

Rebuilding Community

... Rebuilding the Wall

PACK 4 - Rebuilding

Practical resources to prepare to reconnect back together in school.

REBUILDING
COMMUNITY

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This pack forms part of a suite of resources written by Diocesan Advisors from Canterbury, Guildford, Rochester and St Albans Dioceses to support schools in rebuilding their communities following lockdown.

Rebuilding Community ... Rebuilding the wall

The resources have been inspired by the Old Testament books, Ezra and Nehemiah. These books contain the story of the return of the Israelites from exile in Babylon. There are many parallels between the story of the Israelites and what is happening in schools now, hence why this story has been our foundation for these resources.

'Let us start rebuilding' (Nehemiah 2:18)

- The Israelites returned in small groups over time, with the first groups preparing the way for the rest to return.
- As they had been away from their home in Israel, they had to spend time reconnecting with each other, remembering all that had gone before and celebrating being together again.
- The Temple and walls around the city needed to be rebuilt when they returned. The foundations were still there, but they had to work together to rebuild what used to be there.
- When the Israelites returned, they recommissioned their land and worship space as a praise offering to God for bringing them back safely.
- After returning to Israel, God's people they spent time remembering all those who were no longer with them.

For more information about the story of Ezra and Nehemiah visit this website.
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/ezra-nehemiah/>



Other packs in the *Rebuilding Community* suite of resources

Pack 1 - Reflecting on the challenges. A short set of reflections for school leaders considering the parallels between Nehemiah's decision making and leadership situation and yours as a school leader now in 2020.

Pack 2 - Refreshing body, mind and spirit through prayer and reflection activities.

Pack 3 - Reconnecting Practical resources to prepare to reconnect together in school, with a focus on wellbeing.

Pack 5 - Support for curating an age-appropriate Leavers' Service, marking transition in a spiritual way. This resource is based on the 'Road to Emmaus' story from the New Testament, when Jesus walked with two of his followers from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

A prayer inspired by Psalm 126

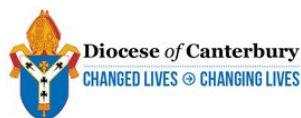
Through the ages, your people have had to rebuild and reconnect with their communities through times of trial and sadness and joy. We thank you God for your constant faithfulness through these times of rebuilding and readjusting.

Faithful God, we ask you to help and support each school community as they rebuild their 'walls' from their strong foundations and as they reconnect with each other refresh all those who are weary and tired.

We thank you God for each member of the school community, whether they are learning at home or within the school walls. As more of our school community return to our building, we pray for your continued protection and abundant love upon each of them now and ever more. Amen

We hope and pray that these resources will bless you and your school community as you *Reflect, Refresh, Reconnect, Rebuild, and Remember.*

Ryan Parker	The Diocese of St Albans
Jane Whittington	The Diocese of Guildford
Rachel Boxer	The Diocese of Guildford
Virginia Corbyn	The Diocese of Rochester
Rebecca Swansbury	The Diocese of Canterbury





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Pack 4: Collective Worship

These resources have been written so that there is a version to use with pupils in school and a parallel version to send for pupils to use at home. For use in school, or where schools are recording collective worship, there is both a script and a PowerPoint. These are being published weekly on the Guildford Diocesan website:

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/christian-distinctiveness/collective-worship/covid-19-resources/rebuilding-community>

Title	Context / Theme
Jigsaws: How do we build a puzzle?	Building a puzzle is best done in sections - just like how we are returning to school. Some pieces are getting ready in school - some at home. Story of Nehemiah's Big Rebuild, part 1
Sharing your story (of lockdown)	Story of Nehemiah's Big Rebuild, part 2 Each individual's lockdown story matters because they will all be a part of our school community.
Firm foundations	The most important part of a building is the foundations. Nehemiah knew this - and so did Jesus, who told a story about two builders! How are our school values like foundations & how will they help us in new ways as school 'feels' different? What rules do we need now to help us to live well together? How will our values help us to know how to behave?
Rebuilding friendships (Look after each other)	Nehemiah knew that people were more important than the building, so he made sure that people had what they needed. Physical distance - not social distance! Use games to rebuild friendships / start new ones. How can we look after each other this week?
What do you bring?	Can we still build our community, whether we're at home or at school? In Nehemiah's story, the people who stayed behind sent what they could with those who were returning to Jerusalem. How can what we've learned doing 'school at home' help us as we return?
Reimagining worship	Nehemiah's people knew that worship joined them together How are we worshipping together now? What's good about being able to do this in smaller groups? What do we miss? How have other worshipping communities adapted?
Firm foundations 2	Have our 'foundations' changed at all? Do we need to add anything new or do something differently to help us live well together? What rules do we need now to help us to live well together? How will our values help us to know how to behave?
End of 'term'	How do we celebrate achievements together and apart?
September onwards....	
Rekindle candles	In Judaism the Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) symbolises the presence of God in the synagogue. For many schools, the act of lighting a candle is part of the joining together in worship. Worship all together may not happen until September - and it will be worth celebrating!
Celebrate! [Sukkot / Harvest]	One of the first festivals that the Jewish community celebrated was Sukkot One of the festivals we first celebrate is Harvest: what will Harvest look like this year?