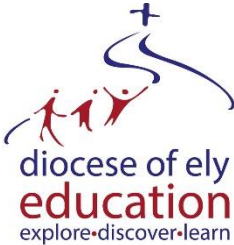


BISHOP STEPHEN'S LENT CHALLENGE 2022 BRAVE BELIEVERS



VISION AND OVERVIEW

Lent Challenge 2022 is about bravery and courage, being courageous advocates of the Christian faith in our lives, our schools, our communities and across the world.

Join us in this challenge as we discover just how brave we are, how God gives us all courage and how we meet our friends near and far to make this world a better place.

Discover through World Vision, our partners for Lent Challenge 2022, how the Christian faith can help us all work together across the world.

Our aims and thoughts...

At time over the last two years times many of us have felt far from brave and facing challenges which we've had to overcome.

This Lent season we are asking all our schools, children, and staff to take part in *Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge 2022*, because with God beside us - we can live brave and courageous lives.

Implicit to the Christian faith, is the belief that God is present in every situation, which leads to great acts of courage. Courage takes many forms: it may mean facing up to opposition or personal danger; it may mean overcoming your personal fears or phobias; it could mean standing up for what's right

The Bible is full of stories of courage and bravery: David and Goliath; Daniel in the lions' den; Paul on his missionary journeys; Jesus himself in the Garden of Gethsemane.

And our children are remarkably resilient and often help us to be brave at times when we are feeling full of fear and worry. How many times do we go into school and thank God for the life and spirit of the children we meet, who touch our hearts? God works with us all as his children, to discover bravery and to find courage.

This year, we're excited to hear and see from you and the children in your classes and schools. Get creative, with videos, podcasts, songs, written work, and drawings too – we're sure the children have lots to share about doubt, fear, bravery, and courage.

Reverend Sue Martin, Bishop's Officer for Schools' Mission

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP STEPHEN & BISHOP DAGMAR

Dear Friends

We can all find ourselves in places where we feel threatened and frightened. The first Christians felt like that when they refused to worship the Roman Emperor. Small wonder that one of the Letters in the New Testament, the Epistle to the Ephesians (Eph 6:10-20), describes the armour of a brave believer, a kind of spiritual armour, armour not to kill but to defend:

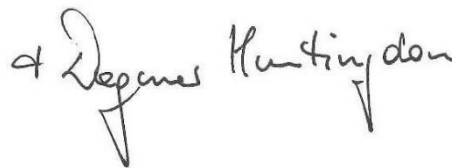
There is the belt of truth, the breastplate of justice, the shoes of readiness to proclaim the gospel of peace. Then there is the shield of faith (to fight off enemy arrows) and the helmet of salvation.

Being brave believers means we are always growing into this spiritual armour.

And putting on the spiritual armour in our hearts and minds can be a kind of prayer, perhaps particularly this Lent: in the morning, in the evening, before a difficult situation. Sit down, even if you only have a couple of minutes, and prayerfully consider that God is there for you so you can equip yourself, and imagine yourself putting them on:

- ◆ the belt of truth: that anger or envy or the will for control or status does not cloud our minds to what is true and what is right
- ◆ the breastplate of justice: that we will see where the values of God's kingdom need defending - in Jesus' way, speaking up for those who have no voice, offering opportunities to those who are disadvantaged.
- ◆ the shoes of readiness to proclaim the gospel of peace: that we will not be lost for words but speak with our hearts, our lips and our actions in lifegiving ways for God's shalom.
- ◆ the shield of faith: that we will nurture faith in ourselves and others, encouraging the community of faith to grow
- ◆ the helmet of salvation: to remind us that our salvation is not dependent on us but is safe in God's hands because it is God who makes us loved and accepted, forgiven and strong people – God's children, brave believers.

So may God empower us this Lent in the way of Christ.



MESSAGE FROM MARK SHEARD CEO [WORLD VISION UK](#)

I'd like to say a special thank you to Bishop Stephen and his team at the Diocese of Ely Education Directorate for inviting World Vision to be a part of this year's Lent Challenge.

We are excited as you explore what it takes to be Brave Believers – something close to World Vision's heart.

