

Comprehension Workbook 5

# Inside a Church

(A day in the life of a church)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles



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# Christian faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Christian Faith, Church, Christian art and writing and Christian holy days books.)

## Contents

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# Inside a Church

Most churches serve as a community centre as well as a place of worship. The church is always open, and people stop in all day long. During the day or in the evening, the church may offer classes in Christian teachings or music and a place for community groups to meet. Some larger churches may even have cafes, shops and regular concerts. Churches may also offer visitors tours or the chance to do brass rubbings. Here is a typical day in the life of a busy community church.

## 8:00am Morning Prayer Services

People can attend this short service before beginning their working day.

## 9:00am

The organist practices and teaches organ students on the church's pipe organ.

## 9:15am Women's Fellowship

Women from the community meet for coffee and discussion. They study the Bible, pray and discuss anything that is on their minds. They also plan events and outings.

## 9:15am Little Fishes

This is a play group for children under 5. The children can play, do crafts, sing songs and learn Bible stories while their mums are in the Women's Fellowship, or just taking a break.

9:00–10:30am The vicar meets with parishioners to discuss upcoming baptism and wedding ceremonies. This is also the time for people who want to use the church for a community event, such as a festival, to hold planning meetings with the vicar.

## 11:00am Midmorning Communion Service

Worship service that includes Holy Communion.



11:30am A primary school group arrives for a tour of the church as part of their religion curriculum.

1:00pm Lunch concert

A chamber music group gives a free lunch concert. Local people and those working nearby can bring their lunch and enjoy the music while eating.

2:00–4:00p,m The church pastoral team offers drop-in services for parishioners who need help or have questions. They also offer tours of the church and churchyard at this time.

4:00–5:00pm Scout Troop meeting

The local scout troop uses the church for its weekly meeting.

5:30–7:30pm Youth Club

Young people from age 11–14 share a meal and discuss Christianity or other things of interest to them. There may also be a movie and a discussion about themes in the movie. There is a pool table and time for hanging out. The group also plans trips, such as beach trips. The group is led by the vicar.

6pm Evening Prayer and worship services

7:30pm Adult Education

Different courses are offered during the year. There may be a course about Christian thought and Bible study, a parenting course or a marriage guidance course.

All Day

Side chapel is open for quiet contemplation and individual prayer.



# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

**a** Write a sentence in which you found the word 'fellowship'.

**b** From that sentence, write what you think 'fellowship' means.

**c** Write a new sentence using the word 'fellowship'.

**d** Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'fellowship'.

**e** Draw a picture illustrating the idea of 'fellowship'.



# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: contemplation	thought

# Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

**1** Write a heading for your summary.

**2** Now write the main idea in one sentence.  
e.g. "This story tells us..."

**3** Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,  
can you rewrite your  
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is  
nothing wrong  
with rewriting; even  
the best authors  
rewrite their  
work.**



123  
4

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Young people from age 11-14 share a meal and discuss Christianity and the Bible.

Women from the community meet for coffee and discussion.

Evening Prayer

The local scout troop uses the church for its weekly meeting.

Worship service that include Holy Communion.

Lunch concert





# Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) What times of the day are worship services held?
- (b) What types of music are played in the church on this day?
- (c) When do women meet in the church?
- (d) What services are offered from 2:00 to 4:00pm?
- (e) What events are offered just for children?





# Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 What are different types of events that take place in the church?

