

Assemblies 2018-19

Week beginning	Theme	SMSC Focus	Christian Values/Links
3 rd September	New beginnings	Sp/M/C	<p>The story of Moses and the burning bush, focussing on the fact that Moses had messed up in Egypt and run away but God still had a job for him to do. He could start again with his people!</p> <p>Suggestion: use ribbons on a stick to show the fire, waved about - a child pretending to be the bush.</p>
11 th September	First Impressions, help and support	So/M/C	<p>“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (Matt. 7:1-5).</p>
17 th September	Yom Kippur	So	<p>Leviticus 16. The account there is full of a lot of “Old Testament language” about priests, sacrifices, offerings, and (literal) scapegoats—things that might feel foreign to modern Christians. But in describing the process by which God granted the people of Israel forgiveness for their sins (through an annual ceremony of sacrifice), it very directly foreshadows the manner in which Jesus Christ would one day sacrifice himself for <i>our</i> sins</p>
24 th September	The importance of getting to know someone	So/C	<p>1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.</p>
1 st October	Equal but different	Sp/M	<p>God's word is very clear in telling us that all men are created equal and every single person can be a child of God, receiving the full inheritance of heaven. We can look toward the Bible to learn how to love and serve everyone no matter what their age, colour, or ethnicity.</p> <p>Romans 1:2 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.</p>
8 th October	World Mental Health Day	Sp/So	<p>Psalm 57:1 “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by”. Psalm 91 Assurance of God’s Protection</p>
15 th October	Homelessness, not everyone has a home	So/M	<p>Isiah 58:7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?</p>

			Luke 14 13-14 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.
29 th October	Everyone is a winner	Sp	Matthew 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first last.”
5 th November	Divali	Sp/C	"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105
12 th November	Remembrance Day	M/C	John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” There is no higher expression of love than to give up your very life – to be willing to leave family and friends behind, knowing death is imminent. To the many brave heroes who have gone before, thank you for your sacrifice of love.
19 th November	Keeping Safe	So/M	Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. Psalm 16.1
26 th November	Internet Safety	M	
3 rd December	Advent	Sp/C	
10 th December	Hanukkah	Sp/C	Jesus Celebrates Hanukkah The Lord Jesus observed the celebration of Hanukkah in the Temple during the winter of AD 29 (Jn 10:22–39). Just prior to this account in John 10, the Apostle John gives two “illustrations” (10:6) of Jesus as the Good Shepherd (10:1–5 and 10:7–10) and records Jesus’ interpretation of these parables (10:11–18).
17 th December	The Christmas Story	Sp	
7 th January	World Braille Day...what is it like to not see?	Sp/M/So	In the New Testament Jesus frequently made comparison between those who were physically blind and those who were spiritually blind. The phrase ‘The blind leading the blind’ is a reference to Christians not acting in a way that would lead non-believers astray, acting in a hypocritical way.
14 th January	Martin Luther King Day	Sp/C	Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
21 st January	Self-Motivation	M	Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,
28 th January	Sharing	So/M	1 Corinthians 13:2-4 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even <u>sacrificed my body</u> , I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud
4 th February	Hope	Sp/M	Jeremiah 29:11. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
11 th February	Chinese New Year	Sp/C	The Bible says that “if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone. The new is here” (2 Cor 5:17). A new life begins when our sins

