

# Signs and Symbols



Extended Version

*Exploring Our World*

# Signs and Symbols

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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 things they do and see. Today, Aled and Siân tell their friends about their special visit to see the ancient castle. Before setting out, Aled

and Siân looked at the guidebook to find out how to get to the ancient castle. The guidebook told them to look out for the sign that would show them the way. They followed that sign.



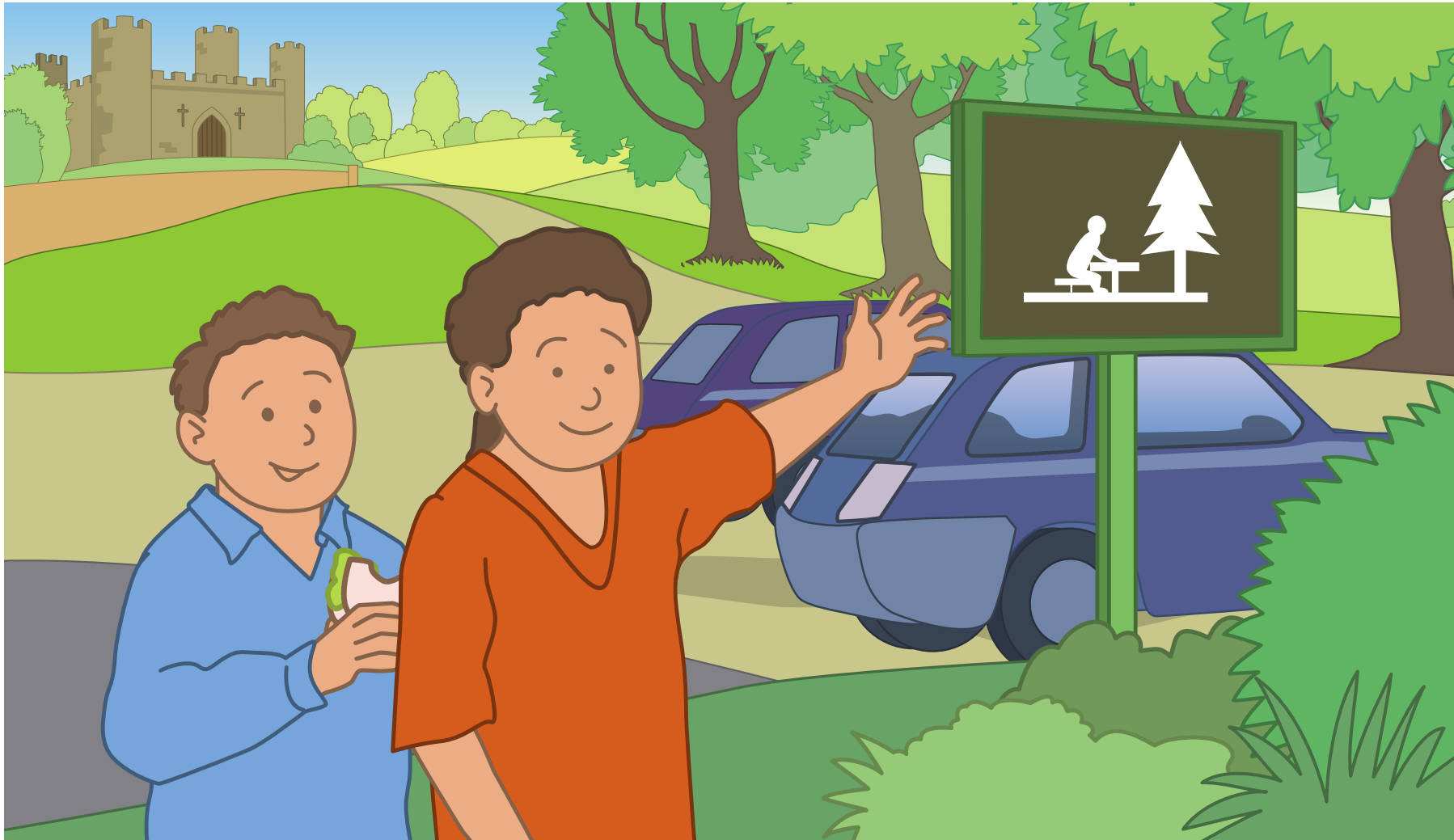
When Aled and Siân got closer to the ancient castle, they came to the tall wall and to the large gate. The gate guarded the road to the castle park and to the castle. Here they saw a second sign. “I

wonder what that sign means?” said Aled and Siân together. The man standing by the gate told them, “That sign means the castle is cared for by the National Trust.”



