



## Using Books at Press Resources with Understanding Christianity and Your Local Agreed / Church Syllabus for RE



**The Puddles series of books** introduce young children to aspects of the Christian faith. They are designed to capture the interest and imagination of children through the adventures of Puddles, a very mischievous cat.

In each of the seven stories, Puddles finds out about a different aspect of the Christian faith (Harvest service, Easter, Christmas – Nativity Play, Wedding, Baptism, Helping Others, St Francis Service and Creation) and why this is important to the faith community. The books (produced in big book format with two also in standard format) are accompanied by the soft toy characters: Puddles (cat), Arthur (cat), kittens and The Reverend Freddie Fisher (with his set of vestments in four different liturgical colours).

The resources have been specifically produced by educationalists to be entirely appropriate for children in the earliest stages of education (nursery and reception level). They can also be used effectively with more able children and those working at Year 1 and Year 2 level. Each title is supported by a cross-curricular topic web and comprehensive teachers' notes linked to either the EYFS curriculum for England, the Foundation Phase curriculum for Wales or the Curriculum for Excellence for Scotland plus three classroom activities for pupils (PLAN+3).

The resources enable teachers to easily provide stimulating, engaging and appropriate religious education for their pupils. The resources also provide extensive opportunities to support Literacy and Numeracy alongside all other areas of learning as well as providing excellent support for the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and meeting much of the Ofsted (for schools in England) criteria for promoting British Values.

The resources aim to encourage teachers to explore with their pupils:

- aspects of Christianity as a living faith
- the Christian teachings and beliefs behind the practices
- how these beliefs, teachings and practices relate to the children's own lives and experiences
- implicit moral, personal and social concepts associated with the explicit religious theme

Each book contains at its core a central concept which is usually highlighted by the Sunday school teacher, Miss Lewis, or The Reverend Freddie Fisher, (the characters in the books) reading from the Bible or addressing the church congregation and / or Sunday School children.

The main aim is to encourage teachers to address the 'big picture' of Christianity and lay an appropriate foundation for pupils' future learning and understanding. In the Christmas and Easter books these particular events of Jesus' life are set within the context of the whole life story thus giving the appropriate context for his birth and death. This is so often overlooked by other resources and by practitioners. If children have an understanding of Jesus' life as a whole, individual stories of events in his life can be explored within this context rather than in isolation.

*Puddles Lends a Paw* provides a context for exploring what the Bible teaches – the story gives the 'big picture' of it being read in the church to remind people to help others. This can then lead to the teacher exploring with the children what part(s) of the Bible might Freddie be reading and which parts of the Bible teach people to help others.

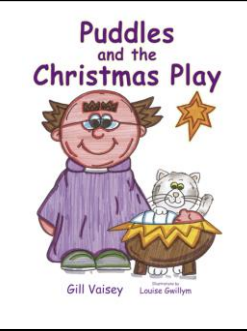
Young children learn best through play and need to be able to identify with the subject matter. Using a cat (Puddles) as the central character ensures that the resources are engaging, stimulating and fun for both teachers and pupils.

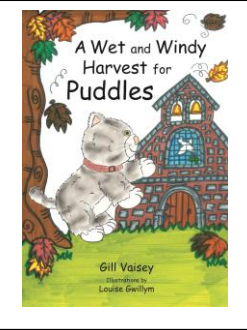
The following pages provide a quick reference guide showing how each of the book titles supports the different units and aspects of the Understanding Christianity project.

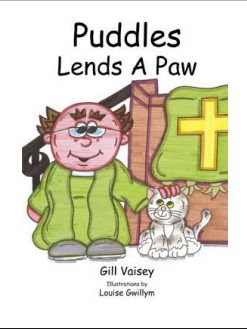
We have also collaborated with several Dioceses and Local Authorities and have extended the grid to show how the Books at Press resources link with the Diocesan Syllabus and / or Locally Agreed Syllabus. Simply contact us and tell us which syllabus you are using and we will let you know what support is available to you.

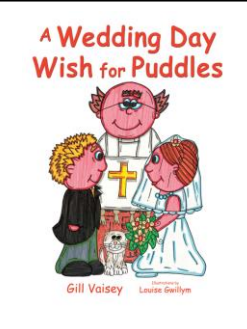
Many dioceses across the UK are also working with us to help you benefit from these resources by offering the full set at a greatly reduced cost.


To take advantage of this offer simply either contact us on 01594 516490 or your local Diocesan Adviser to check whether your diocese has teamed up with us as part of this project.

