



The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2026 An act of collective worship for schools

Week 4: Schools – places of hope

This is one of five outlines for Collective Worship written to help schools and churches pray, offer love and hope and encourage giving towards the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2026. The Lent Call supports our brothers and sisters in Christ in our own diocese and in our link dioceses in Zimbabwe and the Diocese of Jerusalem as well as the Middle East.

Bible passage: James 1:2-8,17, 22 and 25

Song:

Christ Be Our Light by Bernadette Farrell
[BBC One, Songs of Praise, St Cuthbert's Church](#)

Gather:

What does hope mean to you?

Engage:

In many ways the world seems quite a troubled place at the moment. What ways does the world seem to be an unhappy place at present?

Some answers may be: there is a lot of people suffering poverty, there is crime happening, there are wars going on in other parts of the world, some people and places are trying to make divisions between people, some people are targeted because of who they are, there are extreme terrorist attacks happening against some groups of people and in some places there is climate injustice and many other forms of injustice.

In fact, the news seems full of bad news and because the news is so accessible, it feels so close to us when we hear what is going on around the world. How does this make you feel?

These can all be very worrying times and it can make us feel like there is nothing that we can do about it, we can feel anxious, helpless and hopeless.

However, there is much more goodness in the world than evil and many more people doing

good things than bad. We often see and hear about these acts of kindness in the worst of times when people are doing good deeds to help people and make the world better. Acts of kindness – no matter how small – are all valuable, they can ripple out and encourage people to spread kindness. Can you think of an act of kindness that you know about which someone has done to make things better?

The Bible teaches us that we should always have hope for things to be better and that praying to God about difficult times and doing the right thing – as God teaches us – will help bring about a better world.

Schools are places of hope where communities of people come together to live well alongside each other. They are made up of people from different backgrounds, but as inclusive places, they aim to value everyone, embracing similarities and differences. Stemming from the school's Christian vision and how it tries to live out that vision day-to-day, schools do not just teach pupils to be good people, but they look after their communities in many ways. Often the schools will provide people with what they may not have and help people when they have no-one else to help. Faithfully, members of the school community will support those going through challenging times.

Schools focus on the experience of pupils and staff today but also look towards creating a bright and happy future in which people are enabled to 'live life in all its fullness', the reason that Jesus said he came for.



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Sending out:

When the world seems hopeless, always try and have hope and spread that out to others.

A moment of reflection for schools:

- Q:** When have you felt hope?
- Q:** What brings you hope?
- Q:** How is your school a place of hope?
- Q:** What words of hope would you give to someone who feels hopeless?
- Q:** What do you think these words from the letter of James in the Bible are teaching us about hope?

²⁵ "But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing."

Respond with a prayer:

*God of hope,
We give you thanks for our school and all the people that make up our community.
When the world is hurting and is sad, please give us strength to stay hopeful and to remember your promise of always being with us.
Thank you for all the hopeful things that our school does to help make the world more like you intended it to be.
Help each of us to always be agents of hope in and out of school.
We ask this through your son's name, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*