When Aled and Siân were walking through the park and along the road, they came to a stream running across the road. They saw the cars splash through the water. Here they saw a third sign. “I

wonder what that sign means?” said Aled and Siân together. The woman standing by the stream told them, “That sign means there is a ford, with water across the road.”



When Aled and Siân continued their walk through the park and along the road, they saw a forest of trees. They saw cars parked off the road. Here they saw a fourth sign. “I wonder what that sign

means?” said Aled and Siân together. The children standing by the cars told them, “That sign means you can find tables here for your picnic.”



Aled and Siân were so excited about this special visit to see the ancient castle. They tell their friends about all the signs they saw and followed. They talk about the sign for the castle, the sign for

the National Trust, the sign for the ford, the sign for the picnic area. "Now tell us about the signs you have seen," said Aled and Siân to their friends.





Peter and Mary tell Aled and Siân all about their special visit to see the stone church. Before setting out, Peter and Mary looked at the guidebook to find out how to get to the stone church. The

guidebook told them to look out for the sign that would show them the way. When they set out on their journey they saw the sign by the side of the road. They followed that sign.



When Peter and Mary got closer to the stone church, they came to the fence and to the gate. The gate guarded the path to the churchyard and to the church. Here they saw a second sign. “I

wonder what that sign means?” said Peter and Mary together. The man standing by the gate told them, “That sign means the church is cared for by local Christians.”



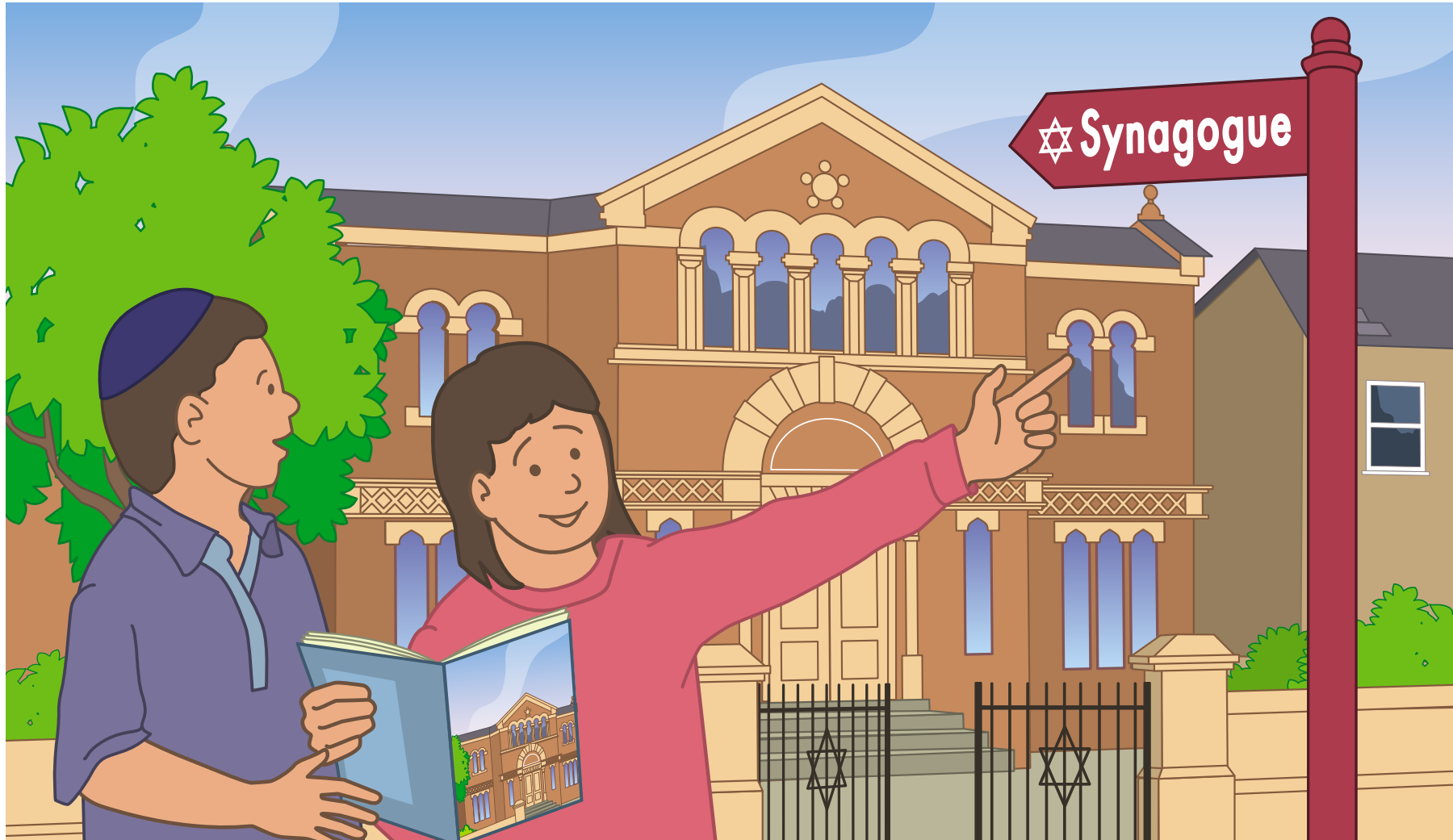
When Peter and Mary got to the church door, they opened the door and walked inside. The church felt very large. Here they saw a third sign. At the back of the church they saw the font. Next to the