2 Are all of the events in the church for Christians only?

3 Why do you think the adult education courses are held in the evening?

4 What types of activities are available for children?





# Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

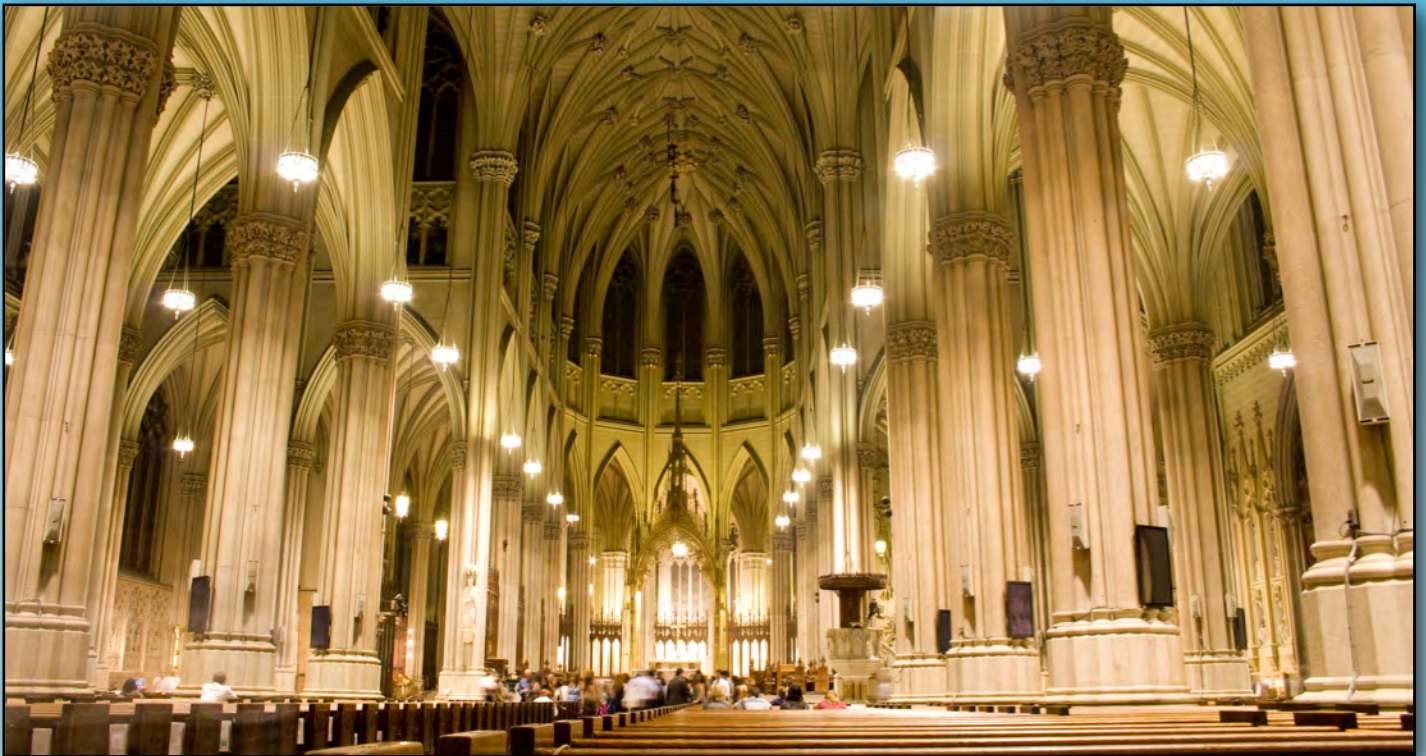
1 Do you think this is a large church? Why or why not?