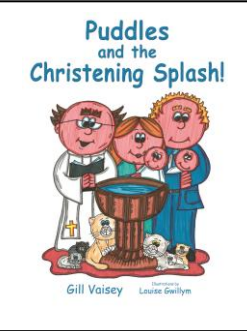
Title	Possible topic links	UC Unit	Making Sense of the Text	Understanding the impact	Themes of the Books at Press stories and how they can be used	Agreed Syllabus / Church Syllabus Links
<p><b><i>Puddles and the Christmas Play</i></b> (Big book) <i>Puddles longs for a part in the Christmas play. "But there are no cats in the Christmas play," the Sunday School teacher tells her. On each Sunday of Advent Puddles watches the children practise and wishes she could join in. And then the day of the play arrives and Puddles' help is needed! Is this the chance of playing a part that Puddles has been waiting for...?</i></p> 	<p>Celebrations, Festivals, Food, Autumn, Winter, Seasons, Light, Electric Rainbow, Glow and Glitter.</p>	<p>FS 2 / Unit F2 Incarnation Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?</p> <p>Key Stage 1 / Unit 1.3 Why does Christmas matter to Christians?</p>	<p>What the Bible says about Jesus. Connect the baby Jesus with the adult Jesus. Christians believe that Jesus was a special baby because he came from God; Christians believe that Jesus was God born as a baby... Hear that the nativity stories come from the Bible.</p>	<p>Christians celebrate the birth of Christ. Nativity play traditions. Church activities and services.</p>	<p>The story explores preparations by the Sunday School children for the nativity play in church. As they practise through the period of Advent another candle is lit on the Advent wreath each Sunday. The Reverend Freddie Fisher reminds the congregation of the meaning of Advent. The Sunday School teacher reads from the Bible about the baby who would grow up to be a very special teacher. Use alongside the production of your own Nativity Play.</p> <p>PLAN+3 Christmas provides detailed teaching and learning suggestions plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint Nativity Scene Jigsaw</li> <li>• Advent Candles Board Game</li> <li>• Advent and Nativity Dominoes</li> </ul>	

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<p><b><i>A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles</i></b> (Big book) Also available in Welsh <i>Puddles enjoys playing in the autumn leaves but not content to play outside, she joins the congregation of the Reverend Freddie Fisher's church for the Harvest service and then the fun really begins...</i></p> 	<p>Festivals, Celebrations, Food, Autumn, Winter, Colours, Seasons, Sharing, Being thankful, Glow and Glitter, Giving, Scrumptious, Electric Rainbow</p>	<p>FS 2 / Unit F1 God / Creation Why is the word God so important to Christians?</p> <p>Key Stage 1 / Unit 1.2 Creation Who made the world?</p>	<p>What the Bible says about God. God the Creator of the Universe and all that is in it – people and animals. What God is like.</p>	<p>Giving thanks to God at harvest time through prayer and song in a church service; thinking of those less fortunate and sharing with others.</p>	<p>The story explores what happens at a church during a Harvest service. The Reverend Freddie Fisher reminds the congregation that Harvest is a happy time and one for being thankful for food and for sharing with others.</p> <p>PLAN+3 Harvest provides detailed teaching and learning suggestions plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint Harvest Jigsaw</li> <li>• Harvest songs x 2</li> <li>• Puddles Harvest board game</li> </ul>	

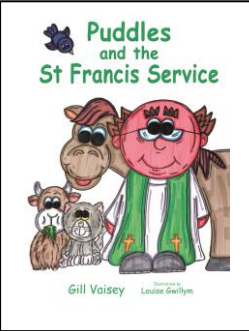
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<p><b><i>Puddles Lends a Paw</i></b> (Big book and Standard format book) Also available in Welsh.</p> <p><i>Having finished her favourite lunch, and always looking for an adventure, Puddles decides to go to church. There she meets the various church helpers who are busy getting ready for the Sunday service... Will Puddles lend a helping paw or will her mischievous nature prove to be a hindrance?</i></p> 	<p>People Who Help Us, Helping Others, Local Area, Special Places, Belonging, Community Explorers, Special Days, Superheroes (in the community), Jobs.</p>	<p>FS 2 / Unit F3 Salvation 'Love God' and 'Love your neighbour'.</p> <p>Key Stage 1 / Unit 1.4 Gospel What is the good news Jesus brings?</p>	<p>The teaching of Jesus as found in the Bible to love other people.</p>	<p>Ways in which people help one another as they follow Jesus' teachings.</p>	<p>In this story Puddles meets the various church helpers and sees how they contribute to making the church a special place. They each have a different role to play in supporting the church. Through her 'accidental help' given to each church helper, Puddles inspires the Reverend Freddie Fisher with a theme for his Sunday sermon and he reminds the congregation that the Bible teaches people to help others in any way that they can. Puddles realises what fun helping others can be. Children could be encouraged to wonder what passages / stories from the Bible Freddie might be reading that teach people to help others. Stories about helping others can be read from a children's Bible to support this understanding of the Christian message to love one another. Look up the stories in an 'adult' Bible for the children to see these can be found as a source of teachings for Christians to follow.</p> <p>PLAN+3 Lends A Paw provides more detailed teaching and learning suggestions plus 3 classroom resource activities for pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lends A Paw snap cards</li> <li>• Church Helpers' Rota</li> <li>• Llansteffan Church photostory</li> </ul>	

