

## Reference for Wintershall Education Character Education Resources

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We are fortunate that Wintershall is located within the Diocese of Guildford. A number of local schools take groups of pupils to The Life of Christ or Nativity productions every year. These schools then follow up the visit back in school, going deeper into the characters and events that they have seen acted out. My experience as a teacher bringing schools groups from both community schools and church schools to Wintershall is that the pupils gained a depth of understanding about the events in the life of Christ that would have been much more difficult just in a classroom.

However the creation of the Character Education Resources will enable more schools to link into the richness of the Wintershall experience. The clips and interviews will enable the pupils to consider some of the characters in depth. Thinking about their role in the Biblical events but also why they acted in the way that they did, or said what they said.

In addition the actors comments about playing the role add an extra dimension to the pupil's thinking about these Biblical figures.

In the diocese we define Christian values as those about which you say "taking Jesus as an example of the value of XX (e.g. patience)". The Wintershall Character Education Resources reinforce this and root Christian values firmly in the Bible and the life of Christ.

The Wintershall production and Character Education Materials contribute toward the SIAMS criteria in the following ways:

**Core question 1** – Through the clear presentation of Christian values and the impact that living by them can have on a community.

**Core question 2** – The materials for at least one collective worship based around one of the Christian values presented by the pupils.

**Core question 3** – The presentation of the events in the Life of Christ and the characters around Him enables pupils to have a greater understanding of the context in which Jesus acted and taught. This enables pupils and staff to appreciate how radical and revolutionary much of Jesus teaching and lifestyle was at the time. Seeing the characters around Jesus during the events adds a lot to the understanding of the context of some of the passages in the Bible.

Pupils can enquire into the words of Jesus and the reactions of various people and groups to His

words more easily following a visit to the production of the use of an extract of video compared to use the use of the written text alone.

The Wintershall materials could work alongside Understanding Christianity through:

**Text** - as a way of examining the text because the words the characters speak are taken directly from the Bible.

**Impact** – The interviews with actors in character, and out of character, examine the impact of Jesus words and deeds on that character both in role and then as a modern day person acting the role.

**Connections** – The interviews with the actors link the role that they have played with their own lives.