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GROW FAITH • BRING HOPE • DEMONSTRATE LOVE  
DIOCESE OF ST ASAPH



# Eco-Church Leavers' Service in a Box

Journey through the natural world with Year 6 as they prepare to transition from primary school to Year 7. Explore the elements of water, earth, wind and fire through creative, outdoor worship and prayerful activity.





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## WATER

**You will need:** either a bowl of water, a stream, river or the sea  
Everyone will need: a piece of chalk & a pebble

### Reflection:

In your time at school so far there will have been things that were difficult and hard. Times when other people said or did things that made you feel confused inside. Maybe, you said or did things to others that you now regret or feel bad about?

### Activity:

Take a pebble and draw or write a word or mark on it that represents a memory from your time at school that you would like to get rid of. No one needs to see what you have written.

### When ready

Now take your pebble and gently throw it (under arm only) or put it in the river/stream/ sea... or wash it in the bowl of water.

**Imagine that the water is washing away all those difficult or unhappy memories.**

### Bible Reading:

Psalm 51 : 1-2, 7 (The Message Bible version)

Generous loving God please help me! Remove my negative record. Wipe away my guilt, I know how bad I've been at times. Soak out my sins in your laundry and I'll come out clean, wash me, so I can go forward and have a positive new start.



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## Prayer

**Loving God, please forgive me and others and take all the hurt and pain of things that have happened and replace them with your peace and love.**

**Amen**



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## EARTH

**You will need:** a way of making footprints (in mud, sand, paint. See ideas sheet).

**Reflection:** Chief Seattle was chief of the Duwamish Native American People. In a speech in 1854 he said the words, **'Take only memories, leave only footprints.'**

I wonder what your memories of your time in this school will be and what footprints you will leave behind as the mark of your time here?

### Activity A: Memory Sharing

Share together with someone a memory of your time at school. Then listen to their memory and when ready, move on to the next person.

(The word 'change' could be called to move children on, or use of a game like 'Jenga' so they take it in turns to share a memory as they make a move).

### Activity B: Footprints

As you move on I wonder what you will leave behind?

### Invite the children to make footprints.

If using mud or sand then photographs could be taken and made into a display,

If using paint or drawing round their feet, this could be part of a display they leave behind. Maybe they can: write their name, say a prayer, give some advice for those children who will follow **'in your footsteps'**.

### Bible Reading:

#### Joshua 1:9 (from Good News Bible version)

Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go."



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## Prayer

**Loving God, help me now as I step into the future, taking with me many different memories and leaving behind others. Help me to have faith and know that you will be walking with me on my journey.**

**Amen**



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## **WIND**

**You will need:** Bubble mixture & container

**Everyone needs:** Something for a bubble wand (see ideas sheet)

### **Reflection:**

I wonder what your hopes and dreams for the future are? In 10 years time I wonder what type of home you would like to be living in? How will you imagine yourself earning your money? I wonder who the important people in your life will be and what things you will be doing that will make a difference to other people. I wonder what difference knowing God will make in your life too? And I wonder how school will have helped you?

### **Activity:**

Spend some time blowing bubbles and watch them fly away and as you think about your hopes and dreams.

### **Bible Reading:**

Jeremiah 29:11 (from Good News Bible version)

I alone know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.



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## **Prayer**

**Loving God, thank you that I can trust you  
with my hopes and dreams knowing that you  
want the best for me in my life.**

**Amen**



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## FIRE

**You will need:** candle, matches

**Everyone needs:** a candle

### Reflection:

Jesus' friends were all together waiting in Jerusalem as he had told them to. It was 50 days after Easter and 10 days since Jesus had gone back to heaven. I wonder how the people felt as they waited? They didn't know why Jesus had told them to gather together or what would happen and I am sure they were scared about the future. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came as wind and fire. Jesus' friends no longer felt afraid. The Holy Spirit gave them the strength and courage to go out and do new things.

