



# R.E Ideas.

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## 'I wonder if faith is active in your area?'

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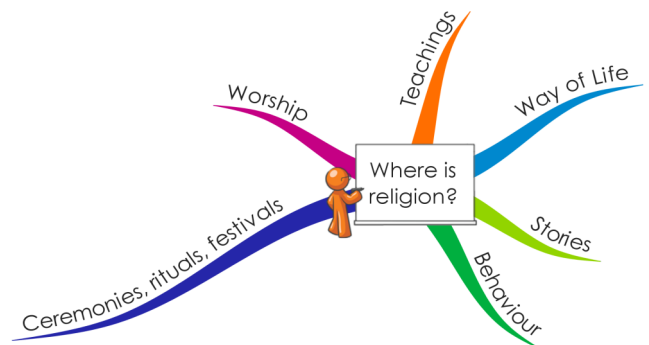
This edition of 'RE Ideas' focuses on developing learners' research skills using the local area as a context. Planning and carrying out an investigation gives learners an opportunity to demonstrate progress not only in their RE skills but also in their cross-curricular skills: communication, number, information technology and thinking. Primary schools in Wales have received useful guidance.

Refer to:

- **Religious Education: Guidance for KS2 and 3 (Welsh Assembly Government, 2011)**  
Pages 16-19 outline steps for carrying out research.
- **How to develop thinking and assessment for learning in the classroom (Welsh Assembly Government, 2010)**  
Pages 33-34 suggest learning strategies and tools.
- **Belle Wallace's website: Thinking Actively in a Social Context** ([www.tascwheel.com](http://www.tascwheel.com))

**Stimulus:** Prepare a mind map similar to the one below as a starting point for a classroom investigation. You might want to create a classroom mural and add sub-branches, key words, pictures, sound buttons and symbols to the mind map. Consider asking questions such as:

- Is there evidence that people *e.g. worship, live a religious life ...* in the local area?
- What pictures come to mind when thinking about religion in the local area?
- Do we need to add words to the mind map? Do we need to add sub-branches?
- Will pictures and/or symbols help other people to understand the mind map?
- What questions come to mind when trying to complete the mind map?
- Some people think that a 'mind map' can help us to organise our ideas and plan written answers. *What is your opinion?*



### Is there evidence that faith is active in your local papers or the area newspaper?

- Who are the people who have shown their faith? What do you know about them?
- What is the title of the article? Does the title mean something? e.g. *perhaps the word 'Bugeiliaid' (shepherds) in this title has something to do with farming or a story in the Bible?*
- Read your article again and underline the key words that describe what the believers are doing.
- If you had to use a metaphor to describe these good people, what flower would they be? Why? What song or particular words would they be? Why?



**'Bugeiliaid y Stryd' (Street Shepherds) are a group of volunteers from churches in Bangor. They stay out overnight to help people in need.**

### Is there evidence that faith is active in local buildings?

Walk around your local area to find evidence that faith is active. Take photographs if you think you have found clues. Use these photographs back in class.

- Sort the photographs into sets. Why have you sorted them like this? What links every set of photographs?
- Choose one photograph. What do you notice first in the photo? Why? Divide the photograph into quarters. What do you see in every quarter?
- Does the photograph show that there is faith in the community? How?
- Is anything in the photograph trying to affect people's lifestyle? What? Why?
- Does anything in the photograph show the teaching of Jesus Christ? What? Why have the owners chosen e.g. *'The Big Rock Cafe'* as a name for the café?
- What would a Christian/a believer from another religion think of the photograph?
- What is your opinion of the photograph? What question would you like to ask about the photograph?
- Think of a suitable caption for the photograph.



**Christians in the Porthmadog area are responsible for 'The Big Rock Cafe'.**



**Is there evidence that faith is active in artwork in the local area?**

- In your local place of worship, note what symbols can be seen. Take a photograph of them. Back in class, investigate into their meaning.
- Is there a story from the Bible or Holy Book that corresponds with one of the symbols in your place of worship? *e.g. perhaps the symbol of a tree in these photos makes someone think of the story of Zaccheus.*
- When walking around your place of worship, some particular words may draw your attention. Make a note of them. In your own words, explain the meaning of the words *e.g. 'Tree of Life' is the theme in these photos. "The Church is like a healthy tree and as it grows the branches are like ..."*
- If there is no particular theme in the place of worship, can you think of a symbol that would be suitable to be repeated on some furniture or walls in the place of worship *e.g. the altar, the font, the pulpit, the stained glass window, in a Christian church?*



Colin Pearce used the theme 'Tree of Life' on the furniture in Llanfaelog Church, Anglesey.

