



Creativity and the Arts Activities

Here are a few examples of activities that you might use to explore the theme of 'Creativity and the Arts' with a group.

- **Architecture and iconography** - host an open doors event at a place of worship and explore the architecture, paintings or geometric art forms
- **Music** – spiritual songs and hymns give expression to the beliefs of different faiths and are used in worship to connect with God. Listen to and reflect upon hymns and songs in various traditions such as the Christian, Jewish, Sikh and Hindu faiths. You could host a musical evening with music and songs from different faiths and cultures. You could host a singing workshop, write a song or form an interfaith choir.
- **Art** - explore art and design in different faiths and cultures, for example Islamic art, unique in its geometric patterns symbolising the perfection of God or rangoli art forms found in the Hindu faith and cultures of Nepal, India and Bangladesh. You could host an event with tables hosted by people from different faiths and cultures with an opportunity for participants to try out different arts and craft activities relating to that faith or culture, e.g. painting Hindu oil lamps, Arabic calligraphy, Chinese origami, Buddhist prayer flags or mandalas, Celtic Christian knot work, Pagan stone painting
- **Dance** - some traditions use dance as a meditative practise, for example the whirling dervishes in the Sufi tradition. Some use dance as an expression of worship as outlined in the Hebrew and Sikh scriptures. Some use dance to illustrate the stories of the faith as in the various dance traditions in India outlining stories from the Hindu faith. How about hosting an 'interfaith ceilidh' with dancing from different faiths and cultures.
- **Poetry** – poetry is used as a medium for expressing our relationship to God and the natural world. Some examples of spiritual poetry are the works of Rumi and Hafiz in the Sufi tradition, and John Philip Newell and John O'Donohue in the Celtic Christian tradition. You could hold a poetry workshop exploring poetry in different traditions and maybe write your own!