I wonder how moving on to a new school is making you feel? You might feel very sad that you are at leaving this school, or scared about where you are going. Maybe you are a bit worried about things, like getting lost, new subjects, teachers and homework, or maybe you are excited and looking forward to making new friends and having new opportunities. You may also feel excited about the new journey ahead and wondering where it will lead.

Just as the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends and gave them the strength and courage they needed, to go into a new future then the Holy Spirit promises to do the same for each of us today.

### Activity:

As we light a candle it is a reminder that Jesus is always with us.



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## **Bible Reading:** Acts 2:1-4 (from the Good News Bible)

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

## **Presentation:**

This maybe the time that children are presented with gifts from the school and local church as they prepare to move on.

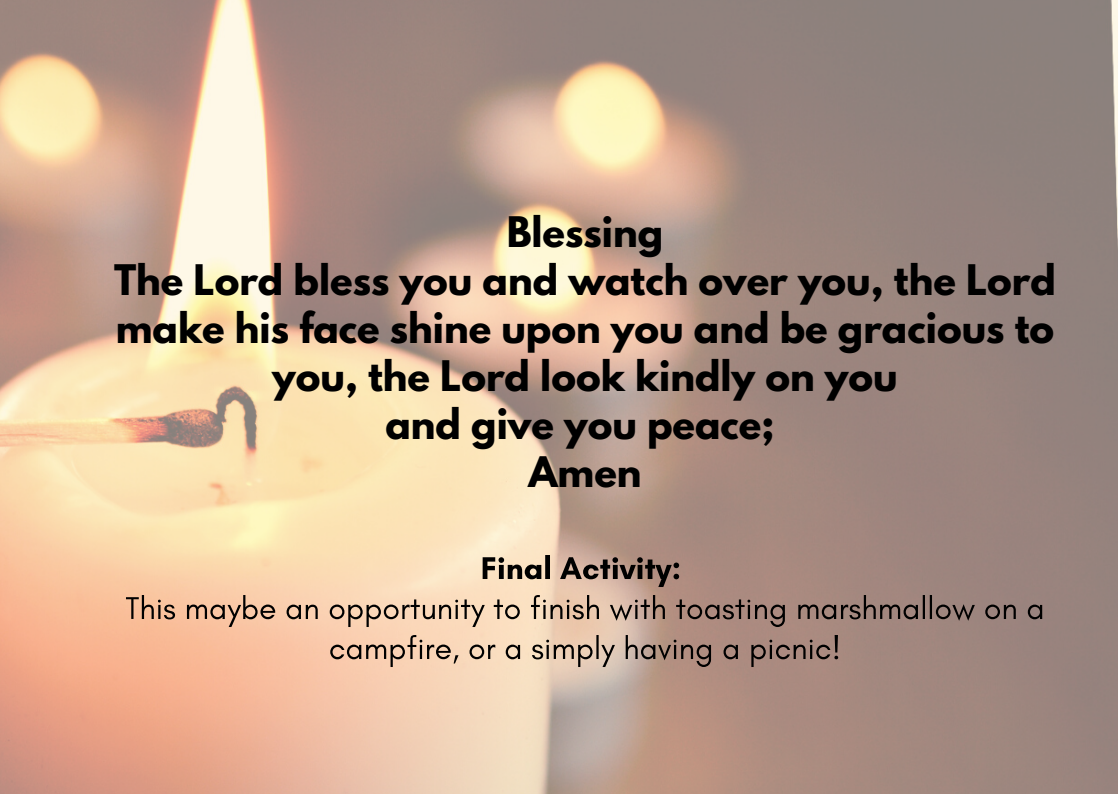


**Prayer**

**Loving God, as I travel from the old to  
the new.**

**Help me to know that you are travelling  
along with me through your Holy Spirit  
and you will give the strength and  
courage that I need.**

**Amen**



## **Blessing**

**The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord  
make his face shine upon you and be gracious to  
you, the Lord look kindly on you  
and give you peace;  
Amen**

### **Final Activity:**

This maybe an opportunity to finish with toasting marshmallow on a campfire, or a simply having a picnic!