**Is there evidence that faith is active when researching into the lifestyle of people around us?**

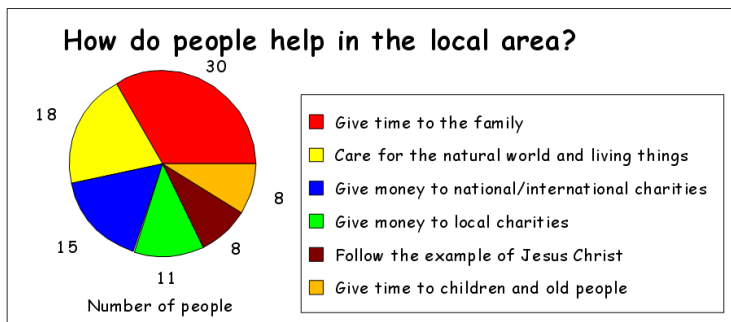
How do believers show that their 'faith is active' in the local area?

- Discuss. What type of questions should be asked? How do you intend to collect their responses? Investigate. What do your friends and family think?
- Reorganise the data as a bar chart. Organise the data from the most to least popular.

	a	b
1	How do people help in the local area?	Number of people
2	Give money to local charities	11
3	Give money to national/international charities	15
4	Give time to the family	30
5	Give time to children and old people in the area	8
6	Care for the natural world and living things	18
7	Follow the example of Jesus Christ	8

Answer questions similar to these:

- What is the most/least popular way of ...? Why do you think this?
- Which way do you think is the most important way of 'showing that 'faith is active'? Use an opinion rope to express your opinion.
- Why do you think more people...?
- What would a believer have to say about the data? What is your opinion about the data? What does the data tell you about people in your community? Is faith active in your community? How do you know?





### Is there evidence that faith is active in logos and symbols in the local area?

- What makes a good logo? Why is a logo used rather than writing?
- Look at this logo and label the symbols. Think, pair and share. What is the meaning of the Cross? Dove? Wales?
- Which symbol is most important? Why? Which symbol is least important? Why? Do you think that the symbols have been set in a particular place? Why?
- Who, in your opinion uses this logo? Why?
- This is the logo of Cymdeithas y Cymod (The Fellowship of Reconciliation). Use the website ([www.cymdeithasycymod.org.uk](http://www.cymdeithasycymod.org.uk)) to find information about the movement. Did you guess correctly?
- Are there symbols in religious stories? *e.g. What symbol did God use to show...?*
- Are there other logos and symbols in the local area that show that faith is active?
- Draw your own symbol for...



Logo on the tie of a class visitor.

### Is there evidence that faith is active in the local area?

- |                 |          |                      |              |                  |
|-----------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| gravestones     | musical  | concert              | inscriptions |                  |
| statues         | election | stained glass window | shop         | festival         |
| public footpath | wedding  | clothing             | procession   |                  |
| well            | food     | noise/sound          | visitors     | place of worship |

## **REMW RESOURCES (Religious Education Movement Wales)**

Resource catalogue, Publications and past copies of 'RE Ideas' available.

Primary resources - *Pobl Arbennig*; *Adegau Arbennig*; *Iesu*; *Y Nadolig – o flwyddyn i flwyddyn*; *Mannau Arbennig*  
Cyfres Ymchwilio I Thema: *i Codau Byw*; *i Ddathliadau*; *i Gredoau* ac *i Gwestiynau Dyrys*.

ENGLISH *Amazing Lives* (ar gael yn Gymraeg – *Am ddawn* – Huw J Hughes)

Secondary publications – *What the Welsh Churches say on moral and social issues*;

*Barn yr Eglwysi ar faterion moesol a chymdeithasol.*

General: *More than Just RE* (CEMW Annual Lectures)

Discount available for contributing schools in the Authority and for students

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