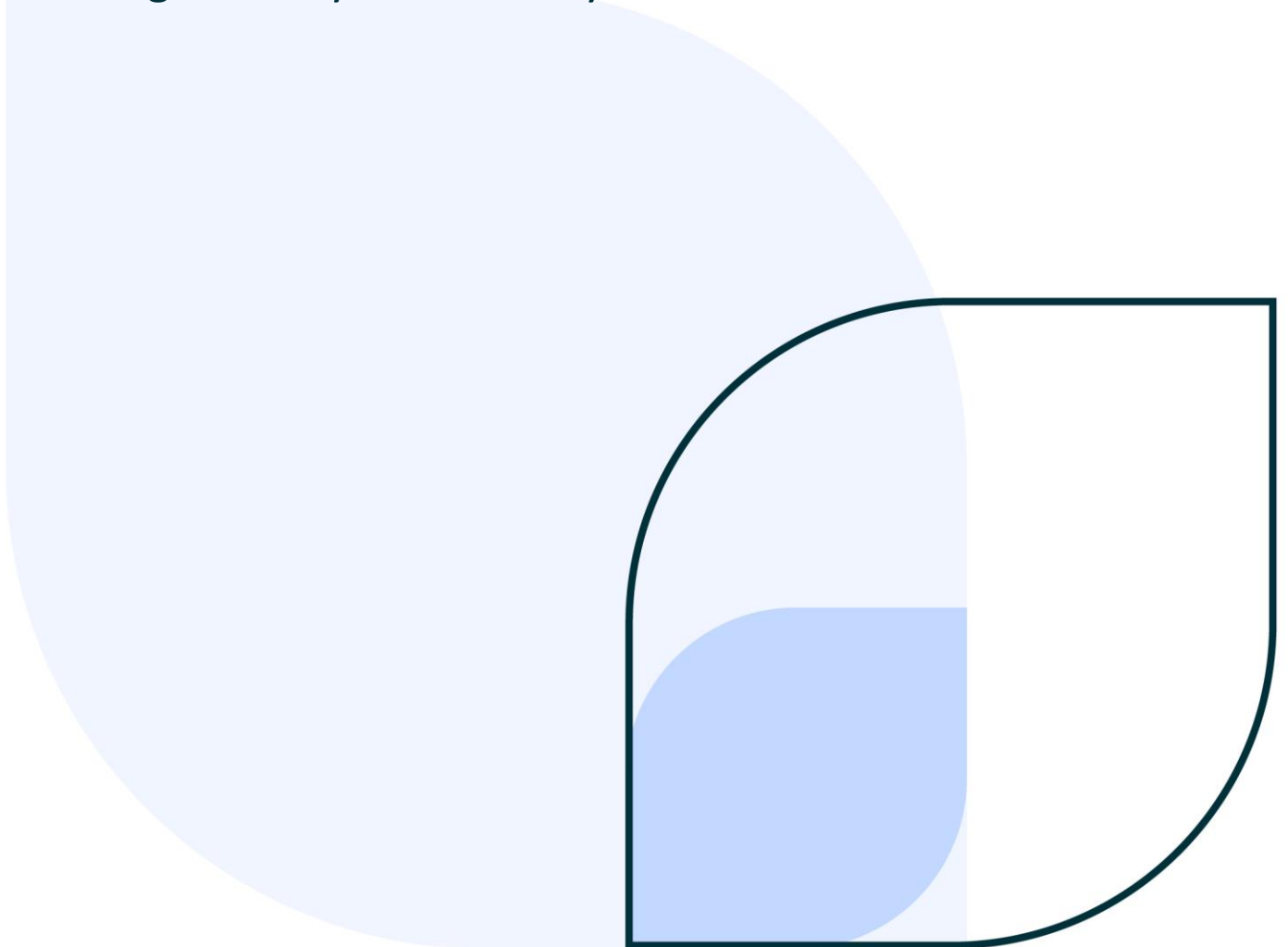


Collective Worship

Primary resources:

Retelling our story - Saka's Story





Key Concept / Message

Black History Month (BHM) is celebrated in October in the UK, with a focus on recognising and honouring the contributions, resilience, and achievements of Black communities. It began in 1987 in the UK, inspired by the American observance, but tailored to reflect the specific stories of Black British people. This year's theme, "Reclaiming Narratives," encourages us to share our own stories, ensuring that our voices are heard authentically and respectfully.

Bukayo Saka, a young and talented Black British footballer, became a national figure not only for his skills on the pitch but also for his resilience in the face of adversity. During the 2020 UEFA European Championship final, Saka missed a crucial penalty kick, leading to England's loss. Following this, he faced a wave of racist abuse online, highlighting the ongoing issue of racism in sport and society. Despite this, Saka responded with grace and courage, using his platform to speak out against hate and advocate for love, equality, and respect.

Saka's story connects deeply with the biblical parable of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), where a Samaritan, considered an outsider, shows kindness to a stranger in need. Like the Samaritan, Saka's response to those who hurt him was marked by compassion and dignity, choosing to rise above the negativity and extend love instead of hate. His experience reminds us of the importance of standing up for what is right, speaking against injustice, and showing kindness to others, even when it's difficult.

As Christians, engaging with stories like Saka's during BHM aligns with the call to love our neighbour (Mark 12:31) and to stand against injustice, just as the Good Samaritan did. Proverbs 31:8-9 encourages us to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves." Saka's resilience and his refusal to be silenced serve as a powerful example of reclaiming his narrative and using his voice to inspire positive change.

