 to 1945.
2. It was a time of great danger for our nation. Almost every other country in Europe had been occupied by German soldiers.

Many thousands of children from big cities were evacuated (sent away from home to keep them safe).

3. Those who were left were sometimes in great danger when the cities were bombed. Many houses were destroyed.



4. The King and Queen showed **courage** by staying in London.

Many people were **encouraged**, inspired, by their visits to bombed streets.

5. King George knew that, even though he was the king, he could not save the country. He believed only God could. He **trusted God** and wanted people to pray.
6. Thousands and thousands of people followed his lead when he asked the nation to pray for God to keep them safe.
7. After people had prayed, the weather was just right for nearly the whole British army to be rescued from the beach at Dunkirk in Belgium. The sea was so calm that hundreds of little ships were able to cross from England and rescue the soldiers. At the same time there were terrible storms over Belgium so the German planes could not fly to attack them. Many people including the Prime Minister believed this was a miracle.
8. The war in Europe lasted for five more years until May 1945. The picture shows St. Paul's Cathedral in London surrounded by smoke and fire and destroyed buildings. Many people believe God protected the Cathedral when all the buildings around were destroyed.
9. There was great celebration in London on VE Day. (If you look closely in the centre of slide 13, you can just see the King, Queen and Princess Elizabeth on the balcony above the gates)
10. The king spoke on the radio on the evening of VE Day. (The audio clip is an extract from the opening and close of his speech). He asked the nation to thank God for delivering them (keeping them safe). He asked us "to do nothing unworthy of those who died for us" and "to make the world such a world as they would have desired for their children and for ours"

The King during his speech mentioned a poem from the Bible. *Psalm 33:20 says So our hope is in the Lord. He is our help, our shield to protect us.*

Story:

Briefly tell the story of Elijah's prayer for drought and rain. This is an example of someone in the Bible doing a similar thing to what King George did during the war. Elijah believed God could control the weather, as did King George. Elijah believed that God would rescue his people from people trying to harm them. King George believed the same, so called the nation together to do the same thing.

Reflection:

The king asked in his VE Day speech that we would resolve (promise) to make the world the kind of place that those who had died would have wished for their children.

Today, like King George, Christians still believe that praying to God can help keep us and others safe. Even though we are children, what can we do to make the world a safer and better place?



Prayer: (If appropriate)

Dear God, we want to thank You for keeping this nation safe during the Second World War. We thank You that there has not been a big war in Europe since the Second World War, and ask You to help us keep the world safe for all the people You have made.

Points to note:

- This assembly is written with the focus on King George VI. Another way to lead the assembly, particularly for younger listeners and groups with Special Educational Needs would be to give more attention to the Elijah story.
- There may be confusion between the two queens, both Elizabeth, one being the present Queen's mother.
- (KS1)Evacuation may need explanation if mentioned.

Links to other assemblies in this series:

Queen Elizabeth II (daughter of King George VI)

Canon Andrew White Reconciliation



5. Title: The Vicar of Bagdad... Cannon Andrew White

Theme: Reconciliation, saying sorry, forgiveness, tolerance, getting along with others

Story (Bible reference): Jacob steals Esau's birth right (Genesis 27), Jacob and Esau make peace (Genesis 33).

'God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold people guilty for their sins, and he gave us this message of peace to tell people.' (2 Corinthians 5:19)

'I am very happy to see your face again. It is like seeing the face of God.' (Genesis 33:10)

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 & KS2 (Children aged 5 to 11)

References:

<https://www.biblegateway.com>

<http://frme.org> Canon Andrew White's organisation.

Resources:

- Union flag
- Tea cup and saucer
- 4 Laminated R's

Introduction:

Have a tea cup and saucer under the Union flag for children to guess.

