



Notes to Teachers and Carers to accompany the 'Wondering about the Christmas Story' film

This film is designed to develop a sense of awe and wonder about Christmas. As we look forward to Christmas, we welcome you to Wells Cathedral and invite you to join us on a reflective journey involving a story about Advent and a chance to explore the cathedral for clues about the Christmas story. Katherine from Time to Wonder Reflective Storytelling is joining us today to lead us on the journey. Please read the notes below before watching the film.

Preparation: Advent is all about preparation and the film will have more impact if the children are suitably prepared to go on a reflective journey. Make sure that the children are comfortable and explain that they are about to go on a journey to Wells Cathedral to think about Advent and Christmas. The film is made up of two parts; a reflective story about Advent, and an exploration of the Christmas story through looking at the glass, carvings and textiles in the cathedral itself. If you wish, you could split the film into two sections and listen to the story in one session and explore the cathedral in another. We have made the film sufficiently slow to be able to pause and wonder. As we look around the cathedral in the second part, we will allow some time at each artefact that we visit but you could develop this further by pausing the film if you feel that more time is required to look at the artwork or to consider each wondering question as it is posed.

Props: At the end of the reflective story we light a candle and at the end of the journey around the cathedral we light a candle. If you also have a candle (or two) ready to light at the end of each part of the film, this will draw the children into the experience further and help to create a sense of awe and wonder in your setting.

The Christmas Story Trail Map: We have designed a trail map that outlines the places and artefacts that we visit in the film. This could be used after the film as a way of recapping the journey around the cathedral. The map and activity is a PDF that can be downloaded [here](#).

Christmas Story Board Activity: On the reverse side of the trail map (downloaded in the link above) there is a Christmas storyboard activity. Children can draw and colour in the scenes that were depicted in the Christmas trail around the cathedral, and the sheet can be folded into a concertina story book for them to keep as a souvenir of their experience at Wells Cathedral.

Other related craft activities could include:

Make an Advent wreath or table decoration using foliage and candles

Make an Advent calendar

Make a stained glass window using tissue paper and card with a silhouette of a nativity scene

Take inspiration from the Cathedral Altar Frontals and use pieces of fabric or felt to make your own mini Christmas Altar Frontal

Make a Star for your Christmas Tree

Feedback: We'd love to see what you've been inspired to do. Please do send in any photographs and we can display them on the website. Any feedback on the film and activity would be very appreciated!

Time To Wonder Reflective Storytelling

Katherine Taylor

Katherine lives in Somerset and, until very recently, worked in a village primary school delivering all of the R.E. there. She also delivers reflective storytelling in other primary and secondary settings, speaks at conferences, and delivers twilight training sessions at schools throughout Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, and even further afield sometimes.

Katherine's passion is to see the Time to Wonder reflective storytelling method used with confidence by practitioners in school settings nationwide; to provide young people and their teachers with the time and space to be still and wonder deeply.

She is also currently crowd funding in order to publish her first book. This book is intended for RE Leads and any teacher or HLTA delivering RE . It incorporates details of the method and 5 story scripts; one from non-religious worldview, one Christian, one Hindu, one Muslim and one Jewish. It's a way to get started and begin to use reflective storytelling as a tool in the classroom.

If you'd like to find out more about Katherine's work, contact her at:

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