

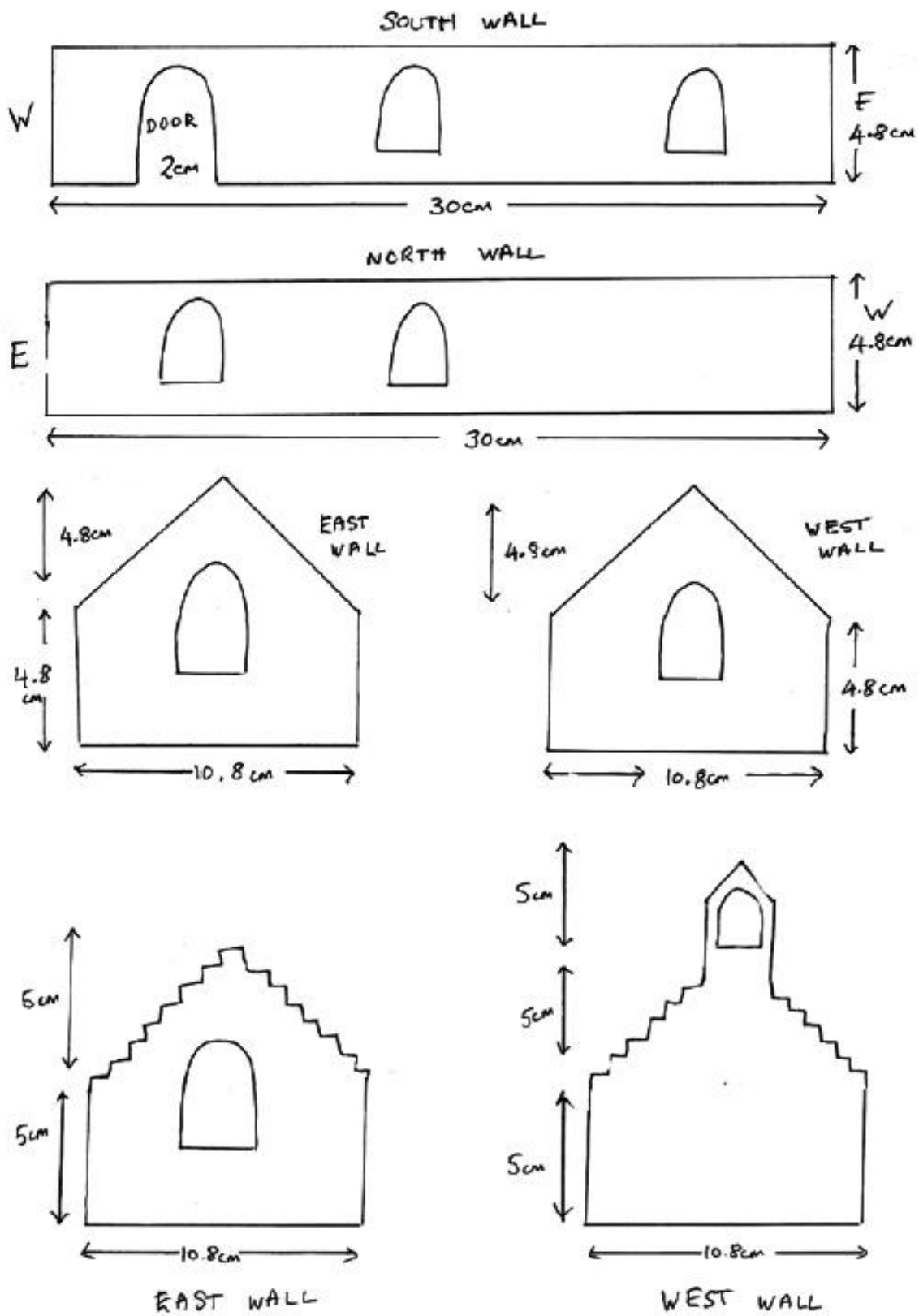
## TOPICS 14 & 17: MODEL MAKING

As part of our project, model maker Sue Furness made clay models of the medieval church using air drying clay. You can try this with your class too, using Sue's instructions below. You may want to involve your school art teacher to lead this project.