One of the things that seems to bring people together is having a cup of tea! Certainly with adults, if people are meeting for the first time, or need to talk about something important, they often do it over a cup of tea (or coffee). The man who our assembly is about today says that even when people have huge arguments the best way to sort it out is to begin with two cups of tea. After two cups of tea talking about the weather, family, sport etc. then you can get down to fixing the relationships that have broken down. It's the start of something called 'Reconciliation' which is the British value we are looking at today.

How do we treat people who hurt us? There will always be people in our lives who we struggle to get on with! There are people who do things we don't like, people who even do things that harm us or make us feel sad. How do we react? If somebody hurts you it is always tempting to hurt them back. Reconciliation is the act of reuniting people who don't get on with each other, bringing opposing groups of people together. Jesus told his followers to 'love their enemies,' to 'do good to those who hurt you.' Christians believe that Jesus' death on the cross reconciles, brings together, people (who are often badly behaved) with a Holy God who cannot tolerate our wrongdoings.

Main Content:

Esau and Jacob are characters from the Old Testament. They were twin brothers who had a fierce rivalry. One liked hunting. One was a trickster. Like most brothers they fought a lot. The Bible says they became leaders of two warring nations.

In the culture Jacob and Esau grew up in, it was the custom for a father, before he died, to ask God's special blessing on the eldest son. Isaac (who was Esau and Jacob's father) decided it was time he gave Esau his blessing. But first he sent Esau out to hunt for meat to make a good stew. Rebecca (Esau and Jacob's mother) overheard what Isaac said to Esau, and she made up her mind that Jacob should have the blessing. Isaac was almost blind. Jacob could pretend to be Esau and Isaac would never know.



So, while Esau was still out hunting, Rebecca made one of her tastiest, spiciest stews from the meat of two young goats. And she spread the goatskins over Jacob's smooth arms and neck to make them feel like Esau's rough, hairy skin.

Jacob dressed up in his brother's clothes, and took the meal in to his father. The lovely smell from the food, and the feel of the skins, deceived Isaac. But he thought the voice sounded different.

'Are you really Esau?' he asked.

'I am,' Jacob lied.

So Isaac prayed that God would give his richest blessing, the blessing of the first son, to Jacob. When Esau himself arrived, the truth came out. But it was too late. The blessing had been given. Esau was so angry with Jacob that Rebecca was afraid Esau would kill him. So she persuaded Isaac to let Jacob go to her people in another land, Paddan-aram, to find a wife.

After many adventures and many wives and children and a night wrestling with God himself Jacob became a changed man... God's man.

Later on Jacob and Esau met; the Bible says that Jacob was terrified so he prepared some flocks of sheep as a gift for Esau. Jacob said, as he met Esau, "The flocks are a present, please take them. For when I saw the look of loving welcome on your face, it was like looking into the face of God himself."

Esau didn't take the gifts but he made peace with his brother.

The Vicar of Bagdad

Canon Andrew White is known as the 'Vicar of Bagdad' because he is Vicar of St George's Anglican Church in Bagdad. He has also set up an organisation that works hard to help make the world a safer place called the 'Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East'.

Andrew decided when he was ten years old that he wanted to be both a Doctor and to be a priest! He could not see how that was possible but he did train to be a Doctor and worked at St Thomas's Hospital on the 'crash team,' helping people whose hearts have stopped beating!

He later went to Cambridge University to train to be a Church of England Vicar.

Often we get information about people from the Internet or from books, but we told Andrew that we were putting together an assembly about him and he kindly answered some questions for us:

We asked Andrew: *Why did you want to be a Vicar?*

Andrew answered: *I sensed that God was calling me to be a Christian Minister. I loved being a doctor, but I wanted to do something new!*

We asked Andrew: *How did you get involved in peacekeeping in the Middle East?*

Andrew answered: *I originally became involved in peacekeeping in the Middle East while working with the Jewish Community in Israel. Through my work there that I got involved in the Middle East and became the Vicar of Bagdad!*

Andrew became involved with the problems in the Middle East and Iraq, talking to Muslim leaders, Jewish leaders and Christian leaders trying to stop people at war with each other; to stop people killing each other! Andrew learned that, 'above all else, people who are in conflict (people who are not getting on with each other) need to learn to listen to each other.'

