



SCHOOL ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FOR LENT 2012 - EDUCATION.

This is one of 5 outlines for Collective Worship written to help schools pray and give towards the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2012 to support our link dioceses in Zimbabwe and social outreach in Southwark

A service of thanksgiving for Diocesan church schools' contributions to the appeal will be held at Southwark Cathedral 11-00 on 25 April 2012. To book places contact:

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FOCUS: THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND HELPING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CENTRAL ZIMBABWE

It is recommended that schools display a map and flag <http://www.merriam-webster.com/maps/zimbabwe.html> as well as Lent Call pictures and information provided by Southwark diocese.

THEME: THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION.

Ask the pupils to think about something that they have learnt this year so far that they could not do beforehand.

Then ask them to think of some of the many things that they have learnt in their school since they first joined it.

Ask the pupils what education means to them. Why is education important? How has education been important for them in their lives so far? Why will education be important for them today? How will education be important for them in laying the foundations for the future?

When the pupils woke up this morning, they may have thought, "Oh no, another school day!" But consider how fortunate we are to have this free education. Share with the pupils the fact that there are many children in the world who are not as lucky as us in having a free education for all our childhood. We come to school for at least 12 years and can even stay for a few years more if we want to! In Zimbabwe, children spend, on average, 9 years in education.

In some parts of Zimbabwe that are extremely poor such as Masvingo, some schools have virtually no furniture and children have to sit on the floor all the time during lessons. Also some of the schools have no computers and anyone from the school who wants to use a computer has to walk for 2 hours to the nearest village with a computer to use one. The people in Zimbabwean schools do not have many resources, but they do have a passion for learning.

"Teach children how they should live and they will remember it all their life." (Proverbs 22:6)

Thinking about this proverb from the Bible, what have the pupils learnt about how to live that they will remember all their lives? Why is this important to remember all their lives?

How does this relate to helping education in Zimbabwe and children in that country learn how they should live so that they will remember it all their lives?

Song: "While We Live, We Learn." (Song 3, All About Our School, Come and Praise, BBC.)

We can use the words as a prayer for our brothers and sisters in central Zimbabwe. We are raising money to send to them because many people do not have a well equipped school children can get to every day. We can give money and we can pray for God's help. Sing through once then one verse at a time with a time of silence followed by the words in boxes read by a pupil:

Dear God, we pray that the Lent Call projects will help the school children and teachers with the difficulties they face having enough books and equipment and nice buildings to learn and live in. We pray that the children and teachers in Zimbabwe will learn that you can be a close friend to them and we pray that they will draw near to you and learn to trust you in everything.