

Our Community

RE-Think Topics

Putting The RE Into Cross-Curricular Topics

Special Places

Puddles Lends A Paw

People Who Help Us

Helping Others

Belonging

Homes

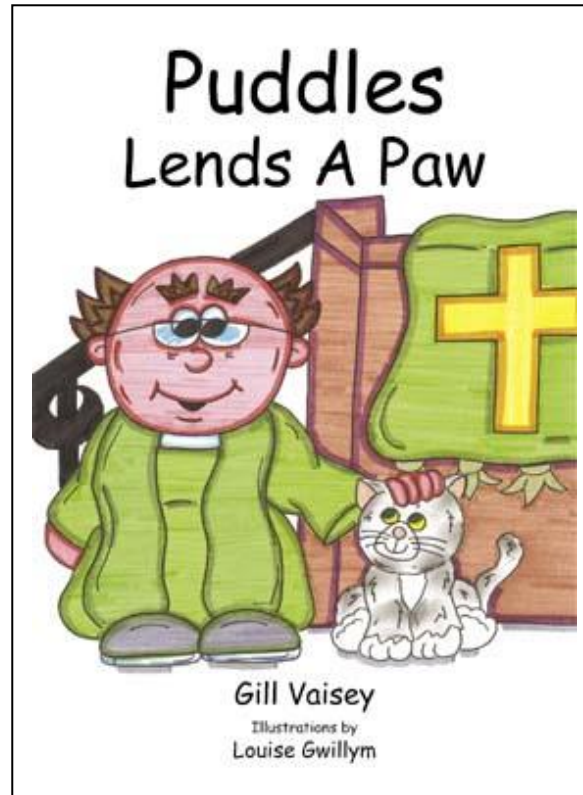
Local Area

Creative Christianity

Series Book 12 from Books at Press

Religious and Moral Education
Curriculum for Excellence 2010





Primary Religious Education Support Service
and
Books at Press

RE-Think Topics
Religious and Moral Education / Cross-curricular
Support Material

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Books at Press

Books at Press resources have been developed specifically to support teachers in addressing cultural and religious and moral education with early years pupils. Ideas and activities can be extended for children in the later stage of the Curriculum for Excellence. The stories provide the basis for cultural and religious and moral education together with the opportunity to explore a wide range of cross-curricular activities promoting a fully integrated curriculum appropriate for this age group.

Full details of the resources can be viewed at www.booksatpress.co.uk or telephone 01594 516490.

About Us:

The author, Gill Vaisey provides a wide range of consultancy services to those concerned with children's religious education and spiritual development. Gill is a qualified teacher and a nationally recognised specialist in Early Years and Religious Education provision. Gill has over twenty years' experience in providing training for schools, colleges, education authorities, Church Dioceses and other religious bodies across England and Wales. She is known for her enthusiastic manner, her inspirational ideas and down to earth approach in sharing and demonstrating best practice in RE from Early Years to Key Stage 2.

In direct response to teachers' requests, Gill has produced resources for purchase - books, toys and cross-curricular activities which make RE fun for pupils and easy for teachers!

Gill further supports teachers by generously producing a wealth of free planning and classroom resources for teachers and pupils, all of which can be easily downloaded from the website www.booksatpress.co.uk

Her range of both published and free classroom resources are used extensively across the UK and have made a major contribution to the development of excellence in RE.

The Illustrator, Louise Gwilym, is a Nursery Nurse who has been working within the school environment for sixteen years. Through working with primary age children, Louise has developed her individual style of art which captures the interest and imagination of children of all ages, and in particular those in the early years phase of education.

Teacher Consultant: Melissa Griffiths has acted as our main teacher consultant and editor and her advice and expertise has been invaluable in producing the books and accompanying resources. Melissa has many years' experience as an RE Co-ordinator and has worked with early years pupils extensively throughout her career.

Using *Books at Press* resources for Early and First Levels

Books at Press resources have been specifically produced to be entirely appropriate for nursery and P1 children. They can also be used effectively with more able children and those working at P2 and P3.

We believe in 'a bottom up approach' and therefore all of our stories and cross-curricular resource pack activities are tried and tested with the youngest children in nursery settings and we then create further activities and ideas to extend the knowledge, understanding and skills of more able children.