We asked Andrew: *Why did you set up the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East?*

Andrew answered: *I wanted to continue the work that I had started with the Coventry Cathedral Reconciliation centre and my passion is for reconciliation in the Middle East.*

We asked Andrew: *Why is reconciliation so important to you?*

Andrew answered: *Reconciliation is so important because Christians are called to love our enemies, which is what reconciliation is all about.*

Jacob and Esau were sworn enemies but they made peace with each other.



(Choose 4 children to come and stand up, give each one a laminated capital R - or show on PowerPoint)

R 1 = Relationships, Andrew believes that we have to try and make relationships with people we don't get on with (as long as we are safe - they are not continuing to hurt us). He believes it is important to eat with them, drink tea with them; like Jacob who found some sheep to give his brother.

R2 = Risk, Andrew believes that we have to take risks, do difficult things that make us afraid, in order to make peace. His favourite bible verse is.....
'Perfect love drives out fear,' 1 John 4:18. The love of God helps us when we are afraid. Jacob, in our story, had to risk Esau's anger, he was frightened of his older brother, but he found him a gift and made peace with him.

R3 = Relief, Andrew also believes in helping people in trouble which is why he spends so much time with refugees, people who have been kicked out of their homes. At the moment he is very busy helping children whose families have had to run away from Iraq. He is supporting schools for the children who are living in tent cities in Jordan.

R4 = Reconciliation, Reconciliation is loving our enemies. Making peace with them just as Jacob and Esau made peace with each other.

Reflection:

Canon Andrew has to work with many adults who hate each other. Jesus taught people to love people even if they are not their friend; even if they have tried to hurt them. Christians, we also believe that the death of Jesus, someone who didn't do anything wrong, can bring people close to God - reconcile people to God.

Is there anybody we are not friends with at the moment? Possibly, could we take a risk, be brave, and spend some time with them and try to make thing right again?
How would that feel?

Let's spend a minute reflecting on that.



6. Title: The Prison Lady... Elizabeth Fry

Theme: Compassion - Helping others

Story (Bible reference): Matthew 25:34-40

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 & KS2

Resources:

- Union flag
- £5 note
- Images of Elizabeth Fry and 3 other famous women. E.g. Lady Gaga, Queen Victoria, Tess Daly. Either large pictures of each, or a PowerPoint slide with all 4 on one slide. Label them a), b) etc.

Introduction:

Show £5 note.

Whose picture is on it? The Queen is on one side, but who is on the other side?

Is it picture a), b), c) or d)?

Ask what the children know about the first three.

Put your hand up if you know anything about Elizabeth Fry? It is likely that very few hands will be raised.

Isn't it interesting that we see pictures of Elizabeth Fry quite often when we spend money, but most of us don't know much about her.

Main Content:

Put up PowerPoint with a picture and the following facts:

- Born in 1780
- Born in Norfolk
- Married a man called Joseph Fry
- Had 11 children
- A Quaker
- Taught by her mother to help people who were poor

Show four cards with the following written on. You can get children to come and hold the cards:

- Sick children
- Homeless people
- People in prison
- Animals

Ask the children to vote on which of these they would most want to help? (You won't be able to get a proper count, but roughly estimate which has the most hands. You could get a teacher or an older pupil to do this bit.) Which do they think Elizabeth helped?

Actually, Elizabeth spent her time helping everyone she could. The only one of these that Elizabeth Fry is not famous for helping is animals, though I'd be very surprised if she didn't help them at times too.

The main thing Elizabeth did was to help people in prison especially women and children.

