

Workshops

We aim to support your school curriculum by offering inspiring, interactive activities based on a theme of your choice to complement your experience visiting our Cathedral.

Workshops are a wonderful way for small groups to work together to create a piece of art, plan a drama based on a bible story, solve a problem to find an answer to a question – all in the beautiful space which has seen nearly 1,500 years of faithful visitors.

We can tailor each workshop to the needs and age appropriate learning of your pupils in order to inspire and motivate enquiring minds.

Stained glass window art

- Study the different examples of our stained glass windows in Blackburn Cathedral
- Why do cathedrals have stained glass?
- What are the reasons some windows have bible scenes in?
- Discuss how the various colours reveal the different eras of making stained glass
- Plan your own stained glass window with your bible story or the colours to represent something of God's wonderful world



Prayer

Prayer may be expressed in many different ways in the breadth of Christian places of worship. Find out what forms of prayer are used at Blackburn Cathedral and explore the words and actions which have traditionally been used to help people meet with God. Some of the following activities might be used:

- How do Christians pray and why?
- What does forgiveness mean and what role does a Cathedral play in
- Make a prayer flower and see it float and open in water
- What objects might Christians use to help them pray – rosary beads, icons?
- Work in small groups to plan and write prayers for ourselves and our community
- Make a prayer bracelet – 3 strands for God, Myself, Others
- Sing songs which reflect how Christians might use music to communicate with God

Pilgrimage

- Imagine how and why visitors have come to Blackburn Cathedral over its long history of faithful explorers.
- Find out about the symbols and practices Christians might encounter when they arrive
- Learn about the significance of the Font, what it is used for and the symbolism of the beginnings of the Christian Journey
- Discover the Saints who have brought Christianity to our county and the message they brought

Colours of the Church Year

Blackburn Cathedral sits at the centre of Church of England worship practice of Lancashire Diocese and the cycle of our liturgy encompasses a rich heritage of visual representation of the main annual dates.

- Learn about the different colours which represent the full cycle of festivals and feasts in the church's year
- see how the colours speak about the events of the year
- dress up in the vestments worn by those taking services in our Cathedral
- Design your own vestment which represents an important event in the Christian calendar



Angel Hunt

Most suited to KS1, our angel hunt takes in all the incredible images inside and outside our building that feature angels

- Find Archangels, Seraphim, Cherubim images
- Act out stories in the bible where these angels feature
- Think about these angels as messengers from God – what message might your angel bring to us?
- Craft activity to create their own Angel



Christmas / Easter Drama

All our drama days are planned in conjunction with teachers to ensure your pupils can engage personally with the events of these significant moments in the Christian calendar

- Participate in dramatised readings of the Christmas / Easter stories
- Dress up as the characters and use props to plan your drama in small groups
- Re-enact the story in the beautiful spaces of Blackburn Cathedral to re-imagine the experiences of people before us
- A craft activity will usually be planned to consolidate learning

Can These Stones Speak?

– The Secret Language of Cathedrals

- Find out the amazing stories behind how Blackburn Cathedral was built over the different centuries
- Investigate the signs and clues outside and inside to discover the history of the Cathedral's development
- Explore all the different features and what they tell about the Christian story
- Sketch your observations of your chosen feature

Mosque Cathedral Day

Through its unique and innovative Mosque-Cathedral programme, Blackburn Cathedral leads the way in promoting community cohesion, inter-faith education, outreach and development.

Work with us to tap into this amazing resource to bring Inter-Faith Studies for your students to life. Blackburn is a thriving multi-faith town and whatever the age of your pupils we can help you to maximise your time in Blackburn by planning a joint study visit to the Cathedral and a local mosque.

- Visit a local Mosque and find out about Islam
- Hear about the ritual practices that Muslims will adopt at their place of worship (Masjid)
- See and hear the Imam explain the Pillars of Islam
- Listen to prayers sung in Arabic by the Imam
- Watch the Wudu (ritual washing)

The afternoon is spent doing the Blackburn Cathedral Trail and any workshop of your choice.