font they saw a jug full of water. "I wonder what that sign means?" said Peter and Mary together. The woman standing by the font told them, "That sign means that Christians are baptized in water."



When Peter and Mary continued their walk around the stone church, they went down the long central aisle. Here they saw a fourth sign. At the front of the church they saw the altar. On the altar they found a plate for bread and a cup for wine. “I

wonder what that sign means?” said Peter and Mary together. The children by the altar told them, “That sign means that Christians share communion together.”



Nathan and Rachel tell Aled and Siân all about their special visit to see the red-brick synagogue. Before setting out, Nathan and Rachel looked at the guidebook to find out how to get to the large

synagogue. The guidebook told them to look out for the sign that would show them the way. When they set out on their journey they saw the sign by the side of the road. They followed that sign.



When Nathan and Rachel got closer to the red-brick synagogue, they came to the fence and to the gate. The gate guarded the path to the courtyard and to the synagogue. Here they saw a

second sign. "I wonder what that sign means?" said Nathan and Rachel together. The man standing by the gate told them, "That sign means the synagogue is cared for by local Jews."



When Nathan and Rachel got to the synagogue door, they opened the door and walked inside. The synagogue felt very large. Here they saw a third sign. At the back of the synagogue they saw the window. In the window they saw the waters

open to make a path. “I wonder what that sign means?” said Nathan and Rachel together. The woman standing by the window told them, “That sign means Jews remember the crossing of the Red Sea.”



When Nathan and Rachel continued their walk around the red-brick synagogue, they went towards the Ark. Here they saw a fourth sign. At the front of the synagogue they saw another window. In the window they saw a Seder meal. “I

wonder what that sign means?” said Nathan and Rachel together. The children by the Ark told them, “That sign means that Jews share the Passover meal together.”





