

Sneinton St Stephen

Life of Christ

Aim: To explore key events in the life of Christ

Objective: To recognise the events portrayed on the reredos at St Stephen's and the relevant Bible passages or stories.

Curriculum links:

KS1 Story: how and why some stories are sacred and important in religion
 KS2 Symbols and religious expression: how religious and spiritual ideas are expressed

Activity: The children will look at the reredos and match the scenes portrayed with the appropriate Bible stories.

Resources: 6 Bibles – Good News would be a good version or, the appropriate version of the Bible stories from below

Information for Leader

The activity is given in different ways so it can be used by children of different ages and abilities – you might like to check with the school first which would be most suited to the children you are working with. The scenes and Bible passages, in chronological order, are:

Annunciation	Luke 1:26-35	Lower central
Magi	Matthew 2:10-11	Upper left
Baptism	Matthew 3:13-17	Upper right
Crucifixion	Luke 23:44-49	Upper central
Resurrection	Matthew 28:1-4 and Mark 16:5	Lower left
Ascension	Luke 24:50-51	Lower right

Introduction (10 mins)

- Allow the children time to arrive, take off their coats, sit down and have a look around. Introduce yourself with your name and four significant events in your life (marriage, children, education, met the queen, job . . .) Ask the children to share with a partner four significant events in their lives (birth of sibling, starting school, winning a prize, joining football team . . .)
- Ask two or three children to share their four events. Ask them how they remember and celebrate these events – are there photographs or certificates in their homes?

Activity (30 mins)

- The life of Jesus could be told as a series of important events. Because these are significant, Christians want to remember them and so they are often represented in churches. In this church six significant events in Jesus' life are shown in a very important place – behind the altar. Divide the children into six groups. Give them one of the following and then ask them to read the passage and then find the scene on the reredos that shows the events they have read about:
 - A list of the Bible passages and Bibles
 - Bibles with the passages found and marked (use a paper with the reference as a bookmark)



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- The Bible passages written out
 - The stories of the six events
- When they have found their scene, ask each group to take a character from that scene and write their accounts of the events portrayed.
 - When they have finished bring the group back together and listen to the accounts written by each group as you stand together and look at the reredos.

Plenary (10 mins)

- Discuss the order in which these events happened in the life of Christ. (Older children may work this out for themselves, younger children will need to be guided through this).

List of Bible references

Luke 1:26-35

Matthew 2:10-11

Matthew 3: 13-17

Luke 23:44-49

Matthew 28:1-4 and Mark 16:5

Luke 24:50-51

Bible passages



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Luke 1:26-35

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Matthew 2: 10-11

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Luke 23:44-49

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." ⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Matthew 28:1-4 and Mark 16:5

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

Luke 24:50-51

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Bible stories



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Annunciation

Mary was a young lady and an angel came to her at home and said, 'You are going to have a baby, and you will call him Jesus.' Mary was frightened and knelt down on the floor.

Visit of the Wise Men

The wise men came from the East looking for the baby king. They followed a star and found him in a stable. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Baptism

John was baptising people in the river Jordan. Jesus came and asked John to baptise him as well. When Jesus came out of the water the Holy Spirit came from heaven to him like a dove.

Crucifixion

Jesus died on a cross with some of his friends nearby.

Resurrection

After Jesus died, he came alive again. The soldiers who supposed to be guarding his tomb had fallen asleep. Jesus was dressed in beautiful white clothes.

Ascension

Jesus went up to heaven with the angels.