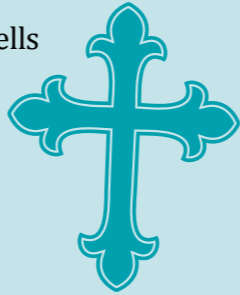


Go explore your local church!

There are a huge variety of different church buildings around the Diocese of Bath & Wells and there's probably at least one near to where you live. Many of them are open for to visitors every day of the week during daylight hours. Why not go and visit your local church and take this pull-out guide to help you explore the building?



Exploring the physical building As you have a look around the church...

How many crosses can you spot?

Discuss: why do we have a cross as a symbol?

Can you find out how old the building is?

Think: people have come here regularly to pray and worship ever since it opened!

How many people do you think could be seated in this building?

Remember: a 'church' is a group of people rather than just a building or a service.

Exploring faith in the building Can you find the following things?

The font

this is used for baptisms and holds the water used to symbolically wash us clean.

Pulpit and Lectern

these are where the Bible is read from and explained.

The altar

this is where communion is celebrated, the bread and wine are laid out here and then shared as we remember Jesus' death and resurrection.

Organ, piano or other musical instruments

we often worship God using music and songs accompanied by someone playing the organ, piano, guitar or even a whole band.

Bible stories

– can you find any stories from the Bible in the windows, pictures, banners or carvings?



Have a go at drawing something you've seen in the church

Exploring the building with our senses Take a bit of time to explore the building with your senses. Try this...

How does it feel to be in this building?
What words would you use to describe it?



Find somewhere to sit

Have a good look around you and up at the ceiling. Listen to the noises around you and then to your breathing. Take a few deep breathes and sit quietly for a minute or two. Use the time to say a prayer (whatever comes to mind) or just to rest in God's presence.

Write a short sentence or poem to describe your visit to the church building

Is there a visitors' book you can write in before you leave?

Are there other church buildings in your area that you could visit?

Or how about the cathedral in Wells – go online at www.wellscathedral.org.uk for more info.



Next steps...

Want to find out more about this local church?

Check out the noticeboard, church magazine or website for details of the next family service or Messy Church gathering and how you could get involved.

You can download and print out a copy of this activity sheet at www.bathandwells.org.uk/youth-children-resources