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<p><b><i>A Wedding Day Wish for Puddles</i></b>            (Big book)  <i>Puddles and Freddie are best friends.</i>  <i>But, when Freddie finds a new special friend Puddles begins to feel lonely.</i>  <i>As Sally and Mike plan their wedding, Puddles wishes she had a special friend all of her own.</i>  <i>And then the day of the wedding arrives and Puddles gets a surprise.</i>  <i>Do all of her wishes come true?</i></p> 	<p>My Family, Friends, Homes and Families, Fairy Tales, Weddings, Happiness.</p>	<p>FS 2 / Unit F1 God</p>	<p>God is important to Christians.</p>	<p>Christians gather together in church to show how much God is worth to them.</p>	<p>Sally and Mike marry in church as they are Christians and God is important to them.            They meet with the Reverend Freddie Fisher before the wedding to talk about getting married in church.            They make promises to do their best to love one another forever.            As Freddie Fisher becomes friends with Mary, Puddles begins to feel left out and lonely. She wishes she had a very special friend of her own. All the animals in the village seem to be in pairs. Eventually Puddles meets Arthur – the most handsome Tom cat she has ever seen!</p> <p>PLAN+3 Weddings provides detailed teaching and learning suggestions plus 3 classroom resource activities for pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wedding snap cards</li> <li>• Wedding board game</li> <li>• Wedding Dominoes</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Puddles and the Happy Easter Day</b> (Big book) <i>Puddles and Arthur are very special friends. But in the week before Easter, Arthur goes missing. Worried and sad, each day, Puddles searches for Arthur. She has something important to tell him but he is nowhere to be seen. On Sunday, as everyone enjoys the Easter celebrations, Puddles has her own reason to celebrate...</i></p> 	<p>Beginnings, School Grounds, Gardens, Spring, Plants and Animals, Birds, Dens and Dandelions, Mini Zoo.</p>	<p>FS 2 / Unit F3 Salvation Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?</p> <p>Key Stage 1 / Unit 1.5 Why does Easter matter to Christians?</p>	<p>The Easter narrative. Jesus, God's son the teacher / healer is killed and lives again; sadness of Good Friday, happiness of Easter Sunday</p>	<p>Easter is celebrated by Christians as the most important festival of the year. Religious services and creation of an Easter garden. Associated activities such as an Easter Egg hunt; and celebrating the new life of spring animals and plants as Christians believe that Jesus rose from death to new life.</p>	<p>This story covers events in Puddles' life from Monday to Sunday of the Easter week. Arthur, (her special Tom cat friend) has gone missing and yet Puddles has something important to tell him. Each day she, Freddie and the villagers search for Arthur but he is nowhere to be seen. As the week unfolds Puddles feel sadness and despair then hope and happiness and eventual joy with the new life of the birth of her kittens. The story mirrors the emotions of Jesus' followers of happiness, sorrow, reflection, hope and then happiness again as Puddles searches in vain for Arthur. Children are encouraged to reflect of their experiences of happy and sad times.</p> <p>PLAN+3 Easter provides detailed teaching and learning suggestions plus 3 classroom resource activities for pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puddles Easter snap Cards</li> <li>• Puddles Easter board game</li> <li>• Easter garden Powerpoint jigsaw</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Puddles and the Christening Splash!</b> (Big book and Standard book format)</p> <p><i>Puddles and Arthur are the proud new parents of four little kittens. Ziggy, Mustard, Midnight... and one with no name! As everyone celebrates the baptism service of Sally and Mike's twins, Puddles and Arthur still can't think of a name for the little white kitten. Then, as the baptism service unfolds, there is more than one surprise in store...</i></p> 	<p>New Beginnings, My Family, Babies, Happiness, Pitter Patter Puddles Play, Family Album</p>	<p>FS 2 / Unit F2 Incarnation</p> <p>- welcoming into church</p>	<p>Jesus welcomed children to him showing that he believes everyone is precious. Humans are made in the image of God. Every person is unique and Christians believe God loves every person unconditionally.</p>	<p>Everyone is welcomed into the church. Christians demonstrate their value of children in different ways, for instance a thanksgiving service, baptism ceremony o a dedication ceremony.</p>	<p>This story explores the celebration of the newly born twins to Sally and Mike who are part of Freddie Fisher's congregation. The babies are welcomed into the community by the villagers giving cards and gifts to the parents. Sally and Mike have difficulty in choosing names for their special babies. Puddles and Arthur are also having difficulty choosing a name for the fourth of their special kittens. Everyone attends the baptism service in church where the Godparents promise to help the babies grow up learning about Jesus. A candle is lit and given to the parents for each baby, representing Jesus as a 'shining light' which will guide them in their lives. The babies are blessed and welcomed into the church family. The fourth kitten who has been watching Freddie baptise the babies with water from the font, inadvertently gets named!</p> <p>PLAN+3 Baptism provides detailed teaching and learning suggestions plus 3 classroom resource activities for pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baptism snap cards</li> <li>• Baptism board game</li> <li>• Baptism match an memory game</li> </ul>	



