

# Mattersey All Saints

## East Window



heritage learning welcome

**Aim:** To explore the importance of the Gospel writers to Christians

**Objective:** Pupils will learn something of the background of the Gospel writers and why they are remembered in the East Window at All Saints and consider who they have learnt from.

**Curriculum links:**

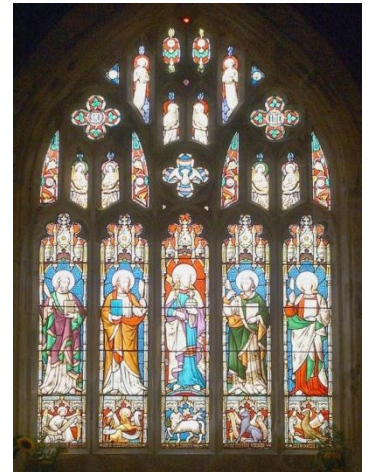
KS1 Leaders and teachers

KS2 Inspirational people

PSHE

**Activity:** Thinking of people who have been influential in the children's lives. Learning about the characters in the window and their importance for Christians.

**Resources:** Worksheets and pens/pencils



### Information for Leader

This lesson is based on the East Window, behind the altar. This window images of the four gospel writers (know as evangelists) – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the creatures symbolically associated with them; Matthew – an angel; Mark – a lion; Luke – an ox; John – an eagle.

When the children are sharing the people who are important to them, their contributions need to be treated with respect.

Younger children may need to be told that the figures in the window are not what the men actually looked like, but are what the person who made the window thought they might look like.

### Introduction (5 mins)

- Start with the children sitting so they can see the altar and the East Window behind it. After they have taken off coats and settled down introduce yourself and ask them what books they can see in the church.
- Focus on the Bible. Briefly explain that it is split into the Old and New Testaments, and, if the children are old enough ask one to find the beginning of the New Testament. What are the first four books of the New Testament called? There are images of these four characters in the church – can any of the children see them? To help the children these characters are each carrying a book.

### Activity (20 mins)

- Explain that the window with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is in a very important place for Christians – by the altar, where everyone will see it. So these must be thought of as very important people for their pictures to be here.
- Explain to the children that the exact writers of the Gospels are not known, but that lots of people have looked into this and have a pretty good idea who they were. Nor do we know what they looked like.
  - Matthew is thought to have been a Jewish tax collector. He is symbolised by an angel because the first story in his book is the story of the angel appearing to Joseph.
  - Mark's mother lived in Jerusalem and in the early days of the church they met in her house. He went on journeys with Paul and knew Peter well. He is symbolised with a lion because his book begins with the story of the John the Baptist in the wilderness, where there would have been lions.

- Luke was a doctor, and so was well educated. He went on journeys with Paul telling people about Jesus. He is symbolised with an ox because his book starts with Zechariah the priest, who would have prepared sacrifices to God.
- John was a fisherman and is often described as the disciple Jesus loved, so he would have been special to Jesus. He is symbolised with an eagle because his book tends to look at the story of Jesus differently, like an eagle.
- Why are they here? Bring out that they are important to Christians because they wrote the stories of Jesus' life and without them we wouldn't know as much about Jesus as we do. Ask a few children which stories about Jesus they know and explain that they came from one of the books written by these four men. These four men have made a huge difference to Christians today – without them Christians wouldn't know as much and wouldn't understand what Jesus taught in the same way, and so would live their lives differently.
- We all have people we have learnt a lot from, as Christians have learnt a lot from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Obviously we learn a lot from our teachers, but who else do we learn from? This could be friends, relations, people on the TV, authors . . . (you might like to give an appropriate, brief, personal example here). Ask the children to think about who they have learnt from (this can be someone they know or someone who has influenced them in some way) and a special place where they would put a model or picture of that person. If they are willing a few children might like to share their ideas – encourage them, thanking them for sharing and expressing what a wonderful person they have described and how they have been important to the child. Give out the sheets and ask the children to draw their person, or something to represent that person.

## Plenary (5 mins)

- If appropriate all the sheets could be placed on the altar, or held carefully by the children and either have a short period of quiet when the children remember the person they have drawn and think about how important they have been and what they have learnt, or say a short prayer, such as (with the children joining in with the Amen if they agree with the words:
  - Heavenly Father, we thank you for Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and for the books they wrote and all we are able to learn from them. We also thank you for all the people we have been able to learn from, and for all they have taught us. Amen

## Extension

- Explore other portrayals of the four evangelists in art (use your computer search engine to help)
- Look at other portrayals of the four evangelists on the Church History Project website (<http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk>). Where are they in the church? What are they made of? Good ones to look at would be:
  - <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/perlethorpe/hpics.php> A stone carved reredos
  - <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk/bestwood-st-mark/hglass.php> A window
  - <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/cinderhill/hfitting.php> Wooden carvings
  - <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/oxton/hfitting.php> A wooden carved reredos
  - <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/keyworth/hglass.php> Windows
  - <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/carlton-in-lindrick/hfitting.php> The symbols portrayed on the altar cloth



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