You might wonder why there were children in prison. If their mother was sent to prison, the children went too. Prisons were dreadful places in those days but no-one cared because they thought that prisoners didn't matter. Elizabeth believed that she needed to be like Jesus who thought that everyone mattered. So she visited the prison, took food and clothes but most importantly she started classes so that the women could get an



education. She lived before the time that school was free in Britain, so most poor people didn't know how to read or write, let alone some of the things you learn in school today. By teaching some basics to the prisoners, Elizabeth Fry was helping the women get a proper job when they came out of prison. She took other women with her and they got involved in helping too. She became well-known. Queen Victoria admired what she did and Elizabeth was able to speak to parliament. What she did changed things for all prisoners.

(If time you could then talk about how she also set up shelters for homeless people and started a school to train nurses, who until that time had no training.)

Elizabeth Fry reminds me about some words Jesus said. While talking about God in Heaven gathering all the people together at the end of time he said:

“Then the King will say to the people on his right, ‘Come, my Father has given you his blessing. Receive the kingdom God has prepared for you since the world was made. I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

“Then the good people will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?’

“Then the King will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.’

Matthew 25:34-40 (New Century Version)

Reflection:

How was Elizabeth following what Jesus said? She showed compassion. It's a word that gets used sometimes, but I wonder if you know what it means?

Isn't just about feeling sorry for someone, it's about feeling sorry enough to want to help. We can't do what Elizabeth did but there are ways that we can show compassion. Who can we show compassion to today? Think of someone who might need your help - what can you do?

Prayer: (If appropriate)

Dear God; Thank you for people who show compassion to others. Please help us to learn from them so that we are compassionate too. Amen



7. Title: The Street Pastor... Les Isaac

Theme: Street Pastors, Respecting individual liberty, Caring, listening, helping

Story (Bible reference): Ruth and Naomi (The book of Ruth)

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 & KS2

Resources:

- Union flag
- Pair of flip-flops.

Introduction:

Under the Union flag have a pair of flip-flops.

Discuss who might need a pair of flip-flops. Every Friday and Saturday night in many towns around the UK there are people who go out onto the street giving flip-flops to people who are finding it very difficult to walk in their high heels after a long evening. They also help people who are unwell, in distress, or in trouble in any way. They work for no pay, really late, until about 3 or 4 in the morning. They are called the Street Pastors.

Main Content:

Show some pictures of Les Isaac and Street Pastors as you tell his story.

Meet Les. Les was born in Antigua, he moved to the UK as a young child in 1965, growing up in north London with his parents. He experienced gangs and street violence in his teens, becoming a Rastafarian in his search for hope. Then in his late teens Les became a Christian. This radical life changing experience inspired him to always seek ways to engage with the same hard-to-reach communities that he came from.

His mission is to train and develop individuals to serve the local community, city, nation and nations of the world.

In 2003 he launched Street Pastors. Street Pastors are people from different churches who train to go out on the streets in towns and cities last at night and sometimes through to the morning. They offer to care, to listen and to help those that they meet on the streets.

Street Pastors has been incredibly well received by the towns that they work in. In many towns the crime level has gone down since Street Pastors started going out on the streets. In fact there was one town where the problems in the town seemed to get so much better that the Police said there was no need for the Street Pastors anymore. The team stopped their patrols and then the crime levels started going up again... the Police quickly asked them to come back!

Story: Ruth and Naomi

Tell the story of Ruth, focusing on the beginning part of the story. **Bob Hartman has a good version (The Lion Storyteller Bible), or there is a good 3 minute video version on YouTube from Phil Vischer's 'What's in the Bible' (<http://youtube.com/watch?v=5Kt0geKYNs4>)**

Ruth could have left Naomi to take care of herself, but instead she went with her and cared for her, she went out to work to provide for her, she showed that she cared by the way she behaved.

Alternative...



For the story use the Lion Children's Bible (as opposed to the Lion Storyteller Bible). You will need to edit it down but I keep the bit where Ruth says 'I will not leave you... ever!' Then in the bit at the end of the story where Boaz is settling the deal with near relation - he gives him a sandal - at which point you can re-introduce one of the flip flops - Boaz sandal was a gesture as too are flip flops given out by Street pastors. They demonstrate and prove commitment, that someone cares. This can be developed into the reflection.