2 Do you think all churches are busy? Should they be?

3 Why are there some events for people who are not Christians?

4 What other activities do you think should take place in a community church?

5 Do you think sufficient time is devoted to prayer?



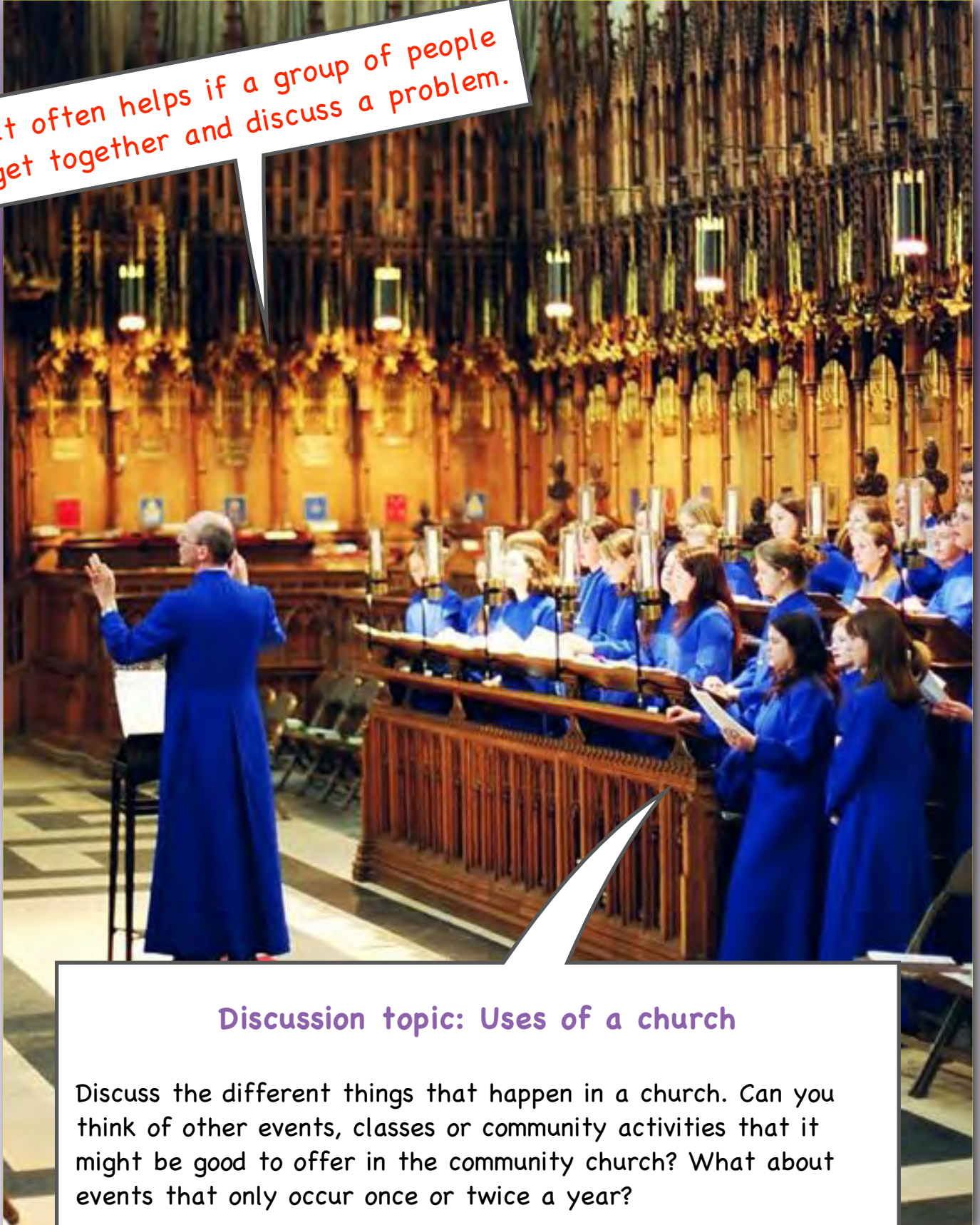




# Talking it through

(Source: Wikipedia)

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



## Discussion topic: Uses of a church

Discuss the different things that happen in a church. Can you think of other events, classes or community activities that it might be good to offer in the community church? What about events that only occur once or twice a year?



# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



## A day in the life

You want to organise meetings for your club. You think the local church would be a good place to hold the meetings, so you meet with the vicar to discuss when your meetings will take place and whether it is right to hold them in the church.

(Now you think of a type of club and convince the vicar that your club should be able to use the church for its meetings...)



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