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<p><b><i>Puddles and the St Francis Service</i></b></p> <p><i>As all the villagers gather with their animals for the St Francis Service on Animal Welfare Sunday, Puddles and Arthur are proud to have with them their four new kittens Ziggy, Mustard, Midnight and Splash.</i></p> <p><i>Then, as the service begins, two unexpected visitors arrive leaving everyone wondering where they have come from and who they belong to...</i></p> 	<p>Animal Welfare Sunday, Our World, Creation, Animals, Pets, Kindness, Natural World.</p>	<p>FS 2 / Unit F1 God / Creation Why is the word God so important to Christians?</p> <p>Key Stage 1 / Unit 1.2 Creation Who made the world?</p>	<p>God is the creator of the universe. Christians believe that they are called by God to care for the world. The fifth of the Anglican Five Marks of Mission states the importance of treasuring God's world</p>	<p>Expression of God as Creator in artwork. Songs about God as Creator. Animal Welfare Sunday. The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals.</p>	<p>The story illustrates a St Francis Service on Animal Welfare Sunday in Little Pond Village Church. The Reverend Freddie Fisher reads from the Bible and reminds the congregation that God made the world. He talks about St Francis who believed that God loves all creatures and that everyone should care for them. All the animals brought to the church are blessed and Freddie reflects on how well care for they all are. He reminds everyone to think of all those animals which are less fortunate and a monetary collection is made to support them. Amongst all this, two little stray kittens join the service and Freddie is able to demonstrate his belief in caring for all creatures by offering them a home with Puddles, Arthur and their kittens.</p> <p>PLAN+3 St Francis Service provides detailed teaching and learning suggestions plus 3 classroom resource activities for pupils.</p>	

<p><b>Puddles Soft Toy Cat</b> (30cm)</p> 					<p>Take Puddles on your visit to the church to find the features that she discovers in the book <i>Puddles Lends a Paw</i>.</p>	
<p><b>Arthur Soft Toy Cat</b> (30cm)</p> 					<p>Use Arthur with the story <i>A Wedding Wish for Puddles</i> to bring the story to life.</p>	
<p><b>Kittens Set</b> 4 soft toy kittens</p> 					<p>Use Puddles, Arthur and the Kittens with <i>Puddles and the Christening Splash!</i> to bring the story to life</p>	
<p><b>Kittens Set 2</b> 2 soft toy kittens</p> 					<p>Complete the set of accompanying characters with these delightful 'stray' kittens to use with Puddles and the St Francis Service.</p>	
<p><b>The Reverend Freddie Fisher</b> (43cm standing vicar, 1 alb, 4 sets different coloured stoles and chasubles) with Teacher Support Notes</p> 					<p>Use The Reverend Freddie Fisher alongside all of the stories to bring the character to life. Use The Reverend Freddie Fisher during Collective Worship sessions and allow the pupils to dress him in the appropriate church calendar colours. Use The Reverend Freddie Fisher as a hot seating character to find out about the work of the vicar.</p>	