For us, it takes bravery and courage to work in the world's most dangerous places, something recently reinforced by our [staff on the ground in Afghanistan](#) – who despite uncertainty and fear for their personal safety, are committed to stay and help the vulnerable children we serve.

It's because of the children that World Vision exists; they are our brave believers, full of hope and dreams for a brighter future.

We pray children across the Diocese of Ely enjoy connecting with the children we work with around the world, through their stories, photos and films - and that together our children will be the brave believers God created them to be.

God Bless

Mark

CONTENT

Included with this pack are:

- Ideas for Collective Worship and school activities over four weeks in Lent. These are for initial support and ideas. We hope each school will develop their own creative ideas.
- Prayers for Brave Believers
- Resources and materials available to download
- Contacts for further information

CHILDREN'S WORK

We invite schools to send materials produced by the children to the diocese in electronic format.

We are really looking forward to seeing how creative our children can be.

And it couldn't be easier for you to share!

Simply send content to share to sue.martin@elydiocese.org

In 2022 we have created a page on our website for all materials produced from our schools.

<https://bit.ly/3AN0MHJ>

We are aiming to have truly brave innovations and designs for resources and materials which can be shared widely with others.

We'll be sharing everything with World Vision, Ely Cathedral, Church Schools of Cambridge, the Diocese of Ely Mission & Ministry Team and World Vision. And we're sure parents and carers will love to see all your hard work – so please share on your school websites too."

In 2022, we are pleased to be partnering with [World Vision](#), who for over 70 years have worked together with children, their communities, and supporters and partners, to transform the lives of the world's most vulnerable children. They bring together people – of all faiths and none – in almost 100 countries, to improve children's health, education, water, protection and sources of family income. A Christian organisation - aspiring to reflect God's unconditional love in everything they do.

Their passion and dedication enable children to reach out and achieve...

Brave Believers indeed!

IDEAS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

Let's Find Out, Let the Bible Inspire Us and What Can We Do?

We're excited to bring you four weeks of lesson inspiration, classroom and whole school activities and Acts of Worship. Please be encouraged to use these however works best for your class/school. There is a suggested Act of Worship, plus ideas for classroom and whole school activities too. These are intended as a guide; you are the best people to work out ideas for your own school, and we know the children will have lots of ideas too.

We've also provided an overview of how being brave and having courage - whether a believer or not - is so important in our schools, in the areas of ethos, worship, curriculum, and leadership.

This is a framework which can be copied and pasted into teachers' own methods and IT systems. The document is a Diocese of Ely document and all we ask is, that if it is used elsewhere reference is made to The Diocese of Ely.

World Vision photos are © World Vision and can be used by your schools, ensuring the World Vision logo is visible and not altered in any way.

WEEK 1 OUR OWN BELIEFS, DREAMS AND VISION

Let's find out... What do we believe? How do we know when we are feeling brave? How can we do what is right? What kind of world would we like to live in?

Let the Bible inspire us.... passages from the Bible that help us to find out more about being brave and a belief that God is beside us.

I Samuel Chapter 17 verses 33-50

David & Goliath:

David is a young boy, who has been looking after the sheep, saving them from lions. When the battle between the Israelites had been raging for a long time, Saul's father, King David, was at a loss of how to defeat the very large Philistine, Goliath. David asked his father if he could go and try. Saul could not see how a young boy could ever defeat this large person with all his armour but allowed David to go out to meet Goliath. With one stone and one catapult David aimed at Goliath and saved all the Israelites from further battles. The first lesson we learn from David's actions is that we can all be brave even when all the odds are against us. David had a vision and a belief that he could do great things.

When we have God with us, we can be brave in our belief that God can help us.

Suggestion Jesus Walks on Water

Bible Reading: Matthew Chapter 14 verses 22-32

After a busy day with crowds of people Jesus had walked up the mountain to spend some time alone. Meanwhile the disciples were in a boat on Lake Galilee. In the night there was a storm, and the boat was far out in the middle of the lake and the boat was being tossed about. Jesus saw the disciples worried and frightened and went to them. In fact, he walked on the top of the water to them. When the disciples saw him, they thought he was a ghost and were even more frightened. Jesus called to them and said "Courage, it is I, don't be afraid!" He called to Peter to come to him, and Peter went out of the boat and started walking on the water. But the waves were strong, and he became afraid and started to sink.