			<p>are washed away and we receive the new life that Jesus gives us. Hence, the Lunar Chinese New Year should remind Christians to put away sinful habits and live the new life, a life that is holy, filled with meaning that comes from living to please our Lord Jesus Christ. Are you holding on to some sinful habits? It's time to spring clean your life and make a decision to put away sin. Are you living your life the way that Jesus your Lord wants you to? It's time to make some changes. Make plans and do the things that your Lord desires. It can be a resolution to be faithful and punctual for Sunday Worship Service. If you are not regular in your Quiet Time, decide on a place, time, and Bible book and start keeping your Quiet Time with your Lord.</p>
25 th Feb	Fair Trade Fortnight	So/C	<p>Prayer Praying for Fair Trade allows us to bring trade issues before God, asking that God's love and justice will transform the rules and practices of trade. We pray that God will assist those suffering because of unfair trade ... those developing new ways of trading ... those making choices about what they sell or buy.</p>
4 th Mar	Lent International Women's Day	So/M/C/Sp	<p>Matthew 6 16-18 When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.</p> <p>Hildegard Von Bingham 1098-1179. One of the first women to write about science and scripture. German and an Abess.</p>
11 th Mar	Vaisakhi Day	Sp/C	<p>Spring may be slow this year, but the cold and damp have not prevented Sikhs taking to the streets. The mid-April feast of Vaisakhi commemorates the foundation of the Khalsa, the Sikh 'community of the pure' in the city of Anandpur in 1699. Places like Southall, where I live in west London, quickly become choked with revellers as the holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib, is paraded through the town. As the procession leaves the Gurdwara, the silence is rent with exploding fireworks and the shouting of the Panjabi word <i>Waheguru</i> – 'wonderful God!'</p> <p>It's a word which punctuates Sikh prayer - a word of praise, an exclamation born of wonder and delight. What I have always enjoyed about my engagement with Sikhs is this sense of deep devotion – <i>bhakti</i>, loving and loyal participation in God – which pervades the tradition. <i>Sikhi</i> – 'discipleship', to give the tradition its proper designation – reminds me that there is more to the life of true holiness, and certainly more to the concept of God, than a formula of words, however venerable and exalted. To utter that word 'God' is not to set out the terms of a metaphysical treatise which would serve as an explanation of things but to make an act of faith which stirs the heart</p>

			and touches the soul.
18 th Mar	International Day of Happiness	Sp/M/So	Matthew 5:3 Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need, since the Kingdom of the heavens belongs to them
25 th March	Mothing Sunday	So/C	Extract/bible reference to come.
1 st April	Easter	Sp/C	
22 nd April	Earth Day	Sp/C	Exodus 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.
29 th April	Belonging	So/M	Luke 15 3: The story of the lost sheep
6 th May	World Red Cross Day	So/C	Like so many institutions, organizations, and benevolent agencies, the Red Cross had its origin in the Christian Faith. The Christian faith of banker and businessman, Henry Dunant, was the impetus behind the compassion that has been and continues to be extended to millions around the world.
13 th	Respect	So/M	Matthew 7:12 So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
20 th May	Tolerance...what do we mean to tolerate?	So/M	Colossians 3 12-23 Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you
3 rd June	Eid al-Fitr	Sp/C	This is the message from British churches to the Muslim community: <i>The Christian churches send greetings of peace and prayers for God's blessing on our Muslim neighbours on the occasion of 'Id ul-Fitr (Eid). We recognise this as a day of good news and celebration - the fast has been completed and the feast begins!</i>
10 th June	Good manners	So/M	Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
17 th June	World Refugee Day	So/M/C	1. Treat Refugees the Way You Want to Be Treated <i>When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33-34)</i>
24 th Jun	Kindness	So/M	It is natural for us to be kind to those closely related to us, for kindness basically means affection arising from kinship. * However, kindness is fundamentally a divine quality. Jesus said that his heavenly Father is kind not only to those who love Him but also "toward the unthankful." Jesus urged his followers to imitate God in this regard: "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." — <u>Luke 6:35;</u>
1 st Jul	Moving on	Sp/So	Whether it's moving on from a past relationship, past disappointments, or past sin, remember God

			has a plan for you. His plan for you is not in the past it's in the future. Christians are a new creation through Christ. Your old life is gone. Now it's time to move forward. Imagine if Peter, Paul, David, and more never moved on from their past. They would not have moved on to do great things for the Lord.
8 th Jul	Celebrate	Sp/So	<p>How can we live a life of celebration? Celebration is an essential aspect of one's spiritual life. Richard Foster in his classic book, <i>Celebration of Discipline</i>, said this:</p> <p>Celebration is central to all the Spiritual Disciplines. Without a joyful spirit of festivity the Disciplines become dull, death-breathing tools in the hands of modern Pharisees.¹</p> <p>We see celebration not only here in Nehemiah 12, as Israel dedicated the wall, but we also see celebration throughout the Bible. The shepherds, wise men, and angels celebrated the birth of Jesus with gifts, songs, and prayer. God gave Israel many celebrations in the Old Covenant such as the Feast of Booths, year of Jubilee, etc. In the New Covenant, he has given us the Lord's Supper and baptism. We also see future celebrations such as the wedding of the Lamb and the wedding feast with Abraham</p>
15 th Jul	Ends are new beginnings	Sp/So	