

*Exploring Our World*

# Special People



**Extended Version**

*Exploring Our World*

# Signs and Symbols

Tania ap Siôn and Leslie J Francis  
Illustrated by Phillip Vernon



**Bear Lands Publishing**

## About Aled and Siân

Aled and Siân love doing exciting things and exploring the world around them. In the *Exploring Our World* series Aled and Siân share some of their experiences with their Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim friends. Aled and Siân also enjoy listening to their friends' stories, and learn about how these relate to their own. This helps the friends get to know one another better.

The series takes seriously the social significance of religion and is based on extensive research into how children learn about themselves, others and the world in which they live.

To support this storybook series, there is a large range of free downloadable resources for children and teachers available at [hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources](http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources) and [st-marys-centre.org.uk](http://st-marys-centre.org.uk)

The storybooks and activities are devised for 3- to 5-year-olds and 5- to 7-year-olds, but the downloadable resources make the series relevant for younger and older children too.

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### Titles in the *Exploring Our World* series are:

*3- to -5-year-olds*  
Celebrations  
Myself and Others  
Times and Seasons

*5- to -7-year-olds*  
Journeys  
Special People  
Signs and Symbols





Aled and Siân love talking to their friends about all the special people they meet and see. Today, Aled and Siân tell their friends about their special visit to see the nurse in the Health Centre. Aled

looked at a map to find the way to the Health Centre. Siân looked at a book to find out about the nurse. Aled and Siân were very excited when they saw the Health Centre across the busy street.



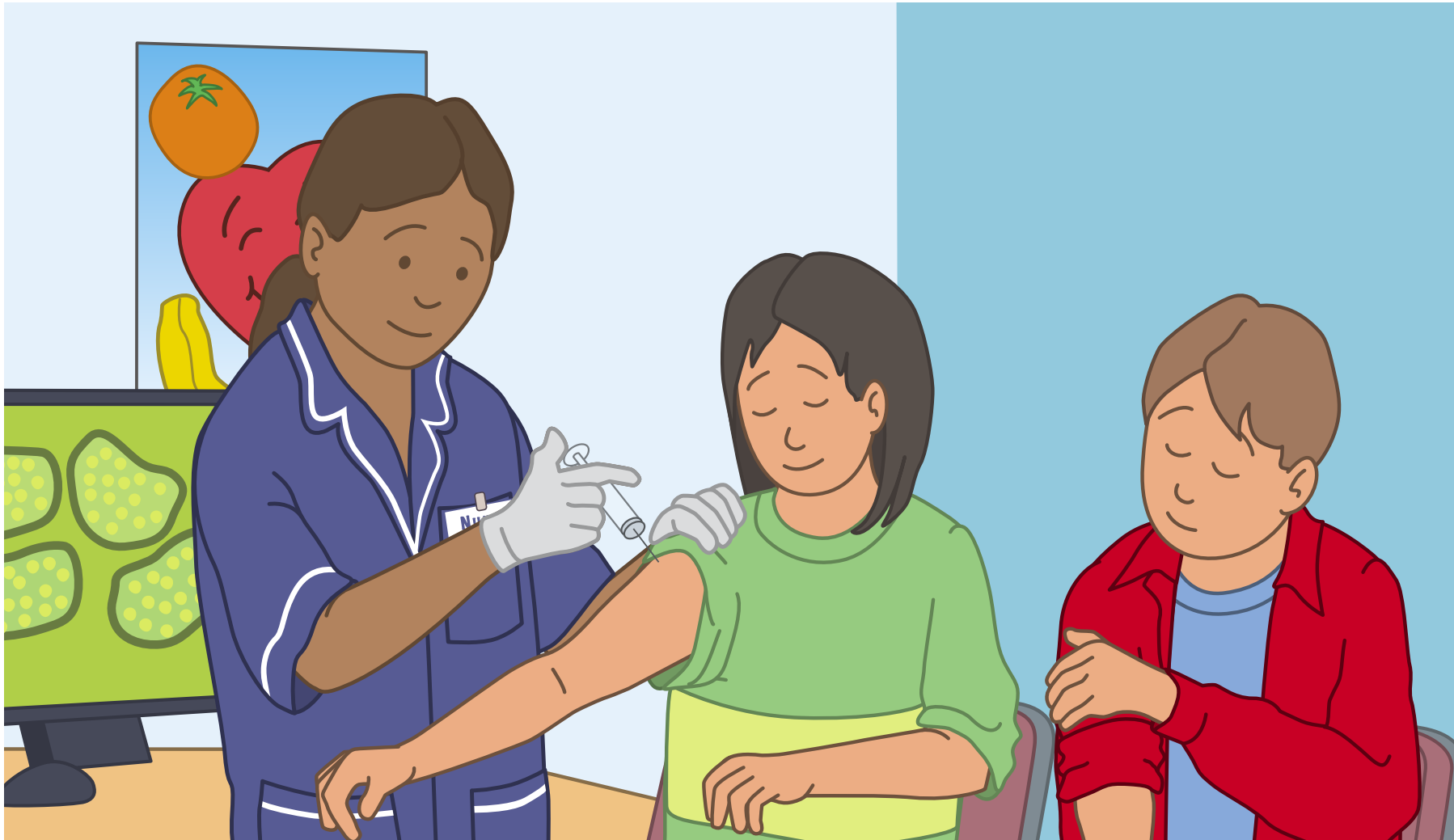
Aled and Siân opened the door and went into the Health Centre. Inside they sat down quietly in the large waiting room, waiting for their turn to come. Then the nurse opened the door to welcome Aled