Jesus reached him and saved him, and they both climbed in the boat.

"Why did you doubt me?" Jesus asked.

Let's take a look...

Technology has made us more globally connected than ever before - what's the weather like in Mongolia today? What language is spoken in Honduras? What's school like for children in South Sudan? We're all part of a global community and children often lead the way.

While life for children living in the world's hardest places may be different, courage and bravery are global.



Click the link below for your class and school to meet children from countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America too.

See, hear from, and learn about their homes, schools, lives, and childhoods – **because God made us all more similar than different.**

[DOWNLOAD WEEK 1](#)

https://www.worldvision.org.uk/lent_challenge

What can we do? ...These are stories of great courage and show how they shaped the world we live in today. Let's see how we can all be brave sometimes, it can be doing something extra to help at school or home, it can be having an idea of how things could be better.

Act of Worship Suggestion Jesus Walks on Water

Bible Reading: Matthew Chapter 14 verses 22-32

Present the concept of this year's Lent Challenge, Brave Believers. Talk about what it means to be brave, to do things which make us feel worried, even if we succeed or not. As Christians we have faith that God will help us. What thoughts and ideas do we have for the future? Do we have dreams and visions of what the world could be like and what we could do?

Talk about the way God has shown that we know he is with us when we start to being brave. It is never easy and takes courage. Tell the story of Jesus walking on water and how he asks Peter to step out of the boat. But when Peter loses courage, he starts to sink into the water.

Prayer

This day is full of promises

Of everything that's good.

Help me face the challenges

And do the things I should. Amen Anon [Lion Book of 1000 Prayers for Children]

Class & School Activities from World Vision

God has uniquely created each of us – and our experiences of courage and bravery are individual too. Each child is full of God-given potential, hopes and dreams.

Globally World Vision has activities that help every child share their hopes and dreams.

Get activity sheet for your class – and help your children explore their hopes and dreams too.



[View, print or download a copy here - external link](#)

Hymns and Songs, He's Got the Whole World in His Hands, Who Put the Colours in the Rainbow

Classroom and Whole School Activities

1. Create a display board of poems about Brave Believers with poems about feeling brave, and children we have met through World Vision who are being brave.
2. Reflect on how school can help us to be brave. How in school we are free to talk about our own beliefs, our dreams, and our vision for a good future.

WEEK 2 BEING BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS IN OUR LIVES

Let's find out... Can we feel brave and courageous? How do we use that to help others, like our friends and family? Can we do a good deed for someone?

Let the Bible inspire us.... John chapter 6 verses 1-14 The Feeding of the Five Thousand Joshua 1, verse 9 Be strong and courageous

Other stories include Malala Yousufzai a campaigner for girls' education who was shot by the Taliban in 2012, when she was just 14 years old, but who courageously continued her work and became the youngest person ever to win the world-famous Nobel Peace Prize. And Greta Thunberg who at 16 years old, started an international youth movement against climate change.

What can we do? ... We have had nearly two years of keeping apart, staying at home, and only attending school by remaining in our classes. Now we can move around school and be outside with all our friends. We can share, we can have fun and join in making life better. Can we now be brave and see who in our family needs some help. It might mean that we must be brave and have courage to make these actions happen.

Let's take a look...

Courage and bravery, hopes and dreams have no age limit or geographical boundaries! Whether you're a child or an adult, live in the UK or a refugee camp in Bangladesh – God has a purpose for each of our lives.

[Download](#) your free copy of the book: **Girls Who Dared to Dream** 10 short stories of children who dreamed big, thought differently, never gave up, and did things that seemed impossible. They are change-makers, writing their own stories, in small ways and big ways.



Use these stories in class - How were the children brave? What did they want to change? How did they change things? What can you learn from them?

[DOWNLOAD for Week 2 – external link: pdf](#)

Together, these children, millions more like them – and perhaps some in your class and school will change our world.

Act of Worship Suggestion

Read The Feeding of the Five Thousand – John chapter 6 verses 1-14

Act out a play with children about the feeding of the five thousand.