Each resource is fully supported by a cross-curricular topic web and detailed activity suggestions linked to the EYFS for England, Foundation Phase curriculum for Wales or Curriculum for Excellence in Scotland.

A wealth of additional free accompanying classroom activities and resources can be downloaded from our website www.booksatpress.co.uk

Our resources provide a wealth of opportunity to support Literacy and Numeracy and also provide excellent support for the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and emotional development.

Our aim in producing these resources is to support practitioners in providing appropriate and meaningful Religious and Moral Education for this age group, making RE fun for pupils and easy for teachers!

Gill Vaisey
Religious Education Consultant and Author



Search our [catalogue](#)



RE-Think your Topic and include RE. The following grids show you how:

Think Topic	Think RE
Festivals Celebrations Food Autumn Colour Seasons Sharing Being Thankful Gifts and Giving	Available Resources Book 2: A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles (big book) PLAN+3 Autumn / Harvest: Topic Web and Planning 2 Activity 2a: PowerPoint Harvest Jigsaw Activity 2b Harvest songs x 2 Activity 2c Puddles Harvest board game
Winter Seasons Celebrations Christmas Light Glow and Glitter Electric Rainbow	Available Resources Book 1: Puddles and the Christmas Play (big book) PLAN+3 Winter / Christmas : Topic Web and Planning 1 Activities: 1a: PowerPoint Nativity Scene Jigsaw 1b: Advent Candles Board Game 1c: Advent and Nativity Dominoes DVD: Sam and Holly's Christmas (with Easter, Wesak, Vaisakhi)
People Who Help Us Helping Others Jobs Our Local Area Special Places Community Explorers Superheroes (in the community)	Available Resources Book 3: Puddles Lends a Paw (big book) Book 4: Puddles Lends a Paw (standard book) PLAN+3 Lending A 'Paw' : Topic Web and Planning 3/4 Activities: 3a: Church Helpers' Rota 3b: Lends A Paw Snap Cards 3c: Photostory Puddles Visits Carlisle Cathedral

Think Topic	Think RE
Weddings Friendship Homes and Families Fairy Tales Happiness Family Album	Available Resources Book 5: A Wedding Day Wish for Puddles (big book) PLAN+3 Wedding Wish: Topic Web and Planning 5 Activity 5a: Wedding Dominoes 5b: Wedding Snap Cards 5c: Wedding Board Game
Spring New Life Beginnings Baby Animals Families Superheroes (non-fiction) Special People Family Album Happy and Sad	Available Resources Book 6: Puddles and the Happy Easter Day (big book) PLAN+3 Spring / Easter : Topic Web and Planning 6 Activity 6a: PowerPoint Easter Garden Scene Jigsaw 6b: Easter Snap Cards 6c: Easter Board Game
Families Babies Myself Names Special Times Growing Up New Life Beginnings Happiness Family Album Pitter Patter Puddle Play	Available Resources Book 10: Puddles and the Christening Splash! (big book) Book 11: Puddles and the Christening Splash! (standard book) PLAN+3 Babies / Baptism: Topic Web and Planning 10 / 11: Activity 10a: Christening Snap Cards 10b: Christening Board Game 10c: Christening Match and Memory Game

Think Topic	Think RE
Minibeasts In The Garden The Natural World Animals Our World Teeny Tiny Things Wriggle and Crawl Dens and Dandelions Remember Remember	Available Resources Book 7: The Tiny Ants Big Book Resource Pack 1: The Tiny Ants PLAN+3 Minibeasts: Topic Web and Planning 7 Activity 7a: Minibeasts dominoes 7b: Minibeasts song (lyrics and MP3) 7c: Minibeasts Powerpoint Jigsaw
School grounds Forest School Gardens Spring Beginnings Plants and Animals Birds Mini Zoo Dens and Dandelions	Available Resources Book with CD Rom 9: The Baby Birds Toy 5: Birds Puppet Set Resource Pack : Book, CD Rom & Puppet set PLAN+3 Birds / Spring New Life: Topic Web and Planning 9: Activity 9a: The Baby Birds Board Game Activity 9b: What Does The Story Tell Us About Muhammad? Activity 9c: Responding To The Story – How Did You Feel?
New Life Baby Animals Pets Spring Beginning Paws Claws and Whiskers Happiness Mini Zoo	Available Resources Book 8: Seven New Kittens Big Book Resource Pack 2: Seven New Kittens PLAN+3 Baby Animals / Spring New Life: Topic Web and Planning 8 Activity 8a: Seven New Kittens Snap Cards Activity 8b: Seven New Kittens Number Dominoes Activity 8c: Seven New Kittens Rhyme

Resources supporting Religious and Moral Education across Nursery to P3.