and Siân into her room. The nurse was wearing a very smart uniform. The name badge said, "Nurse Catrin".



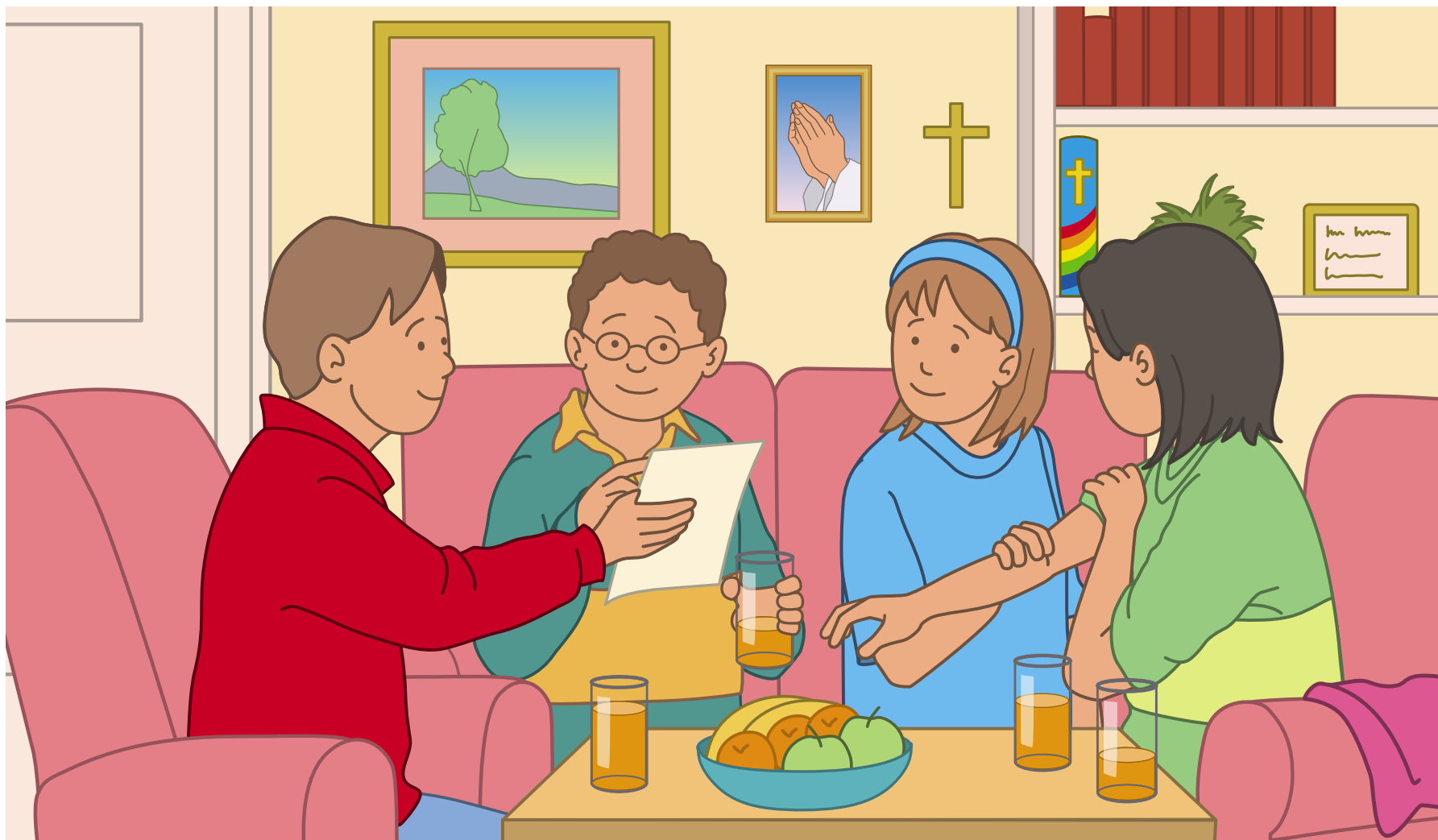
The nurse invited Aled and Siân to come across to the chairs next to her desk. On the desk they saw her computer, they saw her powerful torch, they saw her machine to take blood pressure. By her