What would it have felt like to be able to offer two fishes? What would it have felt like to have been a child amongst so many people?

Ask for some thoughts from the children about what happened during lockdown and how they felt they were brave or if someone else in their family was brave.

Hymn or Song When I needed a neighbour were you there?

All Over the world.

Prayer

Let no-one steal your dreams, let no one tear apart
That burning ambition, that fire that drives inside your heart.
Set your sights and keep them fixed, set your sights on high.
Let no one steal your dreams, your only limit is the sky.
- Paul Cookson (Poems and Prayers for a Better World)

Classroom and Whole School Activities

Share the story of Malala and how she was brave in the face of sever opposition, yet all she wanted was to be able to have an education. She was brave as the fighters were very strong. She was brave as her family were also involved. Draw some pictures to show Malala at school and at home. Write a few lines of why she was right to be brave and follow her dream.

Create a Word Cloud on the link below with all the words your class can think of that will show bravery and courage e.g., brave, courage, strength, determination, fear, scared, being small,
<https://wordart.com>

Classroom and Whole School Activities

1. Find some poems with the word brave or courage in them. Write an Acrostic on Brave or Courage.
2. Create a Word Cloud on the link below with all the words your class can think of that will show being brave and having courage. brave, courage, confident, heroic, daring, fearless, adventurous, undaunted, spirited.
<https://wordart.com>
3. Create a video or podcast with children saying the words and the poems.
4. On your school website or email updates to parents and carers, perhaps share this [link](#) for families to download the free book **Girls Who Dare to Dream**. Who knows what other children it'll inspire?

WEEK 3 COURAGEOUS ADVOCATES IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

Let's find out... How do we help our children in moral development to have high aspirations? How do we achieve courageous advocates to develop in our communities? How can we look beyond ourselves and encourage pupils to reach out to those in need in our communities?

Let the Bible inspire us.... passages from the Bible that show how others have brought the Christian faith to those they have met.

Matthew Chapter 8 verses 5- 15

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help as his servant was paralyzed and suffering terribly. Jesus agreed to go to the house. The centurion explained that he was a Roman soldier. This meant that it was very difficult for him to show his bravery and conviction of the Christian faith. He acted very bravely and with great courage. Jesus was amazed and healed the man's servant as he was so pleased that the centurion had been able to express his faith and come to him

Acts Chapter 20 verse 23

Paul travelled widely to spread the message of Jesus and was often threatened because of his beliefs. He showed great courage and bravery in different communities. In this chapter he is going to Jerusalem and knows that he faces people there who will try and imprison him for his belief in Jesus.

Luke Chapter 10 verses 38-42

Mary and Martha were friends of Jesus. In this passage Jesus is visiting them in their home. Mary was busy listening to Jesus and Martha was getting ready for the meal together. Martha bravely questioned Jesus as to why Mary should just sit and listen whilst she was doing all the work.

We can often find ourselves wondering why we have to do so many tasks when others do less.

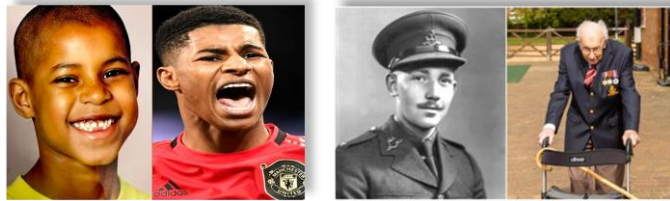
What can we do? ...

Let's take a look...

Speaking up and standing tall for what you believe in can take courage – but if the change you want is for the better – it's not only good, but it feels good too.

In classrooms across the UK there are young people who are already making a difference – are children in your class change-makers?

Marcus Rashford and Captain Sir Tom Moore are wonderful examples but hear about and inspire your class/school with stories from children just like them, who are already making a difference, **beyond their homes and schools!**



[DOWNLOAD WEEK 3](#)

https://www.worldvision.org.uk/lent_challenge

We could develop pupils understanding of how they can make a difference at school, through being involved in making decisions and good choices. We can look at the World Vision information to show how others around the world have improved their lives and been involved in a Christian understanding.

