



Church of Ireland ✚
Board for Ministry *with*
Children & Families

Calendar 2024



January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					



Church of Ireland ✚
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YEARLY SNAPSHOT

JANUARY

18-25 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY

FEBRUARY

13 SHROVE TUESDAY
14 ASH WEDNESDAY
14 VALENTINES DAY

MARCH

7 WORLD BOOK DAY
10 MOTHERING SUNDAY
17 ST PATRICK'S DAY
29 GOOD FRIDAY
31 EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL

1 EASTER MONDAY

MAY

9 ASCENSION DAY
10 - 11 GENERAL SYNOD
12 - 18 CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
19 PENTECOST

JUNE

5 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
16 FATHER'S DAY



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YEARLY SNAPSHOT

JULY

SCHOOL SUMMER HOLIDAYS
OLYMPICS - PARIS

AUGUST

17 - 24 NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK
(REPUBLIC)

SEPTEMBER

24 PEACE SUNDAY

OCTOBER

10 WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY
31 ALL HALLOWS EVE

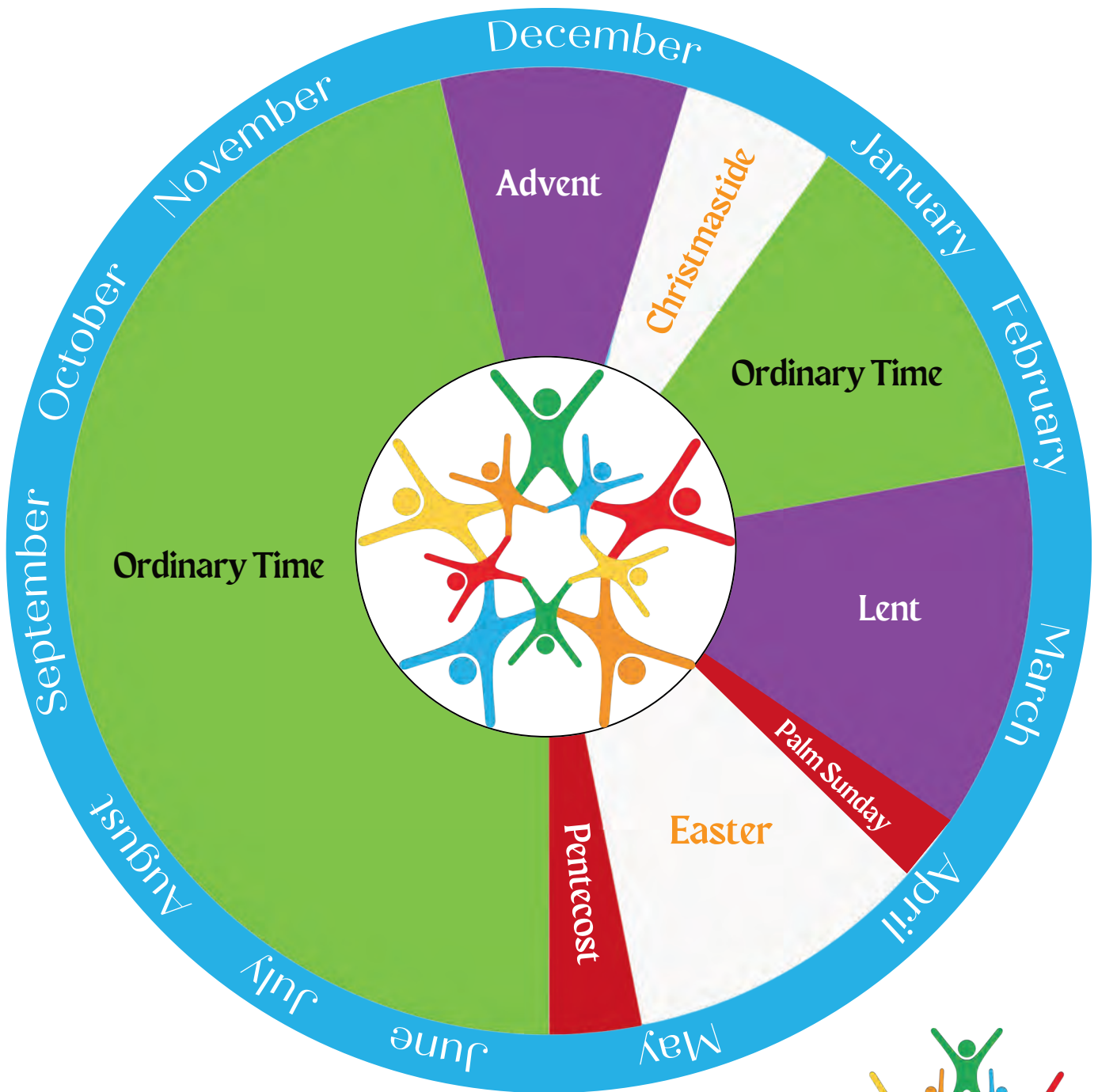
NOVEMBER

1 ALL SAINTS DAY
11 REMEMBRANCE DAY
24 DAY OF PRAYER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

DECEMBER

1 START OF ADVENT
25 CHRISTMAS DAY
26 ST STEPHEN'S DAY
31 NEW YEARS EVE

LITURGICAL CALENDAR 2024



Church of Ireland ✚
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CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER



Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families

BAPTISM LIST

Child Name : _____

DOB: _____

Baptism Date: _____

Gift given: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

Notes: _____

Child Name : _____

DOB: _____

Baptism Date: _____

Gift given: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

Notes: _____

Child Name : _____

DOB: _____

Baptism Date: _____

Gift given: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

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Gift given: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

Notes: _____

Child Name : _____

DOB: _____

Baptism Date: _____

Gift given: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

Notes: _____



Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families

CONFIRMATION LIST

Child Name : _____

DOB: _____

Confirmation Date: _____

School: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

Notes: _____

Child Name : _____

DOB: _____

Confirmation Date: _____

School: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

Notes: _____

Child Name : _____

DOB: _____

Confirmation Date: _____

School: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

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Child Name : _____

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Church of Ireland
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Confirmation Date: _____

School: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

Notes: _____

Child Name : _____

DOB: _____

Confirmation Date: _____

School: _____

Parent / Carer: _____

Notes: _____



MONTHLY PLANNER

JANUARY

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							

TO DO LIST

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NOTES

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INSPIRE & GROW



Church of Ireland
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GRATITUDE

FAITH

WORK

FAMILY

DREAM BIG IDEAS

SELF CARE

