



Chalice and Paten with a figure of St Edward the Confessor

11-18 activity – Christianity in 10 objects

Can you identify different parts of this object? What do you think the main purpose of this object is?

Which design features are especially smart or creative? Circle or point to them!

Who would use this object?



This beautiful communion cup contains a gold figure of St Edward the Confessor, who was responsible for building the first great stone church at Westminster Abbey (completed in 1065). A hundred years after his death in 1161, he was made a saint.

In the Christian faith, a saint is someone who has led a holy life and is said to be close to God. Christians believe they can look to saints as examples for how to lead their own lives – like a role model. Looking at the good deeds of saints might help Christians to be inspired to live a better life.

Talk with others

Who represents goodness or kindness to you? Is it a public figure or someone you know personally? What is it that makes that person good? Is this something that is innate in them or something that they cultivate in themselves? How do you feel when they are less “good”? How can you nurture your own kindness?

Activity: Put some goodness in your life

This chalice is an extraordinary object that also serves as an ordinary object within the life of the church. It serves a function as a holder for wine but also reminds us of the life of St Edward the Confessor.

Thinking about the good* people you know, why not bring them into your everyday life?

*In the Abbey we accept that we are all flawed human beings. We may achieve some goodness but we are all imperfect. We all make mistakes. Being our best selves is a work in progress. That's why we might need inspiration from those around us who are doing it well, while accepting that they too are allowed to make mistakes. Maybe then, we can inspire them.

1. You will need an everyday object, e.g. mug, hairbrush, phone, bag
2. Think about how you will represent the person you want to include in your daily life e.g. their name, a photograph, a drawing of them, a symbols that reminds you of them (like St Edward the Confessor's ring)
3. Bring the two together, e.g. you might paint, carve or glue their name, photograph or drawing onto the object. Or you could slip a photograph inside a phone case or wallet, paint them on your wall or model them from clay.
4. Set a reminder for a month's time and reflect on how bringing that person into your everyday life has changed or informed your behaviour or choices.

Extension

Can you bring more reminders of this person, or different people, into your life? Reflect on how effective a practical item is as a reminder. How can you share with others the good deeds that you value?

Share your experience on Facebook or Twitter using #WAbbeyFun