

A Told by the Dial Themed Visit to Mount Zion

This is a short scheme of work incorporating a visit to Mount Zion.

Purpose

Told by the Dial focuses on the stories told by Mount Zion's building and grounds. This short scheme based around a themed visit involves children in discovering, interpreting and recounting stories about Calderdale people. Children are tasked with being time travelling detectives, to find and retell hidden stories. This session emphasises that heritage is something we all share and important in helping us to understand the past and potentially inform the future.

Aims

- To increase knowledge about the local area and its people
- To better understand why for some people, including Calderdale's Methodists, religion was (and still is) a central part of their lives
- To better understand the idea of memory, memorials and commemoration
- To use Mount Zion and the monuments in the burial ground as creative inspiration
- To explore ideas about social justice and encourage community cohesion, through an exploration of local history and heritage.

Objectives

Children should:

- Be able to re tell at least one story about an event or person from the past
- Recognise the importance of memory, remembering and memorials
- Be able to reflect upon, articulate and creatively express, their own beliefs, views and stories
- Understand that people's religious beliefs and worldviews, have influenced our heritage, the built environment, the world we live in today.

Content

For possible content and activities see the website link at the bottom of this document. The website suggest content and related activities, which may form part of work in school, before and after a visit to Mount Zion. It is possible to focus on specific aspects of the Told by the Dial content e.g., specific people, events or sub-themes during a visit. Please make your requirements clear on the booking form.

Session 1: Before the Visit

How to be a Time Travelling Detective

Suggested school - based session, duration 60 minutes, teacher led.

Objectives

The children should:

- Better understand the importance of religion and religious buildings (particularly Mount Zion) in some people's lives
- Begin to understand that spaces, documents, buildings, memorials and artefacts, may tell hidden stories
- Begin to think about how to reveal these and pass them on to other people
- Recognise that Calderdale's people have always been travellers, sojourners and settlers

Content:

This may be chosen from the Fatctfiles online and the 'How to be a Detective' slides.

Possible Plan – How to be a Time Travelling Detective

Date/location	Time (approx.)	Activity/focus	Staff leading
SCHOOL	15 mins	PP slides - Mount Zion (a perfect or special place) Time travelling – evidence that could be collected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documents - Memorials - Buildings - Things 	Teacher
	10 mins	A guessing game – building features	Teacher
	20 mins	A guessing game (artefacts, clothes and pictures are preferable, but the Evidence Pack photos may also be used) What are they? What do they tell us about the past?	Teacher
	10 mins	PP slides – make a list of what the children would most like to find out about on their visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People - Migration - Events - Artefacts - Rebels and reformers - Belief and practice 	Teacher

Session 2: Time Travelling Detectives in Action - A Visit to Mount Zion

Objectives

The children should:

- Know something about the history of Mount Zion and be able to say why it is a special place and to whom
- Be able to recall at least one story associated with the chapel.
- Have a beginning knowledge of at least one grave, artefact or space in the chapel
- Be able to suggest which thing, event or person they might like to find out more about when they return to school and ways in which they may be able to tell their story to others.

Date/location	Time (approx.)	Activity/focus	Staff leading
MOUNT ZION	15 minutes	Housekeeping Health and safety. Sit quietly in the chapel. Look around. First impressions. A small amount of background information.	Heritage Workers
	90 minutes	Detectives in action – searching for stories, collecting evidence inside Detectives in action – searching for stories, collecting evidence outside Sketch what you see and rubbings.	Heritage Workers

Told by the Dial

Stories in Stone

	15 minutes	<p>Reconvene</p> <p>Listen to the organ</p> <p>Plenary – impressions now?</p> <p>Is Mount Zion a special place?</p> <p>Does Mount Zion have stories to tell?</p> <p>How can you share these stories?</p> <p>Why do we need to do this?</p>	<p>Heritage Workers</p>
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Session 3: Telling Calder Tales

The follow up sessions can take many forms and involve creative writing, drama, artwork and IT based activities. The Told by the Dial Factfiles and activities provide information, ideas and images which may be used to form the basis of subsequent classroom-based learning. Children could compile their own compendium of 'Told by the Dial' Calder Tales.

Resources

Free Told by the Dial: Stories in Stone resources are available here

<https://mountzion.cmch.org.uk/education-and-resources/told-by-the-dial-resources/>

A really useful introduction to Christianity and Methodism is available here

<https://www.calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk/about-us/our-heritage.html>

A useful short guide to the history of Mount Zion is available here: