

# An Act of Collective Worship for Schools

Week 3: Kingston



## A Reflection



- † What would you put in your bag if you were leaving home?
- † How can you show welcome and love to those without a home?
- † In the Christmas story, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were refugees. What does this teach us about God coming amongst us?
- † What is your prayer that you bring before God for refugees?



The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2022: Raising money for the dispossessed  
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**Theme: Homelessness**

**Song: All I Once Held Dear ([bit.ly/3uVhWIB](https://bit.ly/3uVhWIB))**

**Bible passage: Isaiah 32:18**

*This is the third 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...

Introduce the Collective Worship as another reflecting on homelessness for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call.

Have a slide displayed of a person's bag from the PowerPoint of What's in my Bag? available from the Diocese of Guildford at: [bit.ly/36qOmu9](https://bit.ly/36qOmu9)

Sing the worship song *All I Once Held Dear*.

### Engage...

*Be sensitive about what is most appropriate to use with pupils depending on their age and personal experiences. Some of your pupils may have experienced being a refugee; they will need extra support.*

Ask the pupils and adults present about what they hold dear and why. Imagine if they once held it dear, but had had to leave it behind and did not have it with them anymore.

Sadly that is what happens to refugees who have to flee their home and move to another country very quickly because where they lived was dangerous and they have to escape for their safety.

Ask the pupils what they know about refugees.

There are thousands of refugees across the world who make long, arduous and risky journeys looking for a new place of safety to call home. They travel light because they don't have much money and have to find ways of travelling a long distance amidst many perils.

They may be detained or shot at. Smugglers routinely exploit them, promising safety for a price, only to squeeze them like sardines into tiny boats. Most have no option but to shed whatever meagre belongings they may have salvaged from their journeys. Those allowed to bring extra baggage aboard often toss it overboard, frantically dumping extra weight as the leaky boats take on water. Few arrive at their destinations with anything but the bare necessities of life.

The International Rescue Committee asked a mother, a child, a teenager, a pharmacist, an artist and a family of 31 to share the contents of their bags and show us what they managed to hold on to from their homes. Their possessions tell stories about their past and their hopes for the future. Explore the PowerPoint of these stories with the pupils and adults.

Refugees that come to England are homeless, at least when they first arrive. They need help. In the Kingston Episcopal Area, Glass Door is a charity which helps many refugees and other homeless people, many of whom have been turned away from other services.

### Respond...

Consider how a central Christian belief is that all people are precious to God and so we are called to look after each other, particularly the vulnerable.

### Prayer...

Almighty and merciful God,  
whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;  
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.  
Bless those who work to bring them relief;  
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;  
and guide the nations of the world towards that day  
when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*From The Church of England*