

Nottingham St Peter with St James

Worship with music



heritage learning welcome

Aim: To explore the contrast of noise and quiet inside and outside the church

Objective: To explore the use of music in Christian worship

Curriculum links:

KS1 Using art and music

KS2 Symbols and religious expression

Activity: The children will see how music makers have been portrayed in church and experience the power of music and art to invoke feelings.

Resources: You may need some music, a print out of a psalm or materials to make musical instruments

Information for Leader

This session is inspired by the statues of angels making music on both sides of the chancel screen and in the upper sections of the east window.

The section on *Worship Traditions* in the *Primary Pack* gives further ideas for exploring music in Christian worship.



Introduction (10 mins)

- Meet the children outside and ask them to listen to the noise of the city. What can they hear? Explain that you want them to walk into the church and not say anything, but to sit down and continue listening.
- After the children have sat quietly for a minute ask them to tell a friend how it feels to be inside the church. What could they hear? Ask a few children to share their thoughts with the rest of the group.

Activity (30 mins)

- When it is quiet Christians sometimes feel closer to God. Sometimes they want to respond to God and make a noise. They like to sing and make music for God. There are examples of people making music in this church. Give the children five minutes to walk around and look for pictures or statues of music being made. They could see how many different instruments they can find, and how many of those they find they can name.
- Ask a few children to share what they have found.
- Choose from the following activities as appropriate:
 - Arrange for someone to play the organ to the children. What do different notes make them think of? What do different styles of music make them feel like?
 - Sing a song together – ask the school first for a song they know well. How does it sound in this space? Is this different to singing in the classroom?
 - Ask one child to sing. Again listen to the quality of the sound. How does it sound in this space?
 - Ask the school beforehand if there are one or two children who could play a musical instrument in church for the rest of the group to listen to.

- Younger children could make simple musical instruments to use to accompany a song at the end of the session.
- Many Psalms describe praising God with different instruments. Print out the words for one of these and read it out loud together. The children could then draw some of the images they found in church as illustrations. Psalms 81(verses 1-5), 92(verses 1-4), 98(verses 1-6), 150, would be good for this.

Plenary (5 mins)

- Invite the children to sit where they can see one of the modern windows, or the triptych behind the altar. Play some gentle music (on the organ or use a CD). Ask the children to allow the music and the image to speak to them. What do they say?

Extension

Look up the representations of music at the following churches:

- <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/bingham/hfitting.php> a section of a painting of Psalm 150
- <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/bleasby/hglass.php> a window showing Jesus with two angels who are playing musical instruments
- <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/whatton/hglass.php> a couple of windows that have angels playing musical instruments

Compare these with what the children saw at St Peter's.