

Halam St Michael

Life of Christ in stained glass windows



heritage learning welcome

Aim: To explore key events in the life of Christ

Objective: To recognise the events portrayed in the windows at St Michael's and the relevant Bible passages or stories.

Curriculum links:

KS1 Story: how and why some stories are sacred and important in religion

KS2 Symbols and religious expression: how religious and spiritual ideas are expressed

Activity: The children will look at the windows in church and match them up with the appropriate Bible stories.

Resources: 7 Bibles – Good News would be a good version or, the appropriate version of the Bible stories from below

Information for Leader

The activity is given in different ways so it can be used by children of different ages and abilities – you might like to check with the school first which would be most suited to the children you are working with.

The windows and Bible passages, in chronological order, are:

Annunciation	Luke 1:26-35	Nave – north side
Visitation	Luke 1:39-56	Nave – north side
Nativity	Luke 2:8-20	Nave – north side
Transfiguration	Luke 9:28-30	South aisle – west end
Crucifixion	Luke 23:44-49	East window
Resurrection	Matthew 28:1-4 and Mark 16:5	East window
Ascension	Luke 24:50-51	South aisle – west end



Introduction (10 mins)

- Allow the children time to arrive, take off their coats, sit down and have a look around. Introduce yourself with your name and four significant events in your life (marriage, children, education, met the queen, job . . .) Ask the children to share with a partner four significant events in their lives (birth of sibling, starting school, winning a prize, joining football team . . .)
- Ask two or three children to share their four events. Ask them how they remember and celebrate these events – are there photographs or certificates in their homes?

Activity (40 mins)

- The life of Jesus could be told as a series of significant events. Because these are significant, Christians want to remember them and so, in the past, they have had windows made to help everyone remember. In this church there are seven windows that remember a significant event in Jesus' life. Divide the children into seven groups. Give them one of the following and then ask them to read the passage and then find the window that shows the events they have read about:
 - A list of the Bible passages
 - Bibles with the passages found and marked (use a paper with the reference as a bookmark)
 - The Bible passages written out
 - The stories of the seven events
- When they have found their window, ask each group to take a character or animal from that window and write their accounts of the events portrayed.
- When they have finished bring the group back together and listen to the accounts written by each group as you stand together and look at the appropriate window.

Plenary (10 mins)

- Discuss the order in which these events happened in the life of Christ. (Older children may work this out for themselves, younger children will need to be guided through this).

List of Bible references

Luke 1:26-35

Luke 1:39-56

Luke 2:8-20

Luke 9:28-30

Luke 23:44-49

Matthew 28:1-4 and Mark 16:5

Luke 24:50-51

Bible passages



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Luke 1:26-35

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Luke 9:28-30

²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus.

Luke 23:44-49

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." ⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Matthew 28:1-4 and Mark 16:5

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

Luke 24:50-51

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Bible stories



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Annunciation

Mary was a young lady and an angel came to her at home and said, 'You are going to have a baby, and you will call him Jesus.' Mary was frightened and knelt down on the floor.

Visitation

Mary had heard that she would have a baby and he would be called Jesus. She went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth and they had a long talk about what was going to happen.

Nativity

Jesus was born in a stable with all the animals watching. The shepherds came to visit him.

Transfiguration

Jesus and three of his friends went up a mountain. While they were there the friends fell asleep. Moses and Elijah (special friends of God from before Jesus was born) came to see Jesus on the mountain and they talked about what was going to happen.

Crucifixion

Jesus died on a cross with some of his friends nearby.

Resurrection

After Jesus died, he came alive again. The soldiers who supposed to be guarding his tomb had fallen asleep. Jesus was dressed in beautiful white clothes.

Ascension

Jesus went up to heaven with the angels.