PEOPLE TO ENCOURAGE & HOW...



Church of Ireland ✚
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WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

WEEK 1

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Epiphany 1

Genesis 1: 1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19: 1-7

Mark 1: 4-11

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

DATE

TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

ASSESSMENT



WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

WEEK 2

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Epiphany 2

1 Samuel 3: 1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18

**Revelation 5: 1-10
or 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20**

John 1: 43-51

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

DATE

TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

ASSESSMENT



WEEK IN DETAIL

WEEK 3

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Epiphany 3

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

Psalm 62: 5-12

1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

Mark 1: 14-20

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

DATE

TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

ASSESSMENT



WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

WEEK 4

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Epiphany 4

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

Mark 1: 21-28

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

DATE

TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

ASSESSMENT



Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
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MONTHLY PLANNER

FEBRUARY

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4			START OF LENT				
WEEK 5							

TO DO LIST

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NOTES

Blank area for notes.



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INSPIRE & GROW



Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
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GRATITUDE

FAITH

WORK

FAMILY

DREAM BIG IDEAS

SELF CARE

PEOPLE TO ENCOURAGE & HOW...



WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

WEEK 1

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Option Creation
 Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31
 Psalm 104: 26-37
 Colossians 1: 15-20
 John 1: 1-14 or

Option PROPER 3
 Hosea 2: 14-20
 Psalm 103: 1-13, 22 2
 Corinthians 3: 1-6
 Mark 2: 13-22

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

DATE

TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

ASSESSMENT



WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

WEEK 2

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Transfiguration

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Psalms 50: 1-6

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Mark 9: 2-9

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

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LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

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WEEK IN DETAIL

WEEK 3

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Lent 1

Genesis 9: 8-17

Psalm 25: 1-9

1 Peter 3: 18-22

Mark 1: 9-15

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

DATE

TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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ASSESSMENT

WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

WEEK 4

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Lent 2

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22: 23-31
Romans 4: 13-25
Mark 8: 31-38
** or Mark 9: 2-9*

** The selection in italics is used when Option B has been taken on the Sunday before Lent. As this is an account of the Transfiguration it is not used when the Sunday before Lent has been observed as Transfiguration Sunday.*

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

DATE

TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

ASSESSMENT



Church of Ireland ✚
Board for Ministry *with*
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MONTHLY PLANNER

MARCH

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							

TO DO LIST

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NOTES



Church of Ireland
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INSPIRE & GROW



Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families

GRATITUDE

FAITH

WORK

FAMILY

DREAM BIG IDEAS

SELF CARE

PEOPLE TO ENCOURAGE & HOW...



WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

WEEK 1

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Lent 3

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 2: 13-22

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

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TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
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SAT
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WEEK 2

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Lent 4

Numbers 21: 4-9
 Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2: 1-10
 John 3: 14-21
 or
 Mothering Sunday
 Exodus 2: 1-10
 or 1 Samuel 1: 20-28
 Psalm 34: 11-20 or 127: 1-4
 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7
 or Colossians 3: 12-17
 Luke 2: 33-35 or
 John 19: 25-27

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

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TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

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WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
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THUR
FRI
SAT
SUN

WEEK 3

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Lent 5

Jeremiah 31: 31-34
 Psalm 51: 1-13 or 119: 9-16
 Hebrews 5: 5-10
 John 12: 20-33
 or
 Saint Patrick. 461
 HC
 Tobit 13: 1b-7
 or Deuteronomy 32: 1-9
 Psalm 145: 1-13
 2 Corinthians 4: 1-12
 John 4: 31-38

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

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TOPIC

LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

STRUCTURE / ACTIVITY

ASSESSMENT



WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
TUE
WED
THUR
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WEEK 4

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms
Mark 11: 1-11
or John 12: 12-16
Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Philippians 2: 5-11
Mark 14: 1 - 15: 47
or Mark 15: 1-39, (40-47)

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

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LESSON #

LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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WEEK IN DETAIL

WEEK 5

MON
TUE
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GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34-43
 * or Isaiah 25: 6-9
 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 or
 Easter Anthems
 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 or
 Acts 10: 34-43
 John 20: 1-18
 or Mark 16: 1-8

LESSON PLAN

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LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
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MONTHLY PLANNER

APRIL

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							PALM SUNDAY
WEEK 2					GOOD FRIDAY		EASTER SUNDAY
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							
WEEK 5							

TO DO LIST

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WEEK IN DETAIL

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WEEK 1

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Easter 2

Acts 4: 32-35

or Isaiah 26: 2-9, 19

Psalm 133

1 John 1: 1 - 2: 2

John 20: 19-31

LESSON PLAN

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LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

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WEEK IN DETAIL

WEEK 2

MON
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GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Easter 3

Acts 3: 12-19

or Micah 4: 1-5

Psalm 4

1 John 3: 1-7

Luke 24: 36b-48

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WEEK IN DETAIL

WEEK 3

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GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Easter 4

Acts 4: 5-12

or Ezekiel 34: 1-10

Psalm 23

1 John 3: 16-24

John 10: 11-18

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WEEK IN DETAIL

WEEK 4

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GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Easter 5

Acts 8: 26-40

or Deuteronomy 4: 32-40

Psalm 22: 25-31

1 John 4: 7-21

John 15: 1-8

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Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
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MONTHLY PLANNER

MAY

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
WEEK 1							
WEEK 2							
WEEK 3							
WEEK 4							PENTECOST SUNDAY
WEEK 5							

TO DO LIST

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WEEK IN DETAIL

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WEEK 1

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Easter 6

Acts 10: 44-48
or Isaiah 45: 11-13, 18-19

Psalm 98

1 John 5: 1-6

John 15: 9-17

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WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
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WEEK 2

