

# Bleasby St Mary

## Reredos and Altar



heritage learning welcome

**Aim:** To explore the importance of remembering in relation to communion

**Objective:** Pupils will hear the story of the Last Supper and consider the importance of remembering

**Curriculum links:**

KS1 Believing

KS2 Beliefs and questions and Symbols and religious expression

**Activity:** The children will find examples of memorials in church and hear the story of the Last Supper. They will make a reminder of their visit to St Mary's and experience eating bread to remember.

**Resources:** Children's Bible

Card, felt pens, glue sticks, photos of the altar

Small loaf of bread



### Information for Leader

You will need to remove the altar cloth, or pull it above the altar so the pictures on the front of the altar are visible. The children will look at how people and events are remembered in St Mary's and how Jesus is remembered by Christians.

### Introduction (10 mins)

- Meet the children by the gate and take them to the war memorial. Ask them what they think it is. Read the beginning of the inscription, 'This monument was erected to the memory of the men of the parishes of Bleasby and Halloughton, who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918'. Ask them to remember this as they go inside the church.
- Once inside, seat the children where they are able to see the altar. Ask them what they saw outside. Emphasise the word 'memory' and explain that they were looking at the war **memorial**, and that the word memorial comes from the word 'memory'. Ask them why they think the memorial was built and why it is important to remember these men. There are other memorials in church that were put there to remember different people. Give the children 5 minutes to wander round church and see if they can find a memorial.

### Activity (20 mins)

- Bring the children back to their seats and ask a few of them what memorials they have found. Emphasise that they were put there to remember the person named on them.
- Jesus asked his followers to remember him. He also told them to do something in memory of him. Does anyone know what that was? Eat the bread and drink the wine, as he did at the last supper. Read the story of the Last Supper from a children's Bible.
- Point out how the altar and the reredos (the part behind the altar – older children will enjoy learning the word) remind the people in church of Jesus' command to eat bread and drink wine in remembrance of him. There are other symbols to help them remember – ask the children what they might be. Point out the IHS (the first three letters of Jesus in Greek) and the chi rho (that looks like a cross and a P which are the first two letters of Christ in Greek) and the lamb (Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God in John 1:29-34). These are all there to help Christians remember Jesus. With older children talk about why it is important to remember Jesus, that because of him Christians believe they are forgiven when they do wrong things and are shown how to follow Jesus' example.
- To remember their visit to St Mary's the children could either decorate a simple pre-prepared photo frame with a photo of the altar to go inside, or could decorate a prepared bookmark. Ask them to think about how they are decorating their work – they could use images and symbols they can see in church.

## Plenary (5 mins)

- Break a loaf of bread and pass it round, inviting the children to break off a piece and eat it. They could say the next child's name as they pass the bread on, or say, 'Remember today'. Suggest that as they eat their bread they remember what they have done today in church. Explain this is similar to what Christians do when they remember Jesus, but then the bread is blessed first. This is like eating ordinary bread. If children do not want to take part that is OK.

## Extension

- Look up examples of how the Last Supper is represented in art using a search engine. How do they help Christians remember?
- Look at other symbols in the church and see if you can find out what they mean.
- Design a banner that could be hung in a church that would remind Christians of Jesus. What images and symbols would you put on it?