desk they saw the basin, the water and the towel. The nurse told them that her job was to help people live healthy lives.



The nurse told Aled and Siân how she gave vaccinations to children to help them live healthy lives. Vaccinations help children to avoid getting nasty diseases. When Aled and Siân were very

young, she had given them their first vaccinations. Today, Aled and Siân rolled up their sleeves to get a booster jab from the nurse. They each took home a certificate to remind them of the day.



Aled and Siân were so excited about seeing the nurse. They tell their friends everything about their special visit to the Health Centre. They tell their

friends everything about seeing the nurse. "Now tell us about the special people you have met and seen," said Aled and Siân to their friends.



Peter and Mary tell Aled and Siân about their special visit to see the vicar in the church. They remember getting ready for the visit before setting out. Peter looked at a map to find the way to the

church. Mary looked at a book to find out about the vicar. Peter and Mary were very excited when they saw the church across the busy street.



Peter and Mary opened the door and went into the church. Inside they found the vicar waiting for them. The vicar welcomed Peter and Mary into her church. The vicar was wearing a long black

cassock that reached right down to her feet. Peter and Mary noticed that she was wearing smart black shoes and a white collar round her neck. The name badge said, "Vicar Bethan".



The vicar invited Peter and Mary to sit on the chairs next to her desk. On the desk they saw her computer, they saw her colourful stoles, they saw

her Bible. In the church they saw the font and the altar. The vicar told them that her job was to help people live healthy Christian lives.



The vicar told Peter and Mary how she baptized children to help them live healthy Christian lives. When Peter and Mary were very young she had baptized them at the font. Today, Peter and Mary

knelt down to get a blessing from the vicar. They each took home a little cross to remind them of the day.



Nathan and Rachel tell Aled and Siân about their special visit to see the rabbi in the synagogue. They remember getting ready for the visit before setting out. Nathan looked at the map to find the

way to the synagogue. Rachel looked at a book to find out about the rabbi. Nathan and Rachel were very excited when they saw the synagogue across the busy street.



