



The Colours of the Church Year: a guide for schools 2025-26



The Anglican Church Year

Anglican churches follow a liturgical calendar. This provides a pattern (liturgy) for worship through the year. As a church school, this provides an ideal opportunity to mirror what is happening in your parish / local church. It also provides a colourful and visual way to mark the festivals throughout the year.

Most churches will use different coloured vestments (a priest's clothing) and altar cloths as signs of the season of the church year. In school, this can be mirrored through simply changing the colour of cloth on the worship table; or theme a whole display using the relevant colours. Soon you will find that the children recognise the colours and their meaning, that when they enter the worship space, they will notice the colours have changed and begin to make links between the seasons and the festivals throughout the year.

The meaning of the colours (dates are coloured on the attached calendar)

Green	Used during 'Ordinary time' between the main festivals and seasons. This covers most of the year and can represent growth.
Red	Used to either mark saints' days where it represents their death as a martyr, or to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit (for Pentecost / Whitsun).
White	Represents being pure, in celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and some funerals. Also used for celebrations either on its own or with gold. It is also used for saints who did not die as martyrs.
Gold	Key celebrations, for example Christmas Day and Easter Sunday. Provision is also made for gold days to be dressed in white.
Purple	Used for times of preparation and waiting, the reflective seasons. Key times are Advent, Lent and occasionally funerals.

The Liturgical Calendar

The attached calendar is designed for the school year 2025-26. The church year starts at the beginning of Advent, and ends with the following Advent, completing a circle as shown on the front page. The colours used in worship are shown on the relevant days, any uncoloured dates are 'white' days. There are **twelve principal feast and holy days** in the church year, these are indicated in bold on the calendar. The main saints' days are also shown, but you do not need to mark all of them. If you use the main colour for the week, you can then pick out the key festivals for your school, especially those that mark a key part in Jesus's life or a transition in the year. You could also celebrate the patron saint's day for your school and /or church. Key festivals such as Christmas and Easter, fall in the holidays, meaning the children don't get to see the gold cloth for celebrations. A good way to mark these festivals would be to change the colour of the cloths as part of your end of term worship for Christmas and Easter. *On the calendar, Sunday's are shown the date in a circle.*



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September 2025						October 2025					
1		12		23		1		12		23	
2		13		24		2		13		24	
3		14	Holy Cross Day	25		3		14		25	
4		15		26		4		15		26	Bible Sunday
5		16		27		5		16		27	
6		17		28		6		17		28	St Simon & St Jude
7	Harvest ***	18		29	Michaelmas	7		18	St Luke the Evangelist	29	
8		19		30		8		19		30	
9		20				9		20		31	
10		21	St Matthew			10		21			
11		22				11		22			

*On Maundy Thursday churches will often be stripped bare of any colour furnishings and decorations (coloured grey on the calendar), reminding us that Jesus was left alone to face the bare wooden cross. Churches will remain bare until Eater Sunday. You can download daily prayers and reading apps from <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps> to support your worship planning. ** Candlemas is also known as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. ***In the 2025 church year, provision is made to celebrate Harvest any time between 7th September and 19th October.



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November 2025						December 2025					
1	All Saints Day	12		23	Christ the King	1		12		23	
2	All Souls' Day	13		24		2		13		24	Christmas Eve
3		14		25		3		14	3rd Sunday of Advent	25	Christmas Day
4		15		26		4		15		26	St Stephen's Day
5		16		27		5		16		27	St John the Evangelist
6		17		28		6		17		28	Holy Innocents
7		18		29		7	2nd Sunday of Advent	18		29	St Egwin
8		19		30	1st Sunday of Advent	8		19		30	
9	Remembrance Sunday	20				9		20		31	
10		21				10		21	4th Sunday of Advent		
11	Remembrance	22				11		22			



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January 2026						February 2026					
1		12		23		1		12		23	
2		13		24		2	Candlemas	13		24	
3		14		25	Conversion of St Paul	3		14		25	
4		15		26		4		15		26	
5		16		27		5		16		27	
6	The Epiphany	17		28		6		17	Shrove Tuesday	28	
7		18		29		7		18	Ash Wednesday		
8	Baptism of Jesus	19		30		8		19			
9		20		31		9		20			
10		21				10		21			
11		22				11		22	1 st Sunday of Lent		



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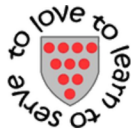
March 2026						April 2026					
1	2 nd Sunday of Lent	12		23		1	Holy Week	12		23	St George
2		13		24		2	Maundy Thursday	13		24	
3		14		25	The Annunciation	3	Good Friday	14	Ascension Day	25	St Mark the Evangelist
4		15	4 th Sunday of Lent	26		4	Easter Saturday	15		26	
5		16		27		5	Easter Sunday	16		27	
6		17		28		6		17		28	
7		18		29	Palm Sunday	7		18		29	
8	3 rd Sunday of Lent	19		30	Holy Week	8		19		30	
9		20		31	Holy Week	9		20			
10		21		15 th March also Mothering Sunday		10		21			
11		22	5 th Sunday of Lent			11		22			



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May 2026						June 2026					
1	St Philip & St James	12		23		1		12		23	
2		13		24	Pentecost	2		13		24	Birth of John the Baptist
3		14	St Matthias	25		3		14		25	
4		15		16		4	Corpus Christi	15		26	
5		16		27		5		16		27	
6		17		28		6		17		28	
7		18		29		7		18		29	St Peter & St Paul
8		19		30		8		19		30	
9		20		31	Trinity Sunday	9		20			
10		21				10		21	Father's Day		
11		22				11	St Barnabas	22			



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July 2026						August 2026					
1		12		23		1		12		23	
2		13		24		2		13		24	St Bartholomew
3	St Thomas the Apostle	14		25	St James the Apostle	3		14		25	
4		15		26		4		15	Blessed Virgin Mary	26	
5		16		27		5		16		27	
6		17		28		6	The Transfiguration	17		28	
7		18		29		7		18		29	
8		19		30		8		19		30	
9		20	St Margaret of Antioch	31		9		20		31	
10		21				10		21			
11		22	Mary Magdalene			11		22			