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Easter 7

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 or

Exodus 28: 1-4, 9-10,
29-30

Psalm 1

1 John 5: 9-13

John 17: 6-19

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WEEK IN DETAIL

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WEEK 3

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21

or Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b

Romans 8: 22-27

or Acts 2: 1-21

John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15
*Acts 2: 1-21 is read either as
 First or Second Reading.
 It must not be omitted.*

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WEEK IN DETAIL

WEEK 4

MON
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GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8: 12-17

John 3: 1-17

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MONTHLY PLANNER

JUNE

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Children & Families

INSPIRE & GROW



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WEEK IN DETAIL

MON
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WEEK 1

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

1st Sunday after Trinity

1 Samuel 3: 1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18

2 Corinthians 4: 5-12

Mark 2: 23 - 3: 6

LESSON PLAN

GROUP

SUBJECT

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TOPIC

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LESSON FOCUS AND GOALS

MATERIALS NEEDED

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WEEK IN DETAIL

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WEEK 2

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

2nd Sunday after Trinity

1 Samuel 8: 4-11, (12-15),
16-20; (11: 14-15)
Psalm 138

2 Corinthians 4: 13 - 5: 1
Mark 3: 20-35

or

Saint Columba. Abbot of
Iona. 597 HC
Micah 4: 1-5
Psalm 34: 9-15
Romans 15: 1-6
John 12: 20-26

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WEEK 3

GOAL OF THE WEEK

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LECTIONARY

3rd Sunday after Trinity

1 Samuel 15: 34 - 16: 13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10,
(11-13), 14-17

Mark 4: 26-34

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WEEK 4

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

4th Sunday after Trinity

1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49
or
1 Samuel 17: 57 - 18: 5, 10-16

Psalm 9: 9-20
or
Psalm 133

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

Mark 4: 35-41

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WEEK 5

GOAL OF THE WEEK

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LECTIONARY

5th Sunday after Trinity

2 Samuel 1: 1, 17-27

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 8: 7-15

Mark 5: 21-43

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GOAL OF THE WEEK

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LECTIONARY
6th Sunday after Trinity
2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12: 2-10
Mark 6: 1-13

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GOAL OF THE WEEK

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LECTIONARY

7th Sunday after Trinity

2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Mark 6: 14-

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GOAL OF THE WEEK

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LECTIONARY

8th Sunday after Trinity

2 Samuel 7: 1-14a

Psalm 89: 20-37

Ephesians 2: 11-22

Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

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LECTIONARY

9th Sunday after Trinity

2 Samuel 11: 1-15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3: 14-21

John 6: 1-21

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10th Sunday after Trinity

2 Samuel 11: 26 - 12: 13a

Psalm 51: 1-13

Ephesians 4: 1-16

John 6: 24-35

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GOAL OF THE WEEK

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RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

11th Sunday after Trinity

2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalm 130

Ephesians 4: 25 - 5: 2

John 6: 35, 41-51

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LECTIONARY

12th Sunday after Christmas

1 Kings 2: 10-12; 3: 3-14

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5: 15-20

John 6: 51-58

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LECTIONARY

13th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11),
22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6: 10-20

John 6: 56-69

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LECTIONARY

14th Sunday after Trinity

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9

James 1: 17-27

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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LECTIONARY

15th Sunday after Trinity

Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2: 1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7: 24-37

or

The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary HC
Isaiah 61: 10-11
Psalm 45: 10-17
Galatians 4: 4-7
Luke 1: 46-55

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LECTIONARY

16th Sunday after Trinity

Proverbs 1: 20-33

Psalm 19
or
Canticle: Song of Wisdom

James 3: 1-12

Mark 8: 27-38

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LECTIONARY

17th Sunday after Trinity

Proverbs 31: 10-31

Psalm 1

James 3: 13 - 4: 3, 7-8a

Mark 9: 30-37

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GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

RESOURCES

LECTIONARY

18th Sunday after Trinity

Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10; 9: 20-22

Psalm 124

James 5: 13-20

Mark 9: 38-50

or

Saint Michael and all
Angels

HC

Genesis 28: 10-17

Psalm 103: 19-22

Revelation 12: 7-12

John 1: 47-51

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GOAL OF THE WEEK

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LECTIONARY

19th Sunday after Trinity

Job 1: 1; 2: 1-10

Psalm 26

Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12

Mark 10: 2-16

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LECTIONARY

20th Sunday after Trinity

Job 23: 1-9, 16-17

Psalm 22: 1-15

Hebrews 4: 12-16

Mark 10: 17-31

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LECTIONARY

21st Sunday after Trinity

Job 38: 1-7, (34-41)