Nathan and Rachel opened the door and went into the synagogue. Inside they found the rabbi waiting for them. The rabbi welcomed Nathan and Rachel into her synagogue. The rabbi was wearing

a long prayer shawl draped over her shoulders. Nathan and Rachel noticed that she had a small round cap on her head and a Star of David round her neck. The name badge said, “Rabbi Miriam”.



The rabbi invited Nathan and Rachel to sit on the chairs next to her desk. On the desk they saw her computer, they saw her colourful prayer shawls, they saw her prayer book. In the synagogue they

saw the Torah scrolls and the reading desk. The rabbi told them that her job was to help people live healthy Jewish lives.



The rabbi told Nathan and Rachel how she taught people about the Torah to help them live healthy Jewish lives. When Nathan and Rachel went to the synagogue, they liked to see the Torah scrolls.

Today, Nathan and Rachel stand by the reading desk and try to read aloud from the Torah. They each took home a little scroll to remind them of the day.



Ahmed and Salma tell Aled and Siân about their special visit to see the imam in the mosque. They remember getting ready for the visit before setting out. Ahmed looked at the map to find the way to

the mosque. Salma looked at a book to find out about the imam. Ahmed and Salma were very excited when they saw the mosque across the busy street.



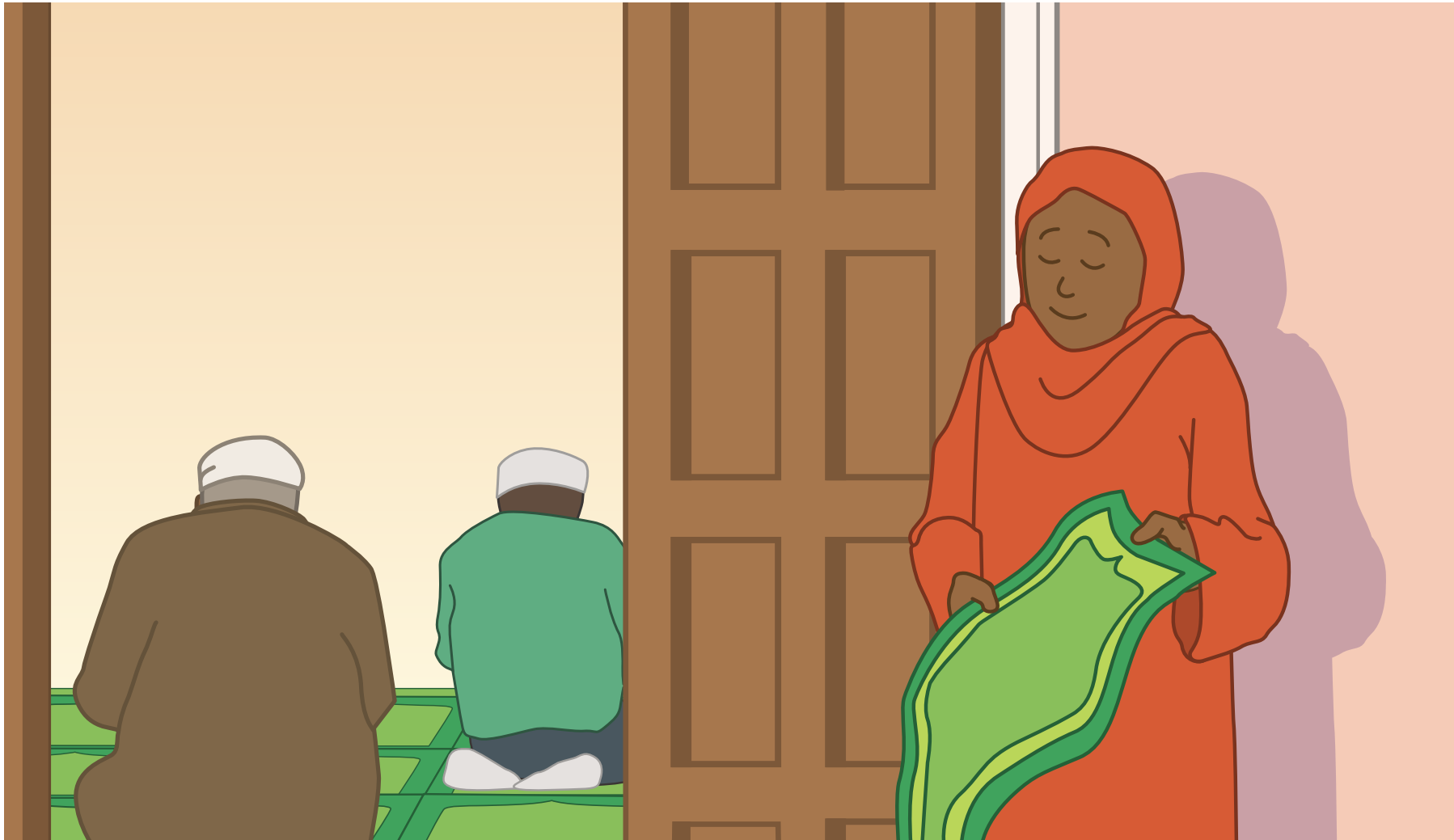
Ahmed and Salma opened the door and went into the mosque. Inside they found the imam waiting for them. The imam welcomed Ahmed and Salma into his mosque. The imam was wearing a long