Act of Worship Suggestion

Make a play of the Mary and Martha meeting at their home and Jesus speaking with Mary. Reflect on how they all felt, Mary who was listening, Martha who was doing all the preparations and Jesus who wanted to talk with them and eat with them later.

Hymns and Songs **Shine Jesus Shine, If I Had a Hammer**

Prayer

Bless this day of learning: this day of maths, this day of science, this day of English, this day of learning games and sharing time together.

Bless this school and help us all to be brave believers, to show we can help and support those in need.

Bless each one of us and give us courage to speak the name of Jesus to those we meet. Amen

Dear Lord, we ask you to bring joy to others, to let them see the light that burns so brightly when we talk about your name. Let us be bold and have courage today, knowing that you are with us all the way. Amen

Classroom and Whole School Activities

1. Create a Word Cloud on the link below with all the words your class can think of that will show being brave and having courage. brave, courage, confident, heroic, daring, fearless, adventurous, undaunted, spirited. <https://wordart.com>
2. Create a video or podcast with children saying the words and the poems.
3. Rifa, in World Vision's book **Girls Who Dared to Dream**, learnt how to be brave, defend and stand up for herself and others. What could your class/school do to stand up for and help other children? Perhaps they can create a fundraising challenge to support children like Rifa with World Vision?



WEEK 4 BEING BRAVE ACROSS THE WORLD

Let's find out...What happens in different parts of the world. In the resources from World Vision, we can see what life is like for children living in developing countries. What tasks do they have every day? What are the differences in their lives and your own? What do you think are the good things about living in the countries we have thought about?

Let the Bible Inspire us...

Luke Chapter 22 verses 39-46 Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, which is just outside the city walls of Jerusalem. It was night-time and he was with his disciples. He knew that he needed all the courage he could find, to face the next few days. He knew he was soon to be arrested. He found strength by praying to God and knowing that he had to be brave to carry out the enormous request from God his father.

What can we do?

Let's take a look...

We began the Lent challenge celebrating every child, their unique God given potential, and their hopes and dreams - inspiring children about all they can be and achieve.

As we conclude the challenge, let's zoom out – inspiring children to become the next generation of *Brave Believers* who can change the world!



[DOWNLOAD WEEK 4](#)

Find out more about World Vision's work serving vulnerable children at worldvision.org.uk

By learning about differences across the world, we develop understanding, and we show we can all be brave believers in finding out and seeking adventures whether in actual journeys or virtual. We can show how we can all be courageous advocates of Christianity and reach out to children across the world. We can understand that we can help children of all beliefs and that as Christians it is part of our moral compass to engage and show true compassion and love.

Act of Worship Suggestion

Show some of the World Vision photos of children at work and play. Show actions of work such as collecting water, sweeping the paths, washing the dishes, cooking the food.

Show some of the World Vision photos of children at play, sharing skipping ropes they have made, the handmade doll, the boys with the well-used cricket bat, the young girl with a bicycle wheel and the child with the home-made ball.

Reflect on their lives that we can see.

Show photos of their hopes and dreams. How do they compare with your children's hopes and dreams?

(Available from Week 1)

Songs All Over the World Everywhere, Colours of Day Dawn into the Mind

Prayer

Little deeds of kindness. Little words of love,

Help to make earth happy. Like the heavens above. Julia Carney

“Despite the challenges that I encounter, I know that I can overcome them because I study hard and I pray to God all the time. I hope for a better tomorrow for myself, for my family, and for my fellow children.” Nica age 11, Philippines

We are all equal. We can all love.

We all have dreams and a wish for a good future. Let us pray for the dreams of being a pilot, being a race driver or a photographer, being an English teacher, being a doctor and helping people.

Help us to help others with their dreams.

Help us to realise our dreams.

Help us to be brave believers. Rev'd Sue Martin

Classroom and Whole School Activities

1. Make our own toys or create things that we can work with.
2. Make a collage of photos and written materials about World Vision
3. Write to World Vision to find out more about their work
4. Communicate with others to share the children and people you have met through World Vision.

