



The Wokingham Town RE trail

TEACHERS' NOTES

Designed for Key Stage 2 - adaptable for use in other phases

This RE trail has been devised to help meet the desire of many teachers to take their pupils' learning out into the community. RE trails have been designed around the country to bring RE to life - see <http://lotc.recouncil.org.uk/re-trails> for more information and ideas. Visits to two or more places of worship on the Wokingham town trail should help pupils to see the influence of religion and people's beliefs on their community. This sheet is accompanied by separate sheets on each of the churches on the RE trail - these have more details about the kinds of questions that might be asked in each setting.

General guidelines

1. Choose two or three places to visit in a half day and plan for the area of the syllabus that you want to cover. For example you might choose churches that contrast in how they look or choose churches with fonts and baptisteries for looking at baptism celebrations. Use the separate church sheets to help in the planning.
2. Photographs from the sheets and others can be found at <http://wsh.wokingham.gov.uk/learning-and-teaching/religious-education/teaching-materials/religious-education-trail>.
3. **Always arrange a visit date with the places of worship to ensure that your visit is as successful as possible.** Not all churches are open all day and sometimes they are used for meetings and services during the week. Contact details are included on the separate sheets with this pack.
4. Consider other places in the community that you might pass on your trail. There are 22 road names in Wokingham with religious links, from Abbey Close via Laud Way to Vicarage Close and several referring to saints (St Paul's Gate, St Michael's Cottages and so on). While visiting St Paul's and the Methodist Church you might wonder why Glebelands Road and Rectory Road are so named.
5. An advance visit to these churches will help with the planning process.
6. Make the RE trail your own - do share it with the SACRE and others.

More details of Wokingham's churches can be found in booklets for sale at £3.50 to £4 each at the Information Centre in the Market Square, which is open from 10am to 2pm each weekday and 10am to 3pm on Saturdays. They cover history, gravestones and memorials amongst other subjects and provide fascinating depth to the study of worship and places of worship.

General questions to ask in all churches:

- What makes a building a church? What does it take to be a church?
- How does stillness and quiet in churches help Christians experience God?
- What characteristics of God are reflected in this church?
- What Christian symbols can you see in this church? What do they mean?
- How do Christians take their experience of God in church out into their everyday lives?
- Is there anything in this church that shows how it works with and links into the community?
- What festivals and special occasions are celebrated here? Weddings, Christmas, Easter, others? Do baptisms happen here?
- What art or architecture can you see that shows what Christians believe? Is there a spire or steeple? Is the church built in a particular shape? What makes this church special?

Activity:

Use a bank of adjectives to encourage pupils to think about the churches they visit and their feelings about them. Include: colourful, dull, simple, gloomy, bright, peaceful, scary, quiet, spooky, interesting, dark, light, beautiful, sad, happy, cheerful, cared-for, welcoming, relaxing, nervous, scared, frightened, comfortable, complicated, ornate, decorated, plain, modern, old-fashioned, traditional, unexpected and any others you can think of.



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with teachers' notes

The Wokingham SACRE



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» <http://wsh.wokingham.gov.uk/learning-and-teaching/religious-education/teaching-materials/religious-education-trail>

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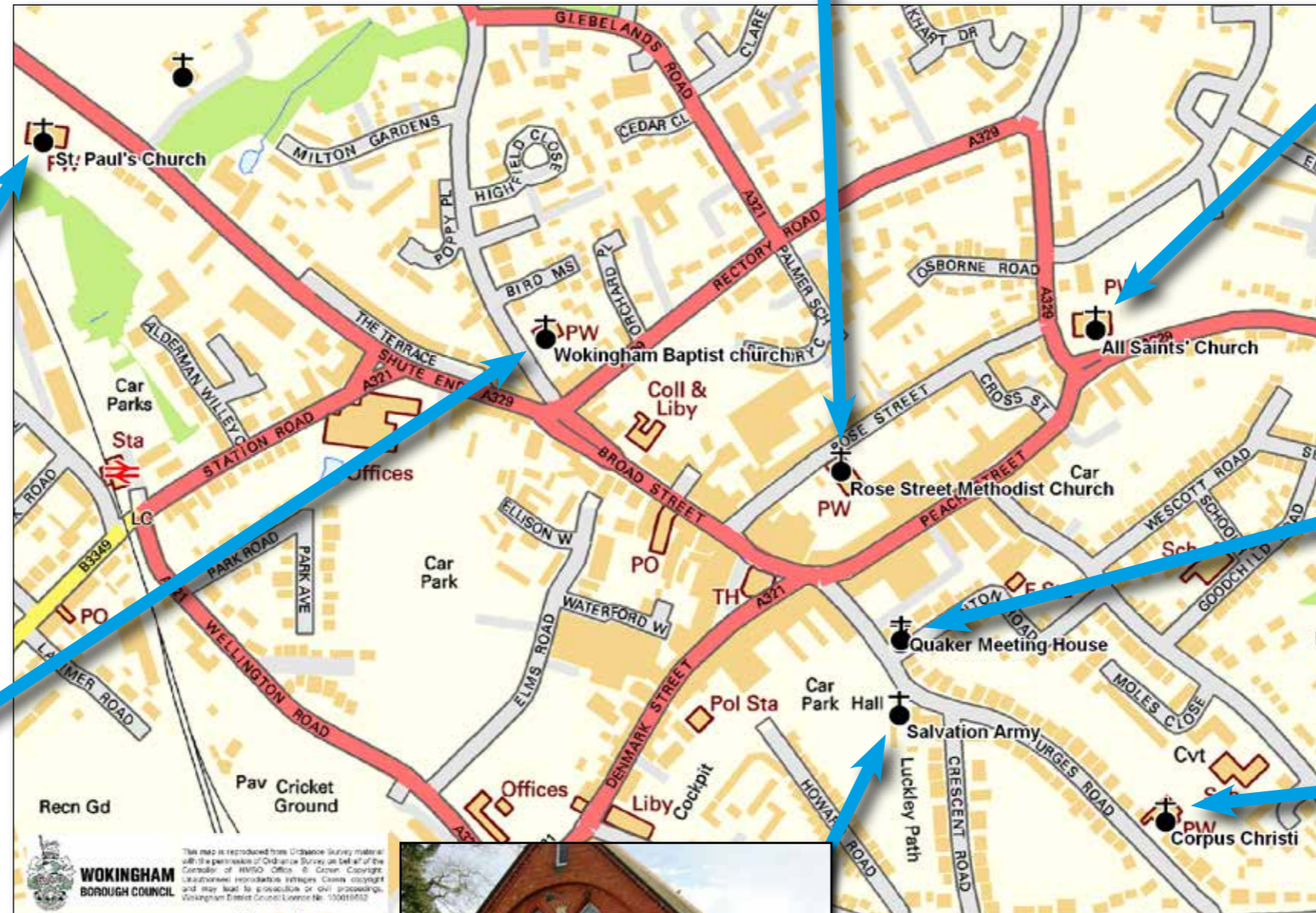
Methodist Church



All Saints Church



St Paul's Church



Quaker Meeting House



Baptist Church



Salvation Army Citadel



Corpus Christi Church

