



SCHOOL ACT OF WORSHIP FOR LENT 2012- MINISTRY.

This is one of 5 outlines for collective worship written to help schools pray and give towards the Southwark Diocesan Lent Call Appeal 2012 to support our link dioceses in Zimbabwe. 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: shaun.burns@southwark.anglican.org

FOCUS: THINKING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE FEEL CALLED TO MINISTRY IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND DEVELOP THEIR VOCATION.

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: MINISTRY.

Pupils to be given a chance to understand what is meant by the term 'vocation'. They could think about a time when they have had really strong feelings to do something. Where do they think these feelings have come from? What have they done about them? You could then go on to develop this by considering those people who are called to different roles ie Christian ministry where they are asked to lead others in their life of faith, following and serving and living by the role model of Jesus. Where do the pupils think this calling comes from? This 'work' is not just a job, but a way of life that comes from a strong feeling within them. This is also known as a 'vocation' and pupils could unpack what this term means.

Can pupils name anyone who follows their vocation? They could talk about members of the clergy whom they know but also consider others ie teachers; doctors; nurses or other jobs in which someone feels they are 'called' to follow. How do they think a person develops their vocation? What does a person need to develop their vocation? Pupils could think about the vicar who comes into school (or their own church vicar, minister or other religious leader) and design a questionnaire to interview him/her. They could meet with the vicar face to face or use ICT tools to find out the answer to their questions.

This year as part of the Bishop's Lent Call appeal we are raising money in order to help those in Zimbabwe who are training to be ministers to have an Anglican training college of their own. Bishop Gaul House has been there for a long time but it has been closed. It is now reopened, but does not have a chapel and so it can't function fully.

We want to raise money so that those training for ministry at Bishop Gaul House, and elsewhere, can develop their full vocation and go on to minister in different churches throughout our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

The Bible teaches about ministry in these verses:

Matthew 4:19 Jesus said 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.'

Matthew 28:19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.

The following questions may help pupils to think about Christian ministry.

- How does the Bible support someone who decides to work as a Christian minister?
- Which type of people might a Christian minister work with?

Song: Here I am Lord.

Dear God, We pray for ministers in central Zimbabwe and here in the Southwark Diocese. We ask that you give them support in developing their vocation and carrying out their Christian ministry, especially when they are faced with challenging situations. We thank you for the gifts which ministers have and for their work within the worldwide Christian community. Amen