All resources are suitable for Nursery and P1 children however can be used with P2 and P3 pupils also. The grid below is an example of how they might be used across four years although they may be used in any order with any age group. Book titles shown in italics. PLAN+3: Topic web, planning and three classroom activities. All resources available from www.booksatpress.co.uk

	Nursery	P1	P2	P3
Possible Topics:	Festivals, Celebrations, Food, Colours, Seasons, Sharing, Electric Rainbow, Being thankful, Giving Glow and Glitter, Winter, Scrumptious, Autumn	Celebrations, Festivals, Food, Autumn, Winter, Seasons, Light, Glow and Glitter, Electric Rainbow	My Family, Friends, Homes and Families, Fairy Tales, Weddings, Happiness, Family Album	Belonging, Promises, Festivals, Happiness, Homes, Homelessness, Creation My Family, Family Album, Orchestra, Community Explorers, Animal Welfare,
Resources:	<i>A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles</i> PLAN+3 Autumn / Harvest	<i>Puddles and the Christmas Play</i> PLAN+3 Winter / Christmas	<i>A Wedding Day Wish for Puddles</i> PLAN+3 Wedding Wish	<i>Puddles and the St Francis Service</i> PLAN+3 St Francis
Possible Topics:	New Life, Animals, Babies, Pets, Spring, Beginnings, Caring for the Natural World Paws, Claws and Whiskers, Happiness, Mini Zoo	Beginnings, School Grounds, Gardens, Spring, Plants and Animals, Birds, Dens and Dandelions, Mini Zoo	Celebrations, Special People, New Beginnings, Carnival, Gifts and Giving, Scrumptious	Spring, Easter, New Life, Beginnings, Happy and Sad Times, Special People Family Album, Happiness, Superheroes(non-Fictional)
Resources:	<i>In The Beginning</i> <i>Seven New Kittens</i> and cross-curricular resource pack PLAN+3 Baby Animals/ Spring	<i>The Baby Birds</i> CD Rom & puppets PLAN+3 Baby Birds / Spring <i>Puddles and the Happy Easter Day</i> PLAN+3 Spring / Easter		<i>Puddles and the Happy Easter Day</i> PLAN+3 Spring / Easter
Possible Topics:	Mini-beasts, The Garden, Natural World, Animals, Our World, Wriggle & Crawl, Teeny Tiny Things, Dens and Dandelions	People Who Help Us, Local Area, Helping Others, Special Places, Belonging, Special Days, Superheroes (in the community) Community Explorers	Clothes We Wear Belonging My Family	New Beginnings, My Family, Babies, Happiness, Pitter Patter Puddle Play, Family Album
Resources:	<i>The Tiny Ants</i> and cross-curricular resource pack PLAN+3 Minibeasts <i>God's Quiet Things</i>	<i>Puddles Lends A Paw</i> PLAN+3 Lending a 'Paw'	<i>Hats of Faith</i> <i>The Swirling Hijaab</i>	<i>Puddles and the Christening Splash</i> PLAN+3 Babies / Baptism

Books at Press resources have been specifically produced to use with playgroup, nursery and P1. The stories and accompanying resources also provide opportunities to extend the knowledge, understanding and skills of more able children and children in the later stages of the curriculum.

Our main aim in producing these resources was to support practitioners in providing **appropriate and meaningful Religious and Moral Education** for this age group.

The following summarises our philosophy:

‘In all cases, RE must be meaningful and appropriate, and therefore careful selection of resources and contexts for learning is essential. Provision of Religious Education should be consistent with good practice in the rest of the curriculum for this age group and should therefore be largely based on active involvement in first hand experiences. Good Religious Education focused activities will provide opportunities to develop imaginative play, language and mathematical skills, music making and creative artwork. As well as making a significant contribution to pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the world and their personal and social development, good RE will also provide valuable opportunities to widen the pupils’ cultural experiences and develop an awareness of a spiritual dimension to life.’

