

Advent and Christmas Resources

2023

Date Oct 2023



Be aware that many of these are shared freely on the understanding they are not to be used for profit.



The Church of England are continuing with their Follow the Star theme, this year it is Follow the Song.

This Christmas, the Church of England is inviting choirs across churches, schools, and communities to 'join the song' with a new interpretation and melody of the beloved carol, 'The First Nowell'.

The resources can be downloaded from the resources hub in A Church Near You

[Church Resource Hub](#)

There will be more information to come.

Trails and Outdoor Christmas

A way for households to visit scenes taken from the Nativity story displayed in houses or shop windows, front gardens or other places in the local area. Local churches working together would be wonderful. Options include a downloadable map with the scenes marked on, a quiz sheet to fill in, QR codes to link to resources for activities at home & answers. A simple way would be to use the church grounds and run over a weekend where people could offer hot chocolate to those coming. If later in the day families could use torches to look for 'clues'.



It could even be themed around Christmas Carols. People choose a carol of their choice and decorate their window for that carol. Each night a new carol is revealed (from the 1st-24th December like an Advent Calendar). Again, produce a map of all the windows so that people can see when and where the windows will appear.



Diocese of **Rochester**
called together

Muddy Church have several outdoor trails that can be used for this season.



This is their new one, with lots of options available, there are several others on their website including a Blue Trail – as Christmas isn't always a season of joy.

<https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/copy-of-resources>

Together @ Home have a new Nativity trail utilising all the senses which is completely customisable both with QR codes and without.

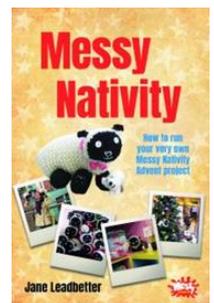
There are stickers available for those who complete the trail from



[Foundationstones Resources: Sunday school materials](#)

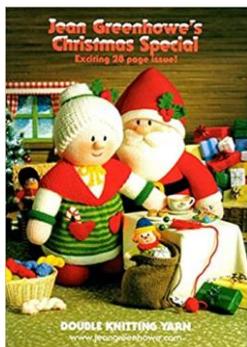
[QR NATIVITY TRAIL | Together at Home \(tath.co.uk\)](https://www.tath.co.uk)

Messy Church Nativity This book has a plan to hide sheep around the local shops as well as going house-to-house with the Christmas story as well as performing a Messy Street Nativity play.



Blackburn Diocese has some great ideas for celebrating Christmas with an outdoor theme could be used in Messy,, Sunday mornings or as part of an advent trail.

[Outdoor Church Christmas Activities – Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education \(bdeducation.org.uk\)](https://www.bdeducation.org.uk)

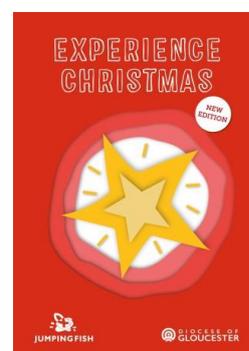


Posada Los Posadas (The Inns) is a South American traditional where Mary and Joseph move from house to house during advent, ending up in the church. This would be a good way to help families reconnect. You could encourage families to make their own set with the characters moving around the house, getting closer to the stable as they go and ask families to take photos and post on social media as their characters travel around. Here is a pattern for a knitted nativity set ideal for a Posada

Spiritual Child Network has come up with a great trail to set up in church
[Christmas trail \(spiritualchild.co.uk\)](http://spiritualchild.co.uk)

Jumping Fish and the Diocese of Gloucester have this book to explore Christmas using these stations to display the following topics:

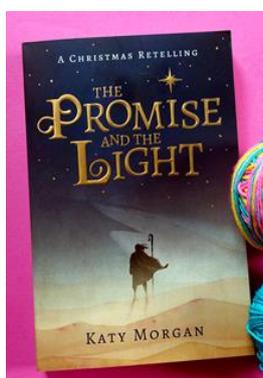
1. **The Preparation** – Thinking about preparing hearts as well as homes during Advent.
2. **The Announcement** – The angel visits Mary.
3. **The Promises** – The birth of Jesus is foretold.
4. **The Journey** – Mary and Joseph make their way to Bethlehem.
5. **The Message** – The angels appear to the shepherds.
6. **The Gift** – God’s gift of Jesus.



These materials have proved extremely popular in a wide range of contexts from tiny rural parishes to major cathedrals as well as in schools.
Experience Christmas – Jumping Fish Publications

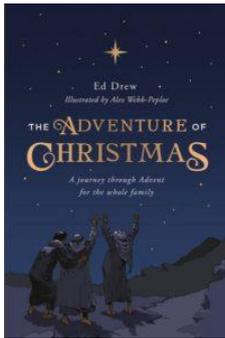
Character Trail. Each character is played by church members spaced out and the families booked in slots to walk around the trail and hear the Christmas story from the view of each crib character. We have the rhyming script to download – please ask.

Christmas Faith in the Home



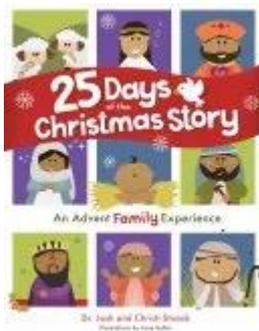
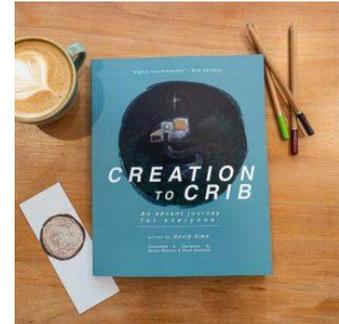
The Promise and the Light A captivating retelling of the nativity story. Great Christmas gift for kids who love to read. Or to read together for 5-11's.

The Good Book Company



This Christmas/Advent devotion for families by Ed Drew leads you through the gospel accounts of the Nativity (Luke and Matthew). Each day's devotional lasts under 10 minutes with a Bible passage, some helpful links/explanations, and plenty of questions to keep our kids engaged. There are different suggestions for questions from 3 year olds right up to teens. [Adventure of Christmas](#)

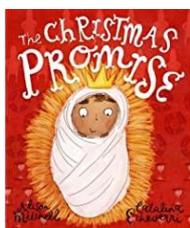
David Sims, a church leader and adoptive and additional needs dad of 3, has struggled to find resources to lead his family in faith. This is his solution! And it's wonderful: a gloriously-illustrated A4 book of fun and creative ways to engage with God's Word within the home this Advent. Each day comprises a Bible passage (written out in full for ease), short devotional to read, then options to pray, think and do! Available from Amazon.



Each of the 25 days highlights a different person, place, or object from the Christmas story—from the prophet Isaiah to Baby Jesus, from the Christmas star to the gift of frankincense. All devotionals include an easy-to-read story, character trait, activity, and more—each designed to reinforce the main theme of the day.

The family can choose simply to read each day's story or to go deeper and engage with each day's features.

The Christmas Promise Advent Calendar



Designed for families of 5-11s to discover the Promises of Christmas afresh together. It comes with a booklet containing 25 devotionals for December to help families explore the Bible together in the run up to Christmas.



Each window in the Advent Calendar opens to reveal illustrations of the events of the first Christmas. It matches the illustrations in The Christmas Promise storybook.



Have created material for Epiphany for families to continue those conversations. The resource is aimed at churches to download and then prepare a small bag of



resources for each family. You could start with those who regularly worship with you, or maybe those families that join your Christmas services.