Prayers of Bravery and Courage

This day is full of promises
Of everything that's good.
Help me face the challenges
And do the things I should. Amen Anon [Lion Book of 1000 Prayers for Children]

Let no-one steal your dreams

Let no-one tear apart
The burning of ambition
That fires the drive inside your heart.
Let no-one steal your dreams
Let no-one tell you that you can't
Let no-one hold you back
Let no-one tell you that you won't,
Set your sights and keep them fixed
Set your sights on high
Let no-one steal your dreams
Your only limit is the sky.
Let no-one steal your dreams
Follow your heart
Follow your soul
For only when you follow them
Will you feel truly whole by Paul Cookson

Bless this day of learning: this day of math's, this day of science, this day of English, this day of learning games and sharing time together.

Bless this school and help us all to be brave believers, to show we can help and support those in need.

Bless each one of us and give us courage to speak the name of Jesus to those we meet. Amen Anon

Dear Lord, we ask you to bring joy to others, to let them see the light that burns so brightly when we talk about your name. Let us be bold and have courage today, knowing that you are with us all the way. Amen

Little deeds of kindness. Little words of love,

Help to make earth happy. Like the heavens above. By Julia Carney

Despite the challenges that I encounter, I know that I can overcome them because I study hard, and I pray to God all the time. I hope for a better tomorrow for myself, for my family, and for my fellow children. By Nica age 11, Philippines

We are all equal. We can all love.

We all have dreams and a wish for a good future. Let us pray for the dreams of being a pilot, being a race driver or a photographer, being an English teacher, being a doctor and helping people.

Help us to help others with their dreams.

Help us to realise our dreams.

Help us to be brave believers. By Rev'd Sue Martin

“Everyone is a bit scared,” said the horse.

But we are less scared together.”

Tears fall for a reason, and they are your strength, not your weakness.”

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse. By Charlie Mackesy published by Penguin 201

RESOURCES

Bravery and Courage as a Christian Value in Schools

Available on *Diocese of Ely Education Directorate* <https://bit.ly/3obDeai>

Ethos

- How does the school positively support children who are facing personal difficulties, for a variety of reasons, and help them to face these problems with courage?
- Is your school culture one of selfishness or selflessness?
- Do your pupils understand that some things are worth working for or worth waiting patiently for? How do you develop patience?
- What encourages the people of your school to persevere in the face of difficulty?
- When everything is changing rapidly around us, from fashion to policies, how do you help pupils, staff and governors to identify and treasure those things which are of enduring value?

Worship

- How do you tell the Holy Week and Easter story to present the meaning and message of Jesus' life and death in an appropriate way?
- What opportunities are there to hear the stories of those who have suffered for their faith, and to be inspired by them?
- How does worship help people develop a sense of hope that will sustain them through difficult times?

Curriculum

- Do your policies encourage and motivate pupils?
- How do learning and teaching strategies encourage perseverance and motivate children to give of their best?
- How do we give pupils an appreciation of the difficult situations that many people throughout the world endure and the courage and resilience they show? How can this inspire us?

Leadership

- What encourages you all and inspires you to persevere if your school passes through difficult times?
- What practical resources does the school use to support those who are struggling? Could more be done?
- How do we develop the strength to carry on in the face of difficulty?
- How do the governors and senior management team help cultivate a climate of hope and a vision that sustains a school in challenging circumstances?
- How can we ensure that the Christian values shared in school endure into the next phase of a child's education and into adult life?
-

BIBLE REFERENCES

Bible versions – there are many different versions of the Bible. We suggest you use NRSV (New Revised Standard Version), NIV (New International Version), Good News Bible or Lion's Children's Bible.

We have suggested some Bible references for each week, and please also use your own passages from the Bible.

PERMISSIONS

In your own work at school please ensure materials have specific permission for diocesan use and for website use, i.e., non-recognition images and in line with your school policies.

Permission slips available from Education Directorate of Diocese of Ely

Please contact Sally Batchelder education@elydiocese.org

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AND FINALLY...

We hope you enjoy working on Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge 2022 Brave Believers. We are looking forward to receiving materials from children and schools with some amazing creations. We are also excited to hear the voices of children in word, drawing or on screen as they are encouraged to walk into the future with God's courage in their hearts.

Diocesan of Ely Education Directorate

www.elyeducation.org