

Make a jam jar lantern



Time needed: 40 minutes

Suggested resources:

- medium to large jam jar
- different coloured sheets of tissue paper (dark colours are better)
- pva glue (watered down: about 4 parts glue to 1 part water) and brushes
- tea lights (either real or electric) to light at home

Idea:

When St Paul's church was rebuilt after World War Two, the designers wanted to make people feel that the building was a special place, filled with God's light. Visitors to the church notice that there are no windows, which is unusual. Instead, there is a large glass 'lantern' in the roof. If you have visited the church, think about how the light made you feel when you were standing in it. If you haven't been, can you imagine a room where the window is in the ceiling? In Liverpool there is another famous 'lantern' on the top of the Catholic Cathedral. It was designed with richly coloured glass that changes from blues and purples through to reds and oranges.

Think about the use of light and candles in St Paul's or another building you know, perhaps a temple, synagogue or mosque. Many religions use candles as a way to show their faith burning like a light. Sometimes they are just used to meditate on or to make a building look warm and inviting.

Making a jam jar lantern.

Step 1

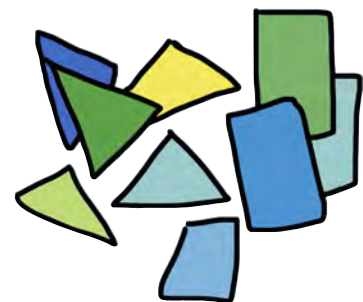
Cut up tissue paper into shapes. If you want it to look like St Paul's lantern you will need triangles and rectangles.

Step 2

Brush glue onto the outside of the jam jar, doing a small area at a time. Then stick on the pieces of tissue paper. Try and get the edges of the tissue paper shapes to line up or overlap without any gaps. Once the glue is covered with tissue paper move on to another area of the jar until it is all covered. Leave to dry (this might need to be overnight).

Step 3

With a marker pen you can draw between or on top of the shapes. **When you take it home, ask an adult to put a tea light inside and enjoy the glowing colours!**



Further reading and things to think about

When a person is baptised (the ceremony of becoming a Christian) they are given a candle. Christians believe that doing good is like shining a light in the darkness.

In Hinduism, the festival of Diwali celebrates the triumph of light over darkness. Hindus light lanterns and release them into the sky. Jews also celebrate Hanukkah by lighting special candles on each of the eight nights of the festival. And Muslims hang special lamps inside their mosques as a sign of God's presence.

The church of St Paul's Bow Common was built in 1958. The original church had been built 100 years earlier, in 1858. It was destroyed by a bomb during World War II (1939-45). The people who designed the new church (called 'architects') wanted the new building to reflect the ideas of the post-war world. The building also symbolises many important Christian beliefs.

At St Paul's, you come in through the small octagonal porch which is quite dark and then into the main part of the church where you are

suddenly aware of the huge 'lantern' roof that lets in lots of light. This symbolises the light of Christ's goodness coming into the world.

In St Paul's there are lots of places where light comes into the building, or is reflected by shiny surfaces like silver, marble, and glass mosaic. There are also specially designed candleholders on the walls and around the altar at the centre of the church. How many different types of windows, reflections or lights can you see in St Paul's?

The main source of light in the building is the roof 'lantern'. The architects wanted this to bring lots of light onto the middle of the church so that when the people are gathered around the altar (the table) they are sitting in the light.

In the church, you will also find the octagonal-shaped font. This is where Christians are sprinkled with water as a symbol of being cleaned or purified when they are baptised. In this font, you can see a reflection of the lantern and the light. The font is near the entrance to the church, reminding Christians of the beginning of their journey with God.

Learning objectives

- Understand that religions make use of symbols to express their beliefs
- Understand that religious buildings are designed to reflect important beliefs and to fit the practices of the religion
- Understand that many religions share similar symbols

Curriculum links

Religion KS2 - How the architecture of religious buildings expresses belief; exploring how buildings express a community's way of life, values and beliefs.

Art KS2 - Developing control of techniques, tools, and use of materials; produce creative work.