



Collective Worship, Spring Term 2026: 'Shine like stars!'

We gather together for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community, serving the needs of our unique school contexts. We begin this new term, and 2026, with a new story-saga theme, based on the **story of Daniel** and how his actions stood out in the challenging times in which he lived. Whilst we recognise that all these stories contain difficult themes, and might imply that standing up for your beliefs could mean certain death, we take the positive messages from each story in

how Daniel and his friends were such a contrast to the leaders they served, and indeed **shone like stars** (*Daniel 12:3*). In our world today, we want to inspire resilience in our pupils, to be confident in who they are and what they stand for, just like Daniel, and to be positive role models in your school community, even when it might be difficult. We link this in the 2nd half of term with some stories of some equally radical people from history who also 'shone like stars', using materials from the brand new book, '**Heroes of Hope**'***, which we hope many of you have already discovered. We finish with Easter and think what this meant for Jesus in the journey to the Cross.

Week	Theme	Details / follow-up	Bible content*	Reflection ideas	Song** (new songs in <i>italics</i>)
1 (5.1.26)	New Year, new challenge	What would you really like to be different about 2026?	Daniel 12:3	Shine like a star: Wish / prayer on a star for 2026	Our school / Back in school again (BBC) or Together / Shine (NBD)
2 (12.1.26)	Food, glorious food!	Daniel serves in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar	Daniel 1	Shine like a star: draw/write some actions that might 'shine like stars' this week	Across the 1 st half of term, feel free to select from these songs which connect with themes: Resilience in me (NBD); Justice (NBD) / Courage (NBD) / Truth (NBD) / Every step (NBD) / All through history (NBD); Being a friend (BBC) or a special song written by Fischy Music for Christian Aid, Speak up
3 (19.1.26)	In the fiery furnace	The friends refuse to bow down to the golden statue.....and are rescued from the fiery furnace.	Daniel 3	Shine like a star: stand up for what's right; starry scenario cards	
4 (26.1.26)	Daniel and the King's dreams	Proud King Nebuchadnezzar has some strange dreams, which contain a warning from God	Daniel 4	Shine like a star: hold a star and think about what it might mean to be wise this week	
5 (2.2.26)	The writing on the wall	Belshazzar's feast – and some more words from God	Daniel 5	Shine like a star: the writing's on the wall (or the playground!) Positive messages for others	
6 (9.2.26)	In the lions' den	Another miraculous escape	Daniel 6	Shine like a star: what has inspired you about Daniel's story this half term?	

HALF TERM

7 (23.2.26)	Heroes of Hope: St. Monica (331-387 CE)	The patron saint of mothers, St Monica was the mother of founding church father, Augustine of Hippo. Her story focuses us on the impact of unwavering love.	1 Corinthians 13:4-9	Love-heart shapes: What is 'Love is...' for you? OR Love-heart chain: make a chain of hearts & write or draw some small things you could do for someone else	Chain of love (BBC) or Let our love show (NBD)
8 (2.3.26)	Heroes of Hope:	A champion of charity, from Peru: 'Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a	Matthew 25: 40	Lent: introduce 40 Acts cards, serving others: https://zeroheight.com/12562c892/p/08bb93-	Being a friend (BBC)



	St. Martin de Porres (1579-1639 CE)	garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God.'		school You might want to leave these out throughout Lent.	
9 (9.3.26)	Heroes of Hope: Toyohiko Kagawa (1888-1960 CE)	A peacemaker and builder of communities, from Japan. 'It is not enough to have ideals. We must translate them into action.'	Luke 10:25-37	Put Lego® or similar out: as you build, think & talk about things that 'build up' our school community	Build up (BBC) or Fischy Music song for Christian Aid, Speak up
10 (16.3.26)	Heroes of Hope: St. Alphonsa (1910-1946 CE)	A saint from India: 'Love is the greatest gift we can give to others. Let us show love and compassion to all, just as God has shown us.'	Greatest commandment Matthew 22:37-39	Create a chain of love, using hand outlines: Acts of kindness: helping one person is a start...	Chain of love (BBC) or Let our love show (NBD)
11 (23.3.26)	Heroes of Hope: Journey to the Cross	A life of service: Jesus takes the path to the cross (washing feet; words to thief on the cross & John about his mother)	John 13:4-7, 12-14	Palm Cross reflection: how might we serve others and shine like stars this week?	An Easter song from your school collection

** Please check words to songs before you use them! We are using some familiar and some new Nick and Becky Drake songs in the first half of term: [Justice](#) (NBD) / [Courage](#) (NBD) / [Truth](#) (NBD) / [Every step](#) (NBD) / [All through history](#) (NBD) but do feel free to substitute from your own school collection if you need more variety! Version with actions: [All through history](#)

- Additionally, **Christian Aid** are hosting a number of really sing-able songs campaigning for justice, which you might want to use here, or in other parts of school life: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/global-neighbours/fischy-music> We use one ([Speak up](#)) in this series, but you might want to play others as children enter or leave collective worship.

Song references: BBC – BBC resources, links to online version; NBD – Nick & Becky Drake songs. POPUK – free access to a huge songbank, which you can use to find alternatives: [FREE song bank | for primary schools](#)

*** OPTIONAL:** Although we link to the chapters in BibleGateway from Daniel, do use the equivalent passages in a good children's Bible for brevity! You may wish to use any Bible words we reference in the script earlier on in each collective worship, in addition to the place that they are explored as part of the 'Words for worship' section. In this way, you might encourage children to think how these words might be relevant to this term's theme, or specifically to your school community, which may be especially relevant for any Church schools. You might like to use these questions:

- *I wonder what you think these words mean?*
- *I wonder how these words might connect with today's story or our school's vision & values?*
- *I wonder how these words might help us in the life of our school?*

***'Heroes of Hope' is a new book written for schools, featuring the lives of 22 diverse people from across the world who are heroes of hope in the way that they have challenged discrimination, dared to be different or inspired hope in others. Each church school in the Diocese of Guildford has been gifted a copy by the National Society; we are very grateful to the authors, illustrators and publishers for permission to use some of the visuals in this term's resources. If you have not yet collected yours, please contact jane.whittington@cofeguildford.org.uk or pop into Church House, Guildford to pick it up. Additional copies are available from: <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/heroes-of-hope-hb>