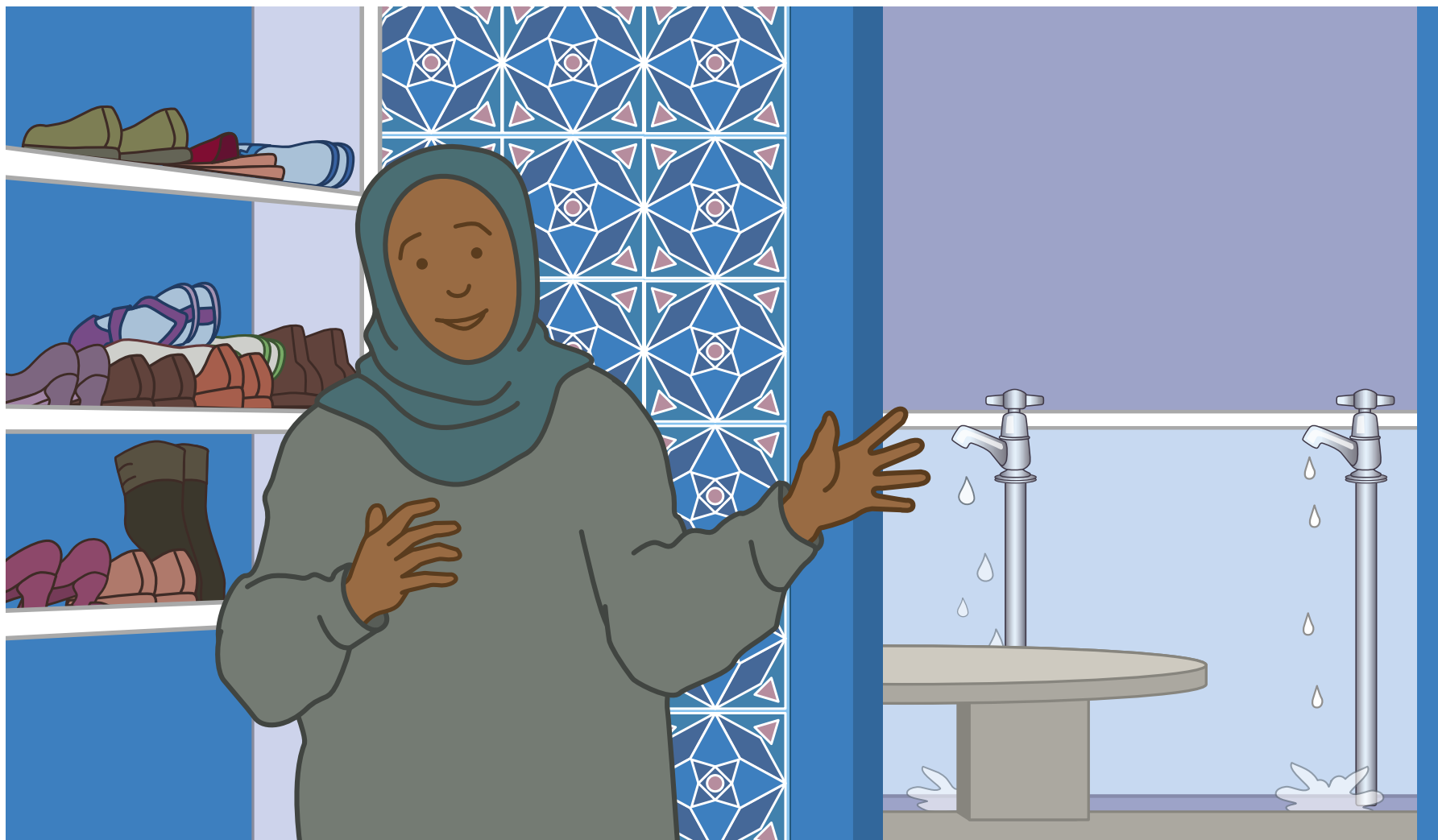
Ahmed and Salma tell Aled and Siân all about their special visit to see the domed mosque. Before setting out, Ahmed and Salma looked at the guidebook to find out how to get to the domed

mosque. The guidebook told them to look out for the sign that would show them the way. When they set out on their journey they saw the sign by the side of the road. They followed that sign.



When Ahmed and Salma got closer to the domed mosque, they came to the fence and to the gate. The gate guarded the path to the lawns and to the mosque. Here they saw a second sign. "I wonder

what that sign means?" said Ahmed and Salma together. The man standing by the gate told them, "That sign means the mosque is cared for by local Muslims."



When Ahmed and Salma got to the mosque door, they opened the door and walked inside. The mosque felt very large. Here they saw a third sign. At the entrance to the mosque they saw the washroom. They heard the sound of splashing

water. "I wonder what that sign means?" said Ahmed and Salma together. The woman standing by the washroom told them, "That sign means that Muslims wash before they pray."



When Ahmed and Salma continued their walk around the domed mosque, they went into a square room. Here they saw a fourth sign. In the room they saw food laid out on a big table. Around the table families were gathered. “I

wonder what that sign means?” said Ahmed and Salma together. The children by the table told them, “That sign means that Muslims share together to celebrate Eid.”