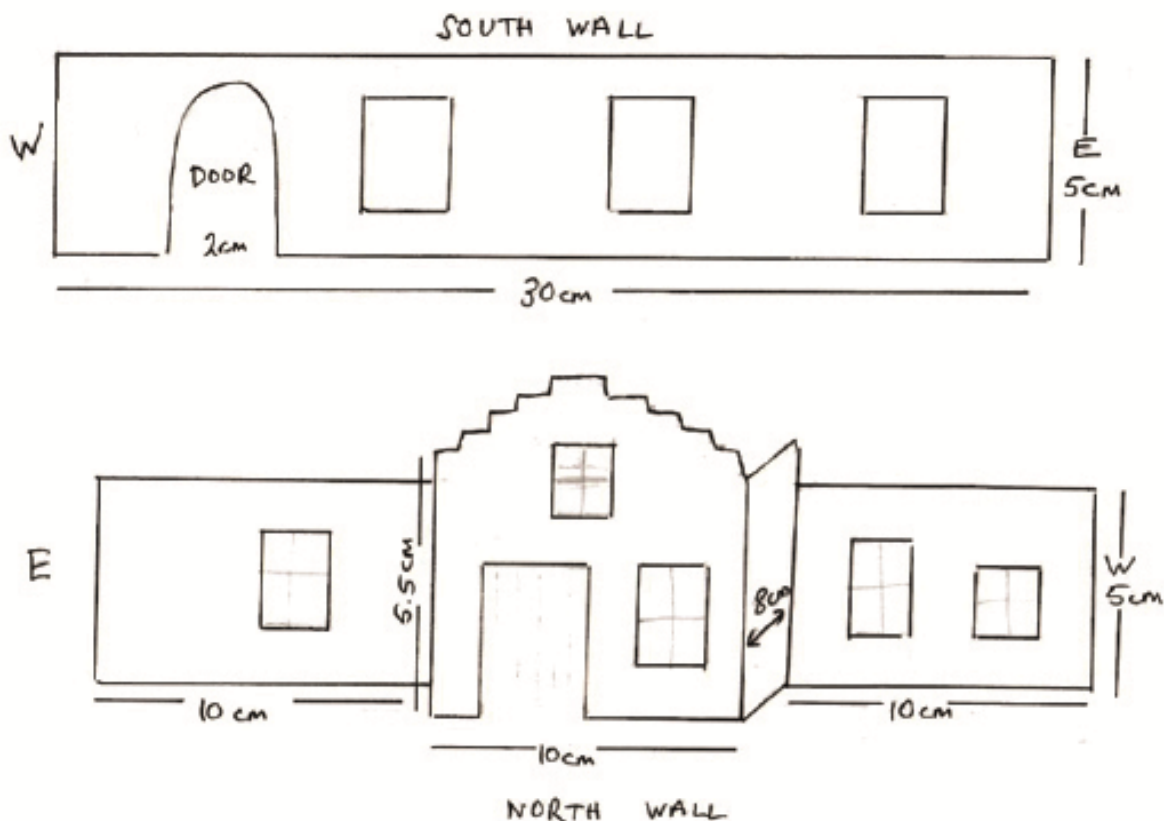
You can either choose the early stone church, or the later post-Reformation 'renovated' version with porch and tower (as seen in the drawing by Mr. Galloway).



*Model of Post-Reformation stone church with porch and bell tower © Sue Furness*



Early stone church elevations(top) and Post-Reformation stone church with added bell tower (bottom)© Sue Furness



*Post-Reformation stone church with added porch © Sue Furness*

### **Model Making instructions:**

We'll make the models out of air-drying clay. This isn't as strong as clay that you bake in a kiln, but if you coat it well with PVA glue when it's dry, before painting it, it'll last quite a while.

Use MDF base boards – either draw an outline of the footings on the board, or better, make a cardboard model of the building for the kids to build around (then they'll be sure to remember where the doors and windows go and they'll get the height right) – this can be removed from inside the finished clay model.

Roll out the clay onto a piece of cardboard or wooden board (so it is easy to peel off) and cut into 'stone-sized' blocks using a pizza cutter, then build up (like LEGO). Beware!! The clay will shrink, so the blocks must be well attached to each other, otherwise it'll collapse as a heap of separate stones when it dries. Score the clay on the edges of the 'stones' and dampen slightly before attaching the next stone. Don't make the walls too thin or they'll fall over when they dry.

Allow to dry – remove the inner cardboard template (if there was one) and scrape across the back of the stones (inside) to join them together a bit more. This could take up to a week to dry, depending on the temperature (better not to dry it too quickly). Make the bell tower separately and stick on with PVA after all dry. Can buy bells to put inside ☺

When dry, use good-quality PVA glue to stick on any bits that have fallen off and to coat the whole thing. When that's dry, you can paint it with acrylic paint or emulsion paint (if you want a rough, stone-like effect, mix some sand with the paint).

The buildings will inevitably be a bit squint, but make a cardboard template for the roof that'll sit as well as possible on the gable ends. Stick a couple of struts across inside to hold it at the right angle. For the 1828 model, you'll need another piece of roof to go over the porch. You can then stick 'slates' (cut out of card sprayed grey or roofing felt) or stone slabs (cut out of thicker card, or make out of clay) onto the roof using PVA glue.

Cut doors out of cardboard, paint and stick in place (they won't open and close).

Make windows out of fairly thick acetate – you can paint them with glass paints or marker pens for a stained glass effect. The easiest thing is to cut a piece of cardboard that fits along the inside of the wall with holes for the windows, and stick the acetate onto this (e.g. with masking tape). When the windows have been painted, you can then stick the cardboard to the inside of the wall with PVA, or 'hard-as-nails' glue.

Mark out paths to the door(s) on the base board, and cover the board with PVA glue. Sprinkle with 'static grass' (from model shops/internet), and sand for the paths.

When everything is dry, spray with clear matt acrylic varnish (not in class, as it contains fumes).

The bells could be sourced from a sewing or quilting shop, they are often sold for making Christmas decorations etc.