Lights for Christ: Overview

THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD

> **Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father**

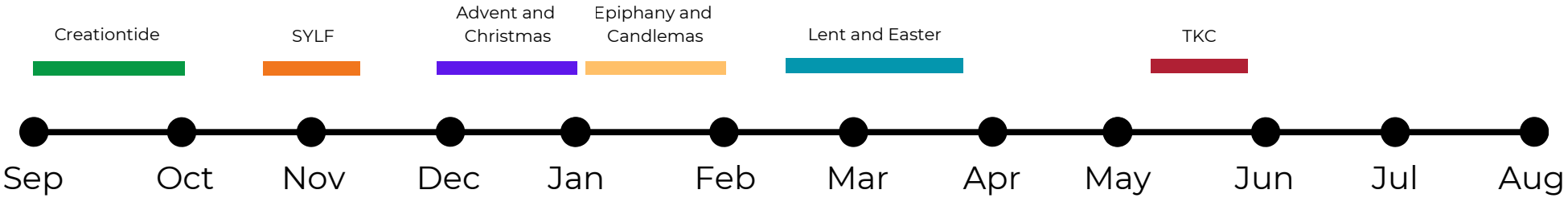
Lights for Christ is an initiative to help us live out our baptismal calling to be lights in the world – to live for Jesus in our everyday lives. We do this by:

- **Receiving** Christ's light as his friends (so that our relationship with Jesus becomes deeper)
- **Walking** in Christ's light as his followers (living so that we become more like Jesus)
- **Reflecting** Christ's light to those around us (so that others see more of Christ in us)

The central team supports leaders and the people in their churches to be Lights for Christ by creating resources, sharing ideas for developing a culture of whole-life discipleship, and promoting the use of Personal Rule of Life materials. To find out more, visit www.sheffdio.org/lfc .

The Lights for Christ Year

Referring to Lights for Christ throughout the year can help people to understand that it is not just a one-time course or resource - it is a lens through which we can view different seasons of the Church year, and different seasons of our lives. The idea of being Lights for Christ in the world can inform our approach to everyday life and worship in all times and places.



further details overleaf

Creationtide

- Promote Eco Church as way of being LfC
- Promote LfC Eco Pledge Leaflets - can also contribute towards Eco Church
- Regular social media posts

Shine Your Light Fortnight

- Partnership with Arise Sheffield to encourage Christian witness
- Individuals can take part by wearing their faith, decorating their houses with messages of hope or sharing their faith with others
- Churches can run community events and Light Parties

Advent and Christmas

- Advent courses and small group resources
- Christingle Prayers
- Encourage leaders to weave LfC language into services
- LfC Advent calendars
- Encourage people to consider how to be environmentally-friendly at Christmas

Epiphany and Candlemas

- Catch up time from Advent/Christmas
- Retreat - what might God being saying to you in this new season?
- Seven Sacred Spaces Retreat/Workshop Days

Lent and Easter

- Create or review Personal Rule of Life during Lent - workshops and/or weekly gatherings
- PRoL can be explored as a Mission Area
- Encourage involvement in Arise March prayer-walking campaign
- Holy Week social media posts
- Renewal of baptismal promises at Easter

Thy Kingdom Come (Pentecost)

- Encourage people to join in with 2025 Prayer Community
- Share resources online with ideas for TKC activities
- Social media posts
- Link to 24/7 Prayer

Planning Ahead

Leaders may decide to use Lights for Christ as a focus during some parts of the year and not others - the central team encourages leaders to do what will work best in their context. As well as the ideas outlined above, leaders may want to run an enquirers' course at some point in the year and/or run preparation classes for baptism and confirmation. It is also important for churches to model rhythms of rest and activity throughout the year - having a fallow period can be helpful.