Psalms 104: 1-10, 26, 37c

Hebrews 5: 1-10

Mark 10: 35-45

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WEEK 4

GOAL OF THE WEEK

TOP PRIORITIES

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LECTIONARY

5th Sunday before Advent

Job 42: 1-6, 10-17
 Psalm 34: 1-8, (19-22)
 Hebrews 7: 23-28
 Mark 10: 46-52

Bible Sunday may be observed using the following readings:

Isaiah 55: 1-11
 Psalm 19: 7-14
 2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4: 5
 John 5: 36b-47

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4th Sunday before Advent

Ruth 1: 1-18

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9: 11-14

Mark 12: 28-34

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LECTIONARY

3rd Sunday before Advent
 Ruth 3: 1-5; 4: 13-17
 Psalm 127
 Hebrews 9: 24-28
 Mark 12: 38-44
Remembrance Sunday may be observed using the following readings:
 Isaiah 2: 1-5 or
 Isaiah 10: 33 - 11: 9 or
 Ezekiel 37: 1-14
 Psalm 4 or Psalm 47 or
 Psalm 93 or Psalm 126 or
 Psalm 130 Romans 8: 31-39 or
 Revelation 1: 1-7
 Matthew 5: 1-12 or
 John 15: 9-17

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LECTIONARY

**2nd Sunday before
Advent**

1 Samuel 1: 4-20

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10: 11-14, (15-18),
19-25

Mark 13: 1-8

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LECTIONARY
<p>Christ the King</p> <p>2 Samuel 23: 1-7</p> <p>Psalm 132: 1-12, (13-18)</p> <p>Revelation 1: 4b-8</p> <p>John 18: 33-37</p>

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Children & Families Ministry Annual Audit



Church of Ireland ✚
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How to use the Audit & Strategy

Like any area of ministry there can be a danger of carrying on the same way simply because "that's the way things have always been done." However, life brings changes, society adapts & our lives change as a result.

Our recent history has created many changes to family life and indeed family engagement with church, as a result the church body also needs to adapt and change. So it is vital that we review, reflect & reconfigure where necessary.

We would encourage you to do an Audit and Strategy plan on an annual basis, and if this is the first time you have completed such a task it might seem a little scary - but don't worry, it's a lot more straight forward than it seems.

On the following pages are a series of questions covering all angles of your church's interaction with families. The aim is to help bring focus to your discussions, guidance to your plans and to inspire new ideas and ways of doing things.



You know your church and your community, you know the people and the resources you have. Whilst we encourage you to dream big dreams we also want you to be realistic and set attainable goals each year.

Where possible gather a group together of those who are involved in the ministry of your church. If you are blessed with Children and Family staff or volunteers do this together as a team. If you are clergy and currently have no team maybe consider doing this as part of a vestry meeting, or put the call out to those you think may have an interest in developing Children and Families ministry in your community. Be bold - every seed has to be planted somewhere in order to grow!

Top Tips:

- Do not be defensive! Allow constructive feedback. It's not easy especially when you are the one putting the effort in, but in order to grow we need to be challenged.
- Ask local families what their impression is of your church - why do / don't they come, what would they change if they could?
- Spend time viewing family life in your community - where do families spend most time, what activities / places are most popular,

Our Services

*“What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”
1 Corinthians 14.26*

Use these questions to help you look at your Sunday (or midweek) services and think through what they might be like for children and families. Keep a note of your discussions.

1. Which of the services that are held in your church do children attend?
2. Which of these phrases best describes how children are seen at these services:
‘waiting until they go to their groups’ ‘equal worshippers of God’
‘present and with something valuable to contribute’
‘noisy and a distraction’ ‘the church of the future’
3. What is there to indicate that they are welcome as worshippers at the services they attend?
4. What support is given to assist parents in engaging their children with the service?
5. How are children with special or additional needs catered for?
6. Are there any times during those services that you identify as being ‘difficult’ for children, or the adults with them?
7. How much of the service can you access if you are unable to read?
8. On average, how long are the services and how long is the sermon or talk?
9. If liturgy is used, are special instructions given to help children follow it?
10. Are some of the hymns or songs chosen specifically with children in mind?
11. How often are children or children’s issues used as a topic for prayer?
12. Are there services especially for children and their families? How are they different from other services?
13. How are children’s voices heard in the planning and delivery of your services and how are their gifts used and nurtured?

What conclusions do you draw from your discussions around how Our Services can have an impact on the welcome and inclusion of children and their families?

Are there any areas you can identify where you might want to suggest a new course of action?

Record your thoughts and ideas.

Our Activities

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”
Colossians 3:23*

Use these questions to help you take a closer look at what activities you provide for the discipleship of children and families in your church community.

Think too of those children and families in the wider community who are not yet part of your church.

How do you disciple children and their families and nurture their spiritual development?

Draw up a list of all the activities your church gets up to. Include Sunday clubs, weekly activities, occasional events and regular annual events.

1. Along side each activity, note who it is for. E.g., families, children only, the whole church, the wider community, ‘church children only’, etc.
2. Which activities are for people who do not yet see themselves as ‘members’ of your church?
3. Are there activities specifically for families to come along to together?
4. How do people hear about these activities and know they are welcome to come to them?
5. Could any current activities be developed further using the gifts people in your church community possess?
6. How do you equip, resource and support your children and family leaders?
7. How are the voices of children heard in the planning and running of these activities?
8. What conclusions do you draw from your discussions around how Our Activities can have an impact on the welcome and inclusion of children and their families?
9. Are there any areas you can identify where you might want to suggest a new course of action?

Our Facilities

*"How happy are those who live in your house!"
Psalm 84:4*

Use these questions to help you look at the facilities you have, how accessible they are to children and to families with young children, and how well they are being used. See this as an opportunity to identify areas which can be adapted and improved.

1. How comfortable do you feel in your church buildings?
2. How easy is it for small children to enter your church building? Are there any hazards or difficulties you can identify?
3. How easy is it for a pram, pushchair or wheel chair to be brought into your church building?
4. Where can you 'park' buggies or prams during the service?
5. Where can a parent change a dirty nappy? What facilities do you offer for this?
6. How does your church congregation respond to breast feeding during a service or gathering?
7. Do you have the facilities to warm a baby's bottle?
8. What are you able to offer a parent with a toddler to help them engage with the service?
9. Can young children reach the urinal, toilet, sinks, soap, hand dryer/paper towels?
10. How easy is it for a newcomer to find the toilets in your church building?
11. How warm is your church in the winter?
12. How often is a risk assessment of your buildings carried out?
13. How are children's voices heard in relation to the facilities you have and how they are used?

What conclusions do you draw from your discussions around how Our Facilities can have an impact on the welcome and inclusion of children and their families?

Are there any areas you can identify where you might want to suggest a new course of action?

Our People

*"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it."
1 Corinthians 12:27*

These questions are designed to get you thinking about how people of the church make children and their families feel welcome.

1. Can you think of a time when you were made to feel very welcome and wanted somewhere? What were the things that made a difference to you?
2. In your church, who is responsible for welcoming children and their families?
3. Where does the welcome begin?
4. Discuss the reception you think a new family turning up at your church this Sunday would get. How would they know that you were really glad to be welcoming them?
5. What does a good welcome 'look like'?
6. Who do you expect to give an 'official welcome' to children and families, especially if they are new to your church?
7. What training is given to those who provide an 'official welcome'? Think of your Church Wardens at the doors for example.
8. How often are church members reminded and encouraged to be welcoming to children and their families?
9. Does your church have a mission statement? What does it say about children and families?
10. How are the voices of children heard and used in this area?
11. Is there a culture of ensuring that people are not left on their own (or not overwhelmed!) during times of social interaction, for example, tea and coffee time? How is that culture achieved?

What conclusions do you draw from your discussions around how Our People can have an impact on the welcome and inclusion of children and their families?

Are there any areas you can identify where you might want to suggest a new course of action?

