



## Collective Worship 5 – 07 October 2011 Looking at Saints Number 1 Saint Matthew

All the Collective Worship emails so far can be found on our website

[http://portsmouth.anglican.org/what\\_we\\_do/education/school\\_staff/teachers/collective\\_worship/](http://portsmouth.anglican.org/what_we_do/education/school_staff/teachers/collective_worship/)

### The Worship – Major theme ‘IN’

Many of the Gospel readings are currently from St Matthew. My suggestion is that as we lead up to All Saints day we spend 4 weeks looking at Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

There will be Half Term, Remembrance Sunday and Advent that will slot in between the four sessions on the saints.

This worship suggestion is from the Culham Institute website.

There is a primary worship here [http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/assemblies/043p\\_stmatthew.php](http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/assemblies/043p_stmatthew.php)

And a secondary worship here [http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/assemblies/022s\\_discipleship.php](http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/assemblies/022s_discipleship.php)

### Music on Entry

### Start the worship with a Christian Greeting

e.g. Lighting a Candle and saying “**The Lord be with you.**” “**And also with you.**”

### There may be singing

'Love is something' No.16 in *Come and Praise Beginning*, BBC Educational Publishing

'The best gift' No.59 in *Come and Praise 1*, BBC Educational Publishing

### Taking Tea with Tax Collectors

In this act of worship, pupils are introduced to Matthew's story as he first encounters Jesus and decides to become one of his followers.

Matthew's encounter with Jesus in Matthew 9:9-13.

### PREPARATION

Make a small collection of biographies of some well-known people. Have a mixture of historical and contemporary figures.

- On a focus table, place a candle and a Bible opened at Matthew's gospel.

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- Prepare an image showing a simple outline of three moneybags.

## INTRODUCTION

Begin by showing the biographies you have brought with you. Talk about what a biography is. Choose someone the pupils all know - it could be a celebrity or it could be someone from your school. What kinds of things would the children put into a biography of this person? Ask what the children would put into their own biography - how would they like to be remembered?

Shift the focus to the copy of the Bible open at St Matthew's Gospel. The Gospels are like biographies of Jesus. There are four Gospels and the one that appears first is Matthew's Gospel (although it is not the first one to be written). September 21st is a special day when Christians remember St Matthew. Not very much is known about Matthew. There are just a few verses in his Gospel that tell the story of how he became a follower of Jesus.

## DEVELOPMENT - MATTHEW'S STORY

Before Matthew knew Jesus he was called Levi. He was very unpopular because he was a tax collector. This meant he worked for the Romans. Tax collectors were often very greedy and would cheat people by charging them too much money. Levi was no exception; all he wanted to do was make money and become very rich.

One day he met Jesus and Jesus asked him to become one of his followers. Everyone was surprised that Jesus had even spoken to Matthew. They could not understand why Jesus was befriending him; they were even more surprised when Matthew agreed. Jesus accepted Matthew's invitation to go to his house to have a meal with his friends. (To many onlookers, this was a shocking thing for Jesus to do - tax collectors were considered to be outcasts.)

From this extraordinary day, Levi became known as Matthew, which means 'gift of the Lord'. He left behind his old life, his wealth and power, and gave up everything to become one of Jesus' followers. He devoted his life to telling others about Jesus and he wrote down his story of Jesus' life, called the Gospel of Matthew. It is the first book in the New Testament.

## REFLECTION

Light a candle on the focus table and place the Bible next to it. Project the image of three money bags.

As you light the candle, say...

'Matthew is often pictured with the symbol of three money bags as a reminder that he was a hated tax collector until he became one of Jesus' followers and found peace.'

## PRAYER

Make us worthy Lord  
to serve others  
and by our understanding love  
bring peace and joy.  
Amen

Say the Lord's Prayer and prepare the children for the line 'For thine is the kingdom . . . '

## Leaving the hall

- Who is the most important person for you? How would they tell their story? What would you want others to know about them?
- Find the emblems or symbols associated with St Matthew and the other Gospel writers.

**“The Lord be with you.” “*And also with you.*”**

## Optional evaluation using '4' questions with a small group of children.

1. Tell me one thing you liked about the Collective Worship you have just been in?
  - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
2. Tell me one thing that would have made it better for you?
  - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
3. Tell me what it was about?
  - a. This is about factual recall.
4. Tell me why did the person leading the worship do what they did? (How you phrase this depends on the age of the pupils)
  - a. So what was the point?
  - b. What do you take away?
  - c. What do we learn about how we live our lives?

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