



Marriage licence of HRH Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton, 2011

11-18 activity – Christianity in 10 objects

What do you think is happening in this photograph?

Who are the two most important people in the photograph? Why do you think that?

What types of clothing can you see?
What does the clothing suggest?

What decoration can you see in the Abbey? How can you tell it is a special event?



In order for Prince William and Catherine Middleton to get married, a special marriage licence had to be issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury. We can see that it is a formal document because it has a seal hanging from it. When people talk about 'setting the seal' on something, it means they have made something official.

Marriage is a covenant between two people. A covenant is a formal and serious agreement. During a marriage ceremony two people promise to become partners in life. Christian marriage takes place in Church before God. This reflects the Christian teaching that God made a covenant with humanity. God created humanity as his partner to spread goodness around the world.

Talk with others

Look carefully at the red seal hanging from the marriage licence. Can you work out what the image is? The seal comes from the Archbishop of Canterbury's office. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the most senior person in the Church of England. Why might this image have been chosen for a seal?



Activity: Design a seal

Think about what makes a good partnership between two people. This could be within a family, a couple, friends or at work. You could either think of a good partnership you have already or you could choose to imagine one.

- List the types of behaviours that a good partner would demonstrate to you
- List the types of behaviours that you would demonstrate to your partner
- Can you think of any great partnerships either in films or in books? What makes them great? Are there any special moments or words that prove that the partnership is a good one?
- What images or words come into your mind when you think about a good partnership?

Design a seal to mark a partnership, or covenant, between two people. You could create your own using materials you have to hand, for example cardboard or fabric, or you could use the template on the next page to draw and colour your design.

Extension

The Bible mentions the word covenant a number of times. For example:

‘In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’ Luke 22:20

Here, Jesus is the speaker. Jesus is telling his disciples at the Last Supper that he is giving up his life for humanity.

Marriage is an example of a covenant between two people. Christians believe that Jesus's death came about because of a covenant made between God and humanity. Can you think of any other examples of covenants between people? (Remember a covenant is a solemn agreement.)
Do you think there is a place for covenants in our modern world?

Share your experience on Facebook or Twitter using #WAbbeyFun

Seal template