GMV 2002

Features of effective learning and teaching in religious and moral education.

In planning learning and teaching in religious and moral education, teachers will be able to:

- sensitively take account of and value the religious and cultural diversity within their own local communities, using relevant contexts which are familiar to young people
- actively encourage children and young people to participate in service to others
- develop, through knowledge and understanding and discussion and active debate, an ability to understand other people's beliefs
- draw upon a variety of approaches including active learning and planned, purposeful play
- encourage the development of enquiry and critical thinking skills
- create opportunities for the development of problem-solving skills
- build in time for personal reflection and encourage discussion in depth and debate
- provide opportunities for collaborative and independent learning
- take account of the faith background, circumstances and developmental stage of the children and young people and their capacity to engage with complex ideas
- recognise and build on the considerable scope for connections between themes and learning in religious and moral education and other areas of the curriculum
- make appropriate and imaginative use of technology
- build on the principles of Assessment is for Learning.

Learning through religious and moral education enables children and young people to:

- recognise religion as an important expression of human experience
- learn about and from the beliefs, values, practices and traditions of Christianity and the world religions selected for study, other traditions, and viewpoints independent of religious belief
- explore and develop knowledge and understanding of religions, recognising the place of Christianity in the Scottish context
- investigate and understand the responses which religious and non-religious views can offer to questions about the nature and meaning of life
- recognise and understand religious diversity and the importance of religion in society
- develop respect for others and an understanding of beliefs and practices which are different from their own
- explore and establish values such as wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity and engage in the development of and reflection upon their own moral values
- develop their beliefs, attitudes, values and practices through reflection, discovery and critical evaluation
- develop the skills of reflection, discernment, critical thinking and deciding how to act when making moral decisions
- make a positive difference to the world by putting their beliefs and values into action
- establish a firm foundation for lifelong learning, further learning and adult life.

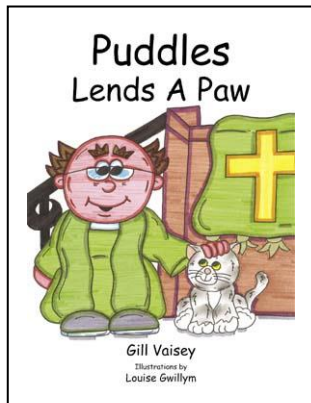
Religious and moral education is therefore an essential part of every child or young person's educational experience.

Support Sheets and Topic Webs

The following support sheets provide starting points and suggestions for a range of activities that can be explored in conjunction with the books and their accompanying resources.

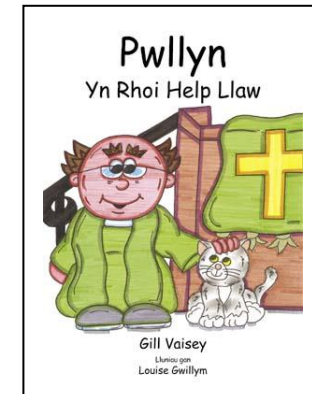
Teachers should select activities appropriate to the needs and abilities of the children. Teachers and pupils will naturally develop a range of other activities as they explore and enjoy the resources.

The suggested activities have been cross-referenced to particular elements of the eight curriculum areas of the Curriculum for Excellence.



Puddles Lends A Paw

is the second in this series which introduces pupils to aspects of the Christian faith. **This book is simply purrfect to support a 'People Who Help Us' topic.**



In this story we find our furry friend finishing her favourite lunch. *Always* looking for an adventure, Puddles decides to go to church. There she meets the various church helpers who are busy getting ready for the Sunday service... Will Puddles lend a paw or will her mischievous nature prove to be a hindrance?



This title is available in both English and Welsh in big book and standard book format. Don't forget the soft toy Puddles / Pwllyn and the fantastic Freddie Fisher if you haven't already got them!