beige shirt and light trousers. Ahmed and Salma noticed that he was not wearing shoes and had a white cap on his head. The name badge said, "Imam Abdullah".



The imam invited Ahmed and Salma to sit on the chairs next to his desk. On the desk they saw his computer, they saw his prayer beads, they saw his

Qur'an. In the mosque they saw the washrooms and the prayer hall. The imam told them that his job was to help people live healthy Muslim lives.



The imam told Ahmed and Salma how he led prayers in the mosque to help people live healthy Muslim lives. When Ahmed and Salma were older they would also visit the mosque to pray. Today,

Ahmed and Salma stand, bow, and sit, and try to act out the daily prayer. They each took home a little prayer mat to remind them of the day.



Rajeev and Meena tell Aled and Siân about their special visit to see the priest in the temple. They remember getting ready for the visit before setting out. Rajeev looked at the map to find the way to

the temple. Meena looked at a book to find out about the priest. Rajeev and Meena were very excited when they saw the temple across the busy street.



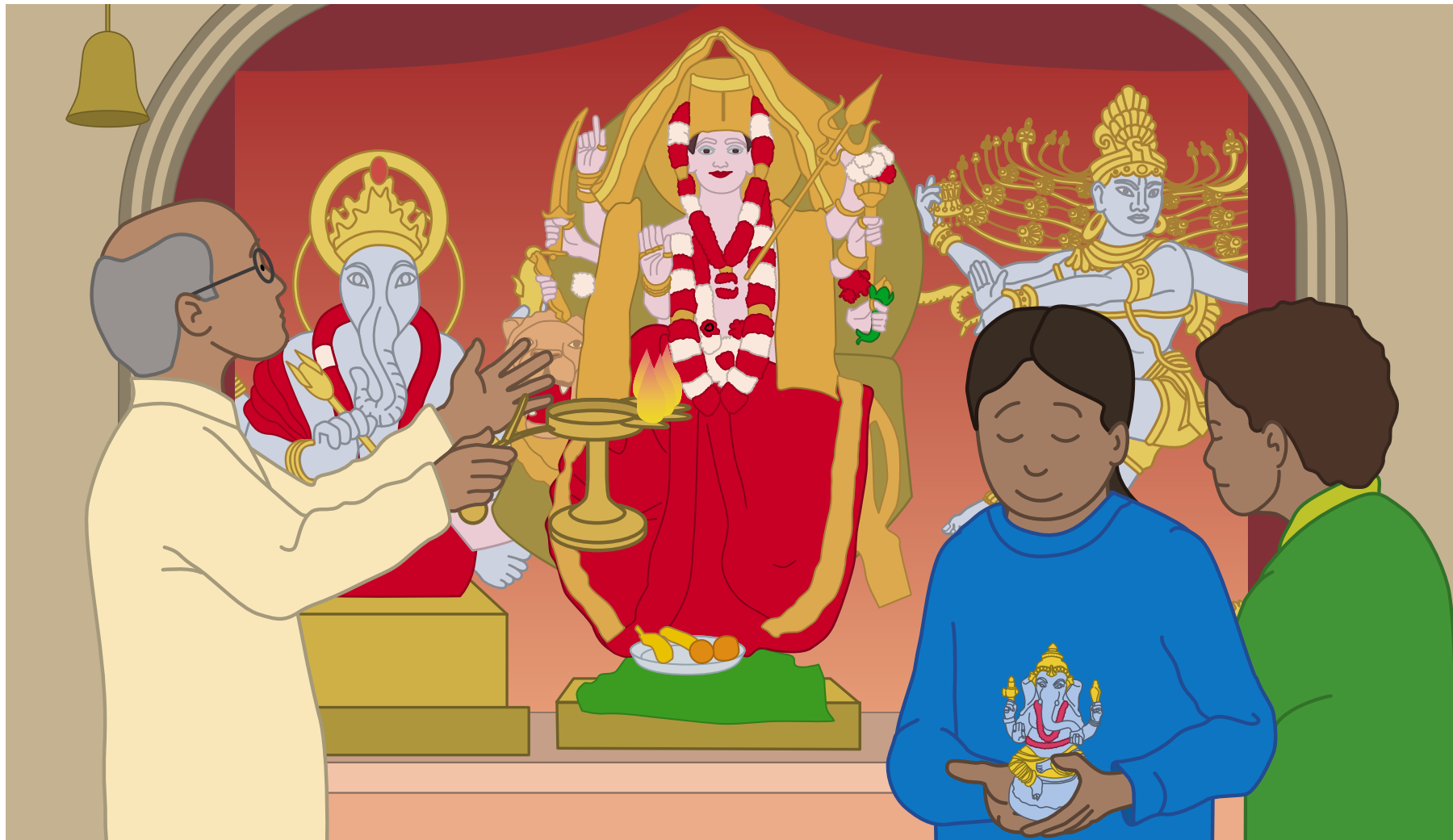
Rajeev and Meena opened the door and went into the temple. Inside they found the priest waiting for them. The priest welcomed Rajeev and Meena into his temple. The priest was wearing a long cream

shirt that reached right down to his knees. Rajeev and Meena noticed that he was not wearing shoes and had a mark painted on his forehead. The name badge said, "Priest Sandeep".



The priest invited Rajeev and Meena to sit on the chairs next to his desk. On the desk they saw his computer, they saw his arti lamp, they saw his copy of the Gita. In the temple they saw the

