

An Act of Collective Worship for Schools

Week 2: Croydon



A Reflection



- ✝ What do the images and the song *The Streets of London* make you think about?
- ✝ What do you think the man in the picture's story might be?
- ✝ Why is 'Renewed Hope' a good name for the Croydon project?



The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2022: Raising money for the dispossessed
southwark.anglican.org/lentcall



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Theme: Homelessness

Song: The Streets of London by Ralph McTell (bit.ly/3H1bz2m)

Bible passage: Isaiah 32:18

This is the second of five outlines for Collective Worship, written to help schools pray and offer love and the hope that "...people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest" (Isaiah 32:18) and to encourage giving towards the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2022. The Lent Call supports our brothers and sisters in Christ here in the Diocese of Southwark, within our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Gather...

Have an image of homelessness on the streets of London displayed.

Remind the pupils and adults present about last week's first Collective Worship on the theme of homelessness. Introduce how this series of Collective Worship through Lent are all focusing on homelessness locally and internationally as part of the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call this year.

Explain what the Lent Call is: each year, during Lent, Bishop Christopher calls us, as the Anglican Church in the Diocese, to pray and raise funds for local community projects in Southwark and our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and Jerusalem. In 2022, the theme is "home", and we are asked to pray for and raise money to support projects helping those in need of shelter, security and a place to call home.

Engage...

Ask the pupils what they think homelessness means. Where have they seen homeless people? How do they think people become homeless?

Ensure that their awareness is broadened out to understand that homeless people means any people who don't have a home. Homeless people are often living on the streets, but homelessness can also include people who are staying in a night shelter, hostel or temporarily sleeping on a friend's sofa, etc.

Help pupils to understand that homeless people are not bad people and have usually not done anything bad to become homelessness.

Often people have had unfortunate and difficult things happen to them like losing their job, becoming very ill, a relationship breakdown, escaping from violence or another dangerous situation which has led to them not being able to afford their home any more or losing their home for another reason.

Obviously please be sensitive to the age and backgrounds of the pupils so as not to worry them about what could happen to them and their families.

In the Croydon Episcopal Area, one of the projects for the homeless that the Lent Call is supporting is called Renewed Hope. This is a drop-in centre which provides a warm and welcoming place for the homeless, vulnerable and isolated to come and chat, have a free meal and make new friends. Volunteers and staff also help the guests to find permanent housing.

Read the Bible passage and consider how Renewed Hope is bringing hope to God's people.

Respond...

Watch and reflect on the video of Ralph McTell's song *Streets of London*.

Prayer...

Heavenly Father, we pray today for all women and men who are homeless this day. For those sleeping under bridges, on park benches, in doorways or bus stations outside high street shops and many other inappropriate places. For those who can only find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime. For families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent. For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in. For those who have no place to keep possessions that remind them who they are. For those who are afraid and feel hopeless. For those who have been let down by our social safety net.

For all these people, we pray that you will provide shelter, security and hope. We pray that those of us with warm homes not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness.

Jesus, help us to see your face in the eyes of every person experiencing homelessness who we meet so that we may be empowered through word and deed, and by your grace, to bring justice and peace to those who are homeless. **Amen.**

Adapted from: Homeless Sunday – A Selection of Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and Scriptures