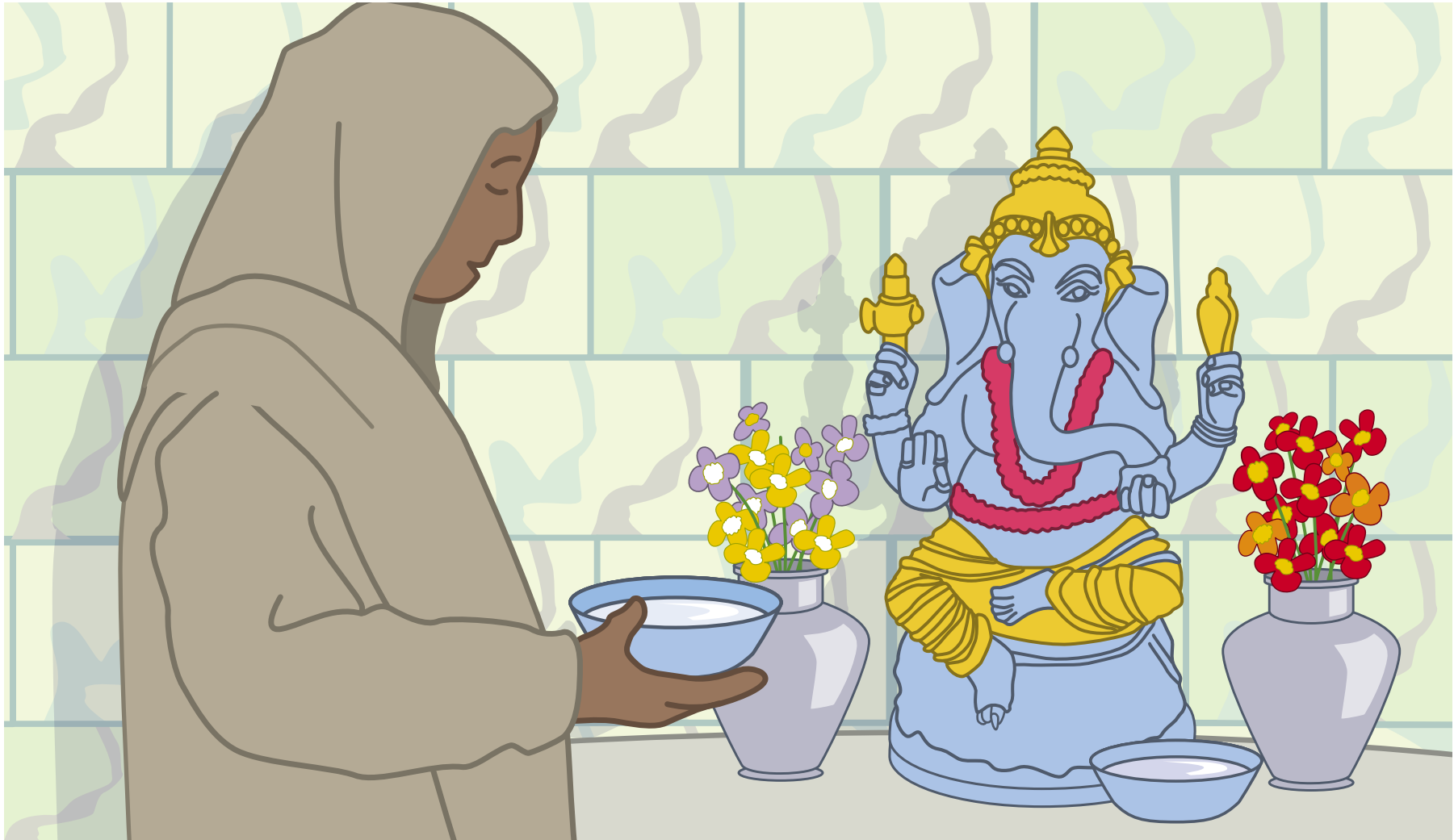
Rajeev and Meena tell Aled and Siân all about their special visit to see the busy temple. Before setting out, Rajeev and Meena looked at the guidebook to find out how to get to the busy

temple. The guidebook told them to look out for the sign that would show them the way. When they set out on their journey they saw the sign by the side of the road. They followed that sign.



When Rajeev and Meena got closer to the busy temple, they came to the fence and to the gate. The gate guarded the path to the gardens and to the temple. Here they saw a second sign. “I

wonder what that sign means?” said Rajeev and Meena together. The man standing by the gate told them, “That sign means the temple is cared for by local Hindus.”



When Rajeev and Meena got to the temple door, they opened the door and walked inside. The temple felt very large. Here they saw a third sign. On one side of the temple they saw the shrine of a Hindu god. On the shrine they saw small bowls

of water. "I wonder what that sign means?" said Rajeev and Meena together. The woman standing by the shrine told them, "That sign means that Hindus offer water on their shrines."



When Rajeev and Meena continued their walk around the busy temple, they went to the big shrine. Here they saw a fourth sign. At the shrine the priest was chanting. He was handing out blessed food to everyone there. "I wonder what

that sign means?" said Rajeev and Meena together. The children by the shrine told them, "That sign means that Hindus share together to celebrate puja."





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 signs their friends see. They are happy to have friends who are Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu, with such interesting signs to share.



They imagine following the signs to the stone church, the red-brick synagogue, the domed mosque, and the busy temple. They see the font

and the altar, the Red Sea and the Seder meal, the washroom and the Eid meal, the water on the shrine and the blessed food.



Aled and Siân think about all the signs around them. They remember that signs point to many different things. They begin to see how signs from

so many religions of the world are important to people in Wales today.

Aled and Siân are exploring signs and symbols and they visit an ancient castle. When they return, Aled and Siân tell their friends all about their day out and they listen to their friends' stories too. As the stories unfold, Aled and Siân begin to see how the religions of the world display their signs and symbols around them.



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