Reflection:

I wonder if you find anything surprising in the story of Ruth?

I wonder what you could do to show that you care for other people? Perhaps you could be a good listener. Perhaps you could always be ready to help others.

Prayer: (If appropriate)

Dear God; Thank you for Christian people like the Les Isaacs, and those people who go out as Street Pastors showing people that you love them by caring, listening and helping. Help us to be people who care about how others too. Amen



8. Title: The Salvation Army people... William and Catherine Booth

Theme: Christmas, Homelessness, Shelters, Salvation Army, Selflessness, Guidance, Giving

Story (Bible reference): The birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-21)

Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)

I showed you in all things that you should work as I did and help the weak. I taught you to remember the words Jesus said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35)

Key Stage Relevance: KS1 & KS2

Resources:

- Union flag
- Nativity set. Most nativity sets are quite small, so an alternative would be to use cardboard cut-outs of each character. This can be built up on a large stable scene using repositionable spray glue or Blutak.
- Pictures of William and Catherine Booth, a Salvation Army band and a night shelter.

<https://www.biblegateway.com>

<http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Sheep>

<http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/history-william-booth>

Introduction:

Beneath the flag have a toy shepherd or sheep from a nativity set. Ask children to guess at what is under the flag.

Discuss what a shepherd or a sheep has to do with Christmas. They came to visit Jesus.

Jesus was born in an area that was famous for its sheep. A lot of the ordinary people in the town were shepherds although it was a dirty job that nobody really wanted to do. The fact that shepherds were chosen to be the first to see Jesus is another reminder to Christians that Jesus was a gift to everyone, even ordinary people like us.

When Jesus grew up he also talked a lot about sheep and shepherds. He told the story of the lost sheep, and Matthew wrote this about the reason Jesus cared for people:

'Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.' Matthew 9:36

Briefly tell the Christmas story using what the children already know about the story. You could use the nativity set as prompts to discuss the story with a couple of volunteers, asking them questions about each character, building up the scene.

At Christmas time we love to give presents to our friends and family, and of course, we love to receive them! But just imagine what it would be like on a cold, snowy Christmas day, having no presents, no home and no food. The Salvation Army is one example of how people work, despite the cold, to help homeless people at Christmas time by providing them with hot food and someone to be with. They also help at other times of the year. They do this as a way of following the example Jesus made for us.



The first Christians did very similar things as is written in a part of the Bible we call the book of Acts, because it tells of all the acts (actions) of the early Church:

"I showed you in all things that you should work as I did and help the weak. I taught you to remember the words Jesus said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " Acts 20:35 (New Century Version)

Main Content:

The Salvation Army is a large Church founded by William and Catherine Booth in 1865. William Booth was born in 1829 in Nottingham, England.

They started out by helping the people that other churches would not welcome, such as people with alcohol issues, and in some cases the people became Christians too. They opened up places to help those in need, such as soup kitchens, even though many people at the time laughed at them.

William and Catherine dedicated their lives to this work is a good example of being selfless, meaning they were concerned more with the needs of others than their own. This is what Christians believe God is like too, and Christians remember at Christmastime that Jesus was sent by God to rescue the world.

Believing in God meant that William and Catherine wanted to start the Salvation Army, in order to share what they believe with others so they, too, can be saved. Because of their work, poor, less privileged people in Britain can be helped in a number of ways, which helps improve the quality of British society and helps us to treat one another in kinder ways.

Reflection:

This Christmas, as we enjoy ourselves and open presents, perhaps we can think about those who have less than us. If you pass a Salvation Army band playing Christmas carols, they might have a collection box. If you are in the supermarket you might pass a Foodbank box. Perhaps you can see if your grownups would like to give something.

Prayer: (If appropriate)

Dear God; We pray for those in need this Christmastime. For the people who are homeless, those who are hungry, those who are lonely. We pray that you would send people to help them. If any of us are in need, please send someone to help us. Amen