

### The Circle of the Church Year

*To be used with the Circle of the church year resource provided for all 3 churches. Below is a simple explanation and script as used on the training evening. For more support and to discuss how to use this resource regularly within children's liturgy, please contact Lucy at [cyf@cpg.church](mailto:cyf@cpg.church)*

*Place the clock face in front of you, with gold cord hidden in hand*

Time, time, time. There all kinds of time. There is a time to get up in the morning. There is a time to go to bed. There is a time to go to school and a time to come home. There is time to work and a time to play. But what is time?

Some people say that time is a line, but I wonder what time would look like? Ah, wait a minute. What is this? *(begin to pullout gold cord from fist)*

Time. Time in a line. This is time in a line. Look at this. Here is the beginning. It is the newest part. It is just being born. It is brand new. Now look

Look it is getting older. The part that was new is now getting old. I wonder how long time goes. Does it go on forever? Could there ever be an ending

It ended. Look at the ending.

The beginning that was so new at the beginning is now old. The ending is the new part now.

Do you know what the church did? They tied the ending that was like a beginning and the beginning that was like an ending together, so we would always know that for every ending there is a beginning and for every beginning there is an ending. *(Place cord circle around clock)*

*As you talk about each block, count them out onto the rug to the side of the clock.*

Here are the three great times. This is **Christmas**. This is **Easter**. This is – ouch! That's hot! This is **Pentecost**

People can walk right though these mysteries each year and not even know what's there. We need time to get ready to come close to these mysteries.

Here are the times for getting ready. The time for getting ready to come close to the mystery of Christmas is called **Advent**.

The time for getting ready to come close to the mystery of Easter is called **Lent**.

There are four Sundays to get ready for Christmas

And six to get ready for Easter

Look Christmas is so mysterious it can't be kept in one day, so it overflows into a whole season.

And Easter is the same. It is such a great mystery that it spills over in six Sundays and again makes a whole season

And the season of Easter helps us get ready for the great mystery of **Pentecost**. Which is - ouch! Still hot!

Here are all the **great green growing** Sundays of the year.

*Take out the pieces slowly and with purpose...do not be tempted to rush this bit!*

Now let's see if we can build the Circle of the Church Year again! Watch carefully, because the church tells time by colours as well as clocks.

*Begin to count the pieces back into the clock*

Here are the three great times. **Christmas** **Easter** **Pentecost**

Ouch this one is STILL hot!

The time for getting ready for the great mystery of Christmas is called **Advent**. It is one, two, three, four weeks long. The Church year begins with the beginning of **Advent**.

The colour for getting ready for Christmas is purple. That's a serious colour, the colour of kings. And we are getting ready for the coming of a King.

The time for getting ready for Easter is usually purple. That's a serious colour, the colour of kings. Something is going to happen to Jesus, the King, but he was not the kind of king that people thought was coming. He was a different kind of king. Look there are **one, two, three, four, five, six weeks of Lent** for getting ready for Easter. It must be an even great mystery than Christmas. **Christmas** cannot be kept in one Sunday and so it overflows into a whole season.

The colour of Easter is also white or gold, again the colour of celebration. Easter is such a great mystery that you can't keep it in one Sunday it keeps on going for **one, two, three, four, five, six weeks**. During that time people met Jesus in a new way. He had died on the cross, and that was very sad. But they kept meeting him in a very different way. Somehow Jesus was still with them as he is still with us. Then something wonderful happened.

The Apostles went outside of Jerusalem with Jesus in this new way.  
There they saw him go up...

*Hold hands over clock and raise up and then turn hands over and move down*

...And a few days later the holy Spirit came down. The Church was born. The Apostles glowed with the power of the Holy Spirit. Their tongues were like fire when they spoke. They were more alive than they had ever been before. That's why **Pentecost** is red like fire.

First we will put in the **great green growing** Sundays between Christmas and Easter. It changes each year but for this year there are 8 green growing Sundays.

Here are the rest of the **great green growing** Sundays. The summer comes and the days are getting longer. You can play outside later. School finishes and some people go on holiday. Some places have holiday clubs. It's time for days out and a time to play with friends. Then the holidays end and it's time to get ready to go back to school. You need new clothes and books. School begins and you often have a new teacher. Then the days start getting shorter. School goes on and you start to get used to the new teacher and all the new things. Now the days are really short. It starts to get dark early. It looks as if the light is just about to go out. Right at that time when the light seems to be coming to an end we reach **Advent**. The year ends, and then it begins again. It is time to get ready for the mystery of Christmas.

Here are the three great times: **Christmas**, **Easter** and **Pentecost**

Here are the times for getting ready for **Advent**: that's four weeks...  
and Lent: that's six weeks.

You can't keep **Christmas** and **Easter** in one Sunday so they spill over into other Sundays afterwards.

Here's **Pentecost** and IT'S STILL HOT!

Here are the **great green growing** Sundays of the year.

It is all here. Everything we need. For every beginning there is an ending, and for every ending there is a beginning. It goes on and on for ever and ever.