The English Parish Church
Primary Schools Pack

Introduction
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Schools Pack developed by Chris Hudson for the Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture
The complete pack consists of:

- 5 lesson plans with a range of activities
- Material for 3 assemblies or acts of Collective Worship
- Practical guidance on planning a visit to your local church

- It is mostly intended for use with older primary school pupils in Key Stage 2. However, many of the materials could be adapted for use by younger pupils.

- It is intended to help you make the most of using your local parish church as a resource for enquiry-based learning, both in school and on site.

- It has been created to be used with the ‘English Parish Church through the Centuries’ DVD-ROM as this provides a rich source of resource material, – saving you time and trouble!

What’s it for?

This English Parish Church Primary Schools Pack is intended to get you using your local parish church as a resource for enquiry-based learning, both in school and on site. It has been created to be used with the ‘English Parish Church through the Centuries’ DVD-ROM as this provides a rich source of resource material, much of which is unavailable elsewhere. It can still be used without it, but we would encourage you to purchase the DVD-ROM for your school because of its wealth of background detail, easily accessible images and multimedia resources that can be used in a variety of ways – saving you time and trouble!
What’s more, many local churches will be only too happy to help a school buy something which will help children to use the building and the story of the local church as a resource for exploration and learning.

Who is it for?

The content is mostly intended for use with older primary school pupils in **Key Stage 2**. However, many of the materials could be adapted for use by younger pupils – for which teachers should exercise their own professional judgement. We have allowed for some level of differentiation, but staff should always consider the needs of their own pupils, and adapt the content and tasks accordingly to suit their own teaching situation. When the lesson material suggests a range of **Class Activities** using different teaching styles (Class Activity 1, 2, etc), then please be selective – and do not try to do everything! To help differentiation by age or ability, the Class Activities are generally presented in increasing order of complexity.
About this resource

Learning about parish churches in a primary school

What’s on it?

The DVD-ROM is a powerful interactive encyclopedia, detailing the stories of every aspect of English parish life from the early beginnings right up to the present day. Its information and graphics can be displayed on your classroom whiteboard, and its audio resources played on loudspeakers. The More Able primary pupils will be able to use it by themselves, but it will greatly inform your own teaching not only of RE, but of local history too, opening your eyes to the educational possibilities of your local parish church and giving you an opportunity to fulfil part of your Learning Outside the Classroom agenda in your immediate area.

What do I do next?

Naturally, you will need to get informed about your local parish church before exploring it with children. Some of this might have already been done for you by other teachers, other schools, a member of the parish, or a local history buff. It’s worth finding out what is already available before you start digging deeper, but if it hasn’t been done before, then you and your pupils will be...
About this resource

Using the DVD-ROM

beginning something wonderfully new that can be built on by the teachers who follow you. The DVD-ROM has an article (‘Researching the History of a Parish Church’) which is a very good starting point and tells you the kind of material to look out for.

JUST INSERT THE DISK INTO YOUR PC/LAPTOP, and follow the instructions. Expect a short wait as it loads - there’s a lot of material. Once loaded, you will discover two main routes for finding information or browsing around a topic.

EXPLORE – The red-and-blue-wheel allows you to access a series of articles grouped by theme through given historical periods. All these articles have links that take you into further articles, lots of images and an instant access Glossary.

FIND IT:
Start at EXPLORE THE RESOURCE ▶ Churches to the Present Day ▶ Researching the History of a Parish Church
About this resource

Using the DVD-ROM

RESOURCE CENTRE – this comprises:
• *Encyclopedia*, with all the glossary terms, which can be selected and saved to form your own glossary for a topic or project.
• *Gallery* containing all the images, audio, video and 3-D modeling files found on the DVD.
• *Case Studies* of particular churches, with a map to show where they are.
• *‘Saint Finder’*, where you can enter details of an image and find out which saints it might represent.
• *Original texts* and *Bibliography* – titles in which can also be selected and saved to create a specialist bibliography for yourself.

*More Able Pupils* will be able to access some of this content if they are given clear instructions and suitable avenues for enquiry. Note that the Resource section has its own search engine which is particularly useful for finding resources on a set theme., e.g. searches for ‘font’ will provide images, books and examples of the use of the term.

After that, *pick a topic* you already know something about, and *browse* your way around what’s available. This will inform you about the depth of material covered on the DVD. Especially look at any Case Studies of churches in your local area. If you get
lost in your researches through the resource, the simplest way to retrace your steps is to use the Page History buttons, found towards the top of the page, in the centre.

The DVD can be used individually by the More Able pupils with guidance, but is principally intended to provide you with useful resources to enhance lessons in a range of subjects. These include:

**History**

Any studies in the primary school topics below will find the following sections useful for information and audio-visuals. Many are unique to this resource. All images can be extracted from the DVD and saved as PDF files for use on whiteboards or worksheets.

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Using the Resources in School (continued)

Art

The Gallery contains nearly 2000 images, many from national and international museums and galleries, such as the British Museum, the V&A and the British Library. It includes many examples of artworks such as paintings, stained glass, sculpture, textiles, illuminated manuscripts and metalwork as well as a host of other objects and building details. The ability to enlarge images and project onto a screen allows the design details of tiny artefacts to be studied and the styles of an individual period to be compared across different media.

The 3D Models animation takes you through interior and exterior views of a virtual church building under continual development and refurbishment from the 7th to the 15th century.

Music

There are many audio-files of sacred music from the classical choral tradition as well as Anglo-Saxon plainsong, bell-ringing and an example of rural seventeenth-century style psalm singing!
Religious Education

The DVD-ROM content provides useful stimulus material for any questions about Christian belief and practice in the life of the English Parish Church, and the lessons provided here develop this further by adding a reflective element, linking selected materials from the DVD with relevant stories and Bible passages.

See also the ‘Saint Finder’ In the Resources section – which could be used by children to research the lives and folklore surrounding saints.
The English Parish Church Primary Schools Pack has been created for the Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture at the University of York by Chris Hudson (Barnabas for Children team member, Bible Reading Fellowship). Chris is an experienced primary teacher, subject leader and educational author.

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The Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture:

The Centre was founded in 1999 to support teaching and research through books and international conferences, and the provision of cultural tools to help students engage with literature, history, art, architecture and music significantly influenced by Christian thought and spirituality.

The Centre has produced a range of resources, including two CD-ROMS (Images of Salvation: the Story of the Bible through Medieval Art’ and ‘Pilgrims and Pilgrimage: journey, spirituality and daily life through the centuries’) as well as ‘The English Parish Church through the Centuries: daily life & spirituality, art & architecture, literature & music’. Grant funding means that these resources can be made available at very affordable prices. The books and interactive resources created by Christianity and Culture are now used worldwide in universities and schools and by a general audience.

Christianity and Culture also works with important historic churches to bring recent research to life through interpretation schemes which will help people of all ages and backgrounds understand and enjoy these remarkable buildings and the stories which they hold.

We welcome your feedback on this Schools Pack and would like to create a forum where teaching approaches, experiences and projects can be shared online.
Barnabas for Children exists to support teaching and learning about Christianity, Spirituality and the Bible in primary schools, and to support children's work both in the Church and the home.

www.barnabasinschools.org.uk

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