shrines and the statues of the gods and goddesses. The priest told them that his job was to help people live healthy Hindu lives.



The priest told Rajeev and Meena how he looked after the shrines to help people live healthy Hindu lives. When Rajeev and Meena went to the temple they liked to see the beautiful shrines and

offerings. Today, Rajeev and Meena join the priest in a puja service. They each took home a little Ganesh to remind them of the day.



Aled and Siân enjoy listening to their friends Peter and Mary, Nathan and Rachel, Ahmed and Salma, Rajeev and Meena. They enjoy asking questions about the special people their friends know. They

are happy to have friends who are Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu, with such interesting stories to share.



They imagine visiting the church, the synagogue, the mosque, and the temple. They see the vicar with her stoles and Bible, the rabbi with her prayer

shawls and prayer book, the imam with his prayer beads and Qur'an, and the priest with his arti lamp and Gita.



Aled and Siân think about all the special people around them. They remember that special people do many different things. They begin to see how

special people from so many religions of the world are helping people to live healthy lives in Wales today.

Aled and Siân are exploring special people and they visit a nurse in the Health Centre. When they return, Aled and Siân tell their friends all about their visit and they listen to their friends' stories too. As the stories unfold, Aled and Siân begin to see how the religions of the world also help their friends' live healthy lives.



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