This act of worship invites us to reflect on how we can show kindness, challenge prejudice, and stand in solidarity with those who face injustice. Just as Saka turned a moment of personal challenge into an opportunity to advocate for change, we too can use our voices and actions to create a more loving and inclusive community.

Slide 1

Introduce today's worship, ensuring everyone knows who Bukayo Saka is. Depending on local or national football allegiances, it may be necessary to reinforce that there are lessons we can learn from many different people – even if they play for football teams other than our own!



Slide 2: Gathering

Begin with your usual greeting to gather everyone together. You may like to start with an opening prayer, such as this one:

Dear God,
Thank you for making each of us special and unique.
We are grateful for the stories of brave people, like Saka, who show us how to be strong and kind.
Help us listen to these stories with open hearts and celebrate the courage and love they teach us.
Bless us as we learn today and help us be kind to each other.
Amen.

Slide 3: The Good Samaritan story (Luke 10:25-37)

Introduce the bible story for the children:

One day, a man was walking along the road when some robbers attacked him. They took his things, hurt him, and left him lying on the side of the road. A priest walked by, but he didn't stop to help. Then another man, who worked in the temple, saw the hurt man, but he also walked by. Finally, a kind man from Samaria came along. He saw the hurt man and felt sorry for him. The Samaritan stopped, cleaned his wounds, and put him on his donkey. He took him to an inn and paid for him to stay there until he got better. Jesus asked, "Who was a good neighbour to the man who was hurt?" The answer was, "The one who showed kindness." Jesus said, "Go and be kind like that."

Image Credit: Dinah Roe Kendall (1994)

Slide 4: Reflection question

I wonder... why did the Samaritan choose to help, even when others didn't?

What can we learn from this

Slide 5 & 6: Saka's Experience After Missing a Penalty

After Saka missed a penalty in a big football match, he faced a lot of unkind comments about his race. Imagine how he must have felt at that moment. Sometimes, people can say hurtful things, especially when emotions run high, but those words can have a deep impact.

Discussion Question: I wonder... how do you think Saka felt when he heard those hurtful words?

I wonder... how would you feel in his situation?

NB it is important to be alert to the fact that some pupils may themselves have experienced discrimination, on the basis of race or for another characteristic. They may need additional support around this question, so it is important to alert staff in advance.



Slide 7: Saka's Response After Overcoming Negative Emotions

Despite the negative comments, Saka went on to score an important penalty for England in a later match. He didn't let the negativity stop him from doing his best. This shows incredible resilience.

Discussion Question:

"How do you think Saka overcame those negative emotions? What can we learn from his example?"

Slide 8: Parallels Between the Good Samaritan and Saka

Just like the Good Samaritan didn't let negative words get in the way of helping someone in need, Saka didn't let negativity stop him from achieving his goals. Sometimes, we face negative experiences in life, but doing the right thing is always important, even when it's hard.

Reflection Question:

I wonder why it's important to keep doing the right thing, even when it's hard?

Invite a few children to share an example if they feel confident.

Slide 9: African Proverb

Read the African proverb.

Explain to the children that this proverb reinforces the idea that our stories are powerful and if we do not tell our own stories somebody else may do, and not do our story justice.

Black History Month is about retelling our story of love, life, light and courage in order to inspire today.

Slide 10: Closing Prayer

Let's close with a prayer, thanking God for the examples of the Good Samaritan and Saka, who both showed us how to be courageous and do what is right, even in the face of negativity.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, we thank you for the life and example of the Good Samaritan.

We also thank you for the example of Saka, who shows us that it is important to keep doing the right thing, even when we experience something negative.

Help us to be courageous like the Good Samaritan and Saka, and to stand up for what is right.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen."



Experiences that Help Us Encounter: Celebrate Your Strengths Booklet

Create a class booklet where each student contributes a page on their strengths, celebrating what makes them unique. They can share through writing, art, or poems. Consider these questions:

- What makes you feel proud of who you are?
- How does your faith or values guide you, just like Saka's story?
- What talent or skill do you have that others might not know about?
- How do you celebrate being you, especially when things get tough?
- How can your unique strengths help make your class or school a better place?

Build a Supportive Community Display

Create a display where students write or draw how they can support each other, just as Saka encourages others to keep going even when it's hard. Place their contributions on a display tree in the classroom or school hall to remind everyone of the power of kindness and support.

Activities that Develop Practices and Habits

Daily Acts of Kindness Journal

Encourage students to keep a daily journal where they write down acts of kindness they've done or noticed in others. Reflect on how these acts, like Saka's encouragement, can make everyone feel stronger and more supported.

Weekly Sharing Circle

Hold a weekly sharing circle where students discuss times they helped each other, stood up for what was right, or showed kindness, even when it was hard. What can they learn from each other to do even better next week?

Conversations that Connect Communities:

"You are never too young to make a difference." — Greta Thunberg

Personal Reflection:

- How can your small actions, like Saka's, make a big difference at school?
- Why should we keep doing what's right, even when it's hard?
- How can you use your voice to cheer on and support others?
- What values guide your actions when things get tough?

Community and Society:

- How can we inspire others to join us in being kind and supportive, like Saka?
- How can our school community come together to support everyone, especially when someone feels down?
- What can we do to make sure our actions encourage others to keep going and do the right thing?

Global Perspective:

- How do small actions by many people make a difference in the world, just like Saka's influence?
- How can learning about different cultures help us treat others with kindness?
- How can you, as young people, be leaders in creating a kinder world without discrimination?
- What kind of world do you dream of, and how can your small actions help make it happen?



Collective Worship – Our approach

Invitational

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

Inclusive

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is ‘what Christians believe’, saying things like: ‘I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?’ ‘The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ... Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

Inspiring

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?