Cross-Curricular Topic Web based on Curriculum for Excellence 2010



Expressive Arts

- Use imaginative play to recreate some elements of the story
- Make a church role-play area improvising to make all the parts of the church – pews, organ, pulpit, lectern etc.
- Make stained glass window biscuits
- Enhance the craft area with equipment for children to make models of a church
- Listen to recordings of church bells
- Use bells to make their own music
- Learn and sing songs about helping others



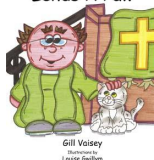
Health and Wellbeing

- Think about to what and whom they belong – family, school, class, etc.
- Talk about how they can be kind and help to others and what actions would not be kind and helpful
- Find out about the work of the local clergy and how they help others

Context for Learning / Theme:

Puddles Lends a Paw By Gill Vaisey

Puddles
Lends A Paw



Gill Vaisey
Illustrated by
Louise Bellamy

Mathematics

- Look at different shapes of religious buildings

Sciences

Literacy and English

- Listen to and enjoy the story Puddles Lends A Paw
- 'Hot Seat' The Reverend Freddie Fisher to find out about his work
- Read and write some of the words for the features of the church as mentioned in the story
- Provide the purpose for writing sheet for children to play the part of the different



Technologies

- Take photographs during the visit to church

Religious and Moral Education

- Listen to the story Puddles Lends A Paw and find out who helps in the church
- Talk to the local vicar about how they help others
- Talk to a visitor about why they go to the local church and find out why it is special to them
- Watch some of the photo-stories of Puddles visiting a church at www.booksatpress.co.uk
- Visit a church to find some of the features that Puddles sees in the story
- Look at different styles of Bibles
- Listen to stories from the Bible about helping others
- Think about ways in which they can be helpful towards one another

Social Studies

- Identify different places and buildings in the local area and find out how they are used
- Identify different places of worship in the local community and find out what happens there
- Identify the variety of different roles people play in making up the school and local village / town community
- Identify the different places of worship that are in the local community and meet some people who belong to these communities



Activity Suggestions for Early Stage focussing on Religious and Moral Education

Possible General Themes:

RME Theme: People Who Help Us

Key Resource: Puddles Lends a Paw

RME Focus: Develop an awareness of a variety of ways in which people might help in a church and of the Christian teaching to help others.

Activities relate to the book: **Puddles Lends A Paw**, by Gill Vaisey

Activities	Experiences and Outcomes (2010)
Talk about and explore helping situations, who helps the children, and how they might help one another.	<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I know that friendship, caring sharing, fairness, equality and love are important in building positive relationships. As I develop and value relationships I care and show respect for myself and others HWB- 05A <p>Religious and Moral Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As I play and learn, I am developing my understanding of what is fair and unfair and the importance of caring for, sharing and cooperating with others. RME 0-05a I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values. RME 0-07a
Explore different ways in which people help others through the work they do.	<p>Religious and Moral Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values. RME 0-07a As I play and learn, I am developing my understanding of what is fair and unfair and the importance of caring for, sharing and cooperating with others. RME 0-05a Having explored stories from world religions, I can show my developing understanding of key values of those faiths and how they might be put into action in people's lives and communities. RME 1-05a

	<p>Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By exploring my local community, I have discovered the different roles people play and how they can help. SOC 0-16a
<p>Read the book <i>Puddles Lends A Paw</i> and emphasise and enjoy the repetitive phrases in the book and encourage the pupils to join in.</p> <p>Talk about the story and how Puddles managed to help the various characters.</p> <p>Talk about the Reverend Freddie Fisher's reading from the Bible about helping others.</p> <p>Identify the different ways the characters in the book helped out in the church.</p> <p>Talk about how the Reverend Freddie Fisher helps people know more about how God wants them to live.</p> <p>Invite children to think of questions they would like to ask the characters.</p> <p>Ask the children to think about who helps them and how they can help others.</p>	<p>Religious and Moral Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As I explore Christian stories, images, music and poems, I am becoming familiar with some beliefs Christian people have about God and Jesus. RME 0-01a I am becoming aware of the importance of celebrations, festivals and customs in Christian and other religious people's lives. RME 0-03a RME 0-06a I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values. RME 0-07a <p>Literacy and English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I enjoy exploring and choosing stories and other texts to watch, read or listen to, and can share my likes and dislikes. LIT 0-01b / LIT 0-11b I enjoy exploring events and characters in stories and other texts, sharing my thoughts in different ways. LIT 0-01c LIT 0-19a I listen or watch for useful or interesting information and I use this to make choices or learn new things. LIT 0-04a To help me understand stories and other texts, I ask questions and link what I am learning with what I already know. LIT 0-07a / LIT 0-16a / ENG 0-17a Within real and imaginary situations, I share experiences and feelings, ideas and information in a way that communicates my message. LIT 0-09a As I listen and take part in conversations and discussions, I discover new words and phrases which I use to help me express my ideas, thoughts and feelings. LIT 0-10a <p>Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By exploring my local community, I have discovered the different roles people play and how they can help. SOC 0-16a <p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can describe some of the kinds of work that people do and I am finding out about the wider world of work. HWB 0-20a

<p>If possible visit a church and explore the special features noted in the book. Meet some of the people who help in the church.</p>	<p>Religious and Moral Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As I explore Christian stories, images, music and poems, I am becoming familiar with some beliefs Christian people have about God and Jesus. RME 0-01a I am becoming aware of the importance of celebrations, festivals and customs in Christian and other religious people's lives. RME 0-03a RME 0-06a I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values. RME 0-07a
<p>Meet a local vicar / minister who can talk to the children about how he/ she helps other people.</p>	<p>Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By exploring my local community, I have discovered the different roles people play and how they can help. SOC 0-16a <p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can describe some of the kinds of work that people do and I am finding out about the wider world of work. HWB 0-20a / HWB 1-20a <p>Religious and Moral Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values. RME 0-07a
<p>Create a church role-play area which includes some of the features mentioned in the story e.g. a lectern for the Bible, a pulpit, an organ, hymn board, pews. Include an audio recording of church bells and some hymns. Include a tin of polish and cloth; some flowers, a vase and some ribbon; some music sheets and (toy) organ / keyboard; some bells and a toy lawnmower for the churchyard. Include the soft toy Puddles and the Reverend Freddie Fisher so that the children can role-play the story.</p>	<p>Expressive Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have the freedom to discover and choose ways to create images and objects using a variety of materials. EXA 0-02a I have the freedom to choose and explore how I can use my voice, movement, and expression in role play and drama. EXA 0-12a. <p>Religious and Moral Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am becoming aware of the importance of customs in Christian and other religious people's lives. RME 0-03a RME 0-06a <p>Literacy and English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I enjoy exploring events and characters in stories and other texts and I use what I learn to invent my own, sharing these with others in imaginative ways. LIT 0-09b / LIT 0-31a
<p>Learn and sing some simple songs about helping others.</p>	<p>Expressive Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I enjoy singing and playing along to music of different styles and cultures.

EXA 0-16a

- I have the freedom to use my voice, musical instruments and music technology to discover and enjoy playing with sound and rhythm. **EXA 0-17a**

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Books at Press

Religious Education Resources

Using the Reverend Freddie Fisher and Puddles soft toys with younger pupils

Puddles as the 'class pet': Give children responsibility to make sure she has food and water each day. Provide a cat basket for her. Make sure she has lots of cuddles throughout the day. Children could be offered Puddles as a comforter if appropriate.

Weekend visits: Allow Puddles to go home with children at the weekends. She can then come back into school and tell the rest of the class of her adventures. It would be particularly useful if Puddles could accompany any of the children or members of staff who are attending a church service or wedding, baptism etc. Puddles could then return to school to recount her experiences supported by any photographs taken.

Visit a church: Take Puddles with the class to visit a local church. Children can explore with Puddles the features which are mentioned in the books – the big arched door she walks through, the pulpit she climbs up, the pews she sits in, the organ she helps to play, the bell ropes she swings on etc. Puddles can act as a stimulus to explore other features and how they are used – 'what do we think she would like to find out about?'

Role-play corner: Allow the children to work with the teacher in preparing a church role play area. Explore the books to establish what features might go in the 'church' e.g. pews, organ (child's keyboard), pulpit, Bible, hymn books, audio tape / CD of church bells. Create 'a big arched door' as the entrance. Add the Reverend Freddie Fisher and Puddles the cat so that the children can role play the stories and enjoy creative play.

Dressing Freddie: Allow the children to dress Freddie in his vestments encouraging matching of the colours of the chasubles and stoles.

Visit from the local vicar: Invite the local vicar to talk to the children about his/her own experiences of the themes explored in the books. He/she could also bring his/her special clothes (vestments) to show the children and to talk about his/her favourite colours and seasons.

Hot Seating: Use the Reverend Freddie Fisher as a 'hot seat' character. Pupils to think of questions they would like to ask Freddie. One child could be the voice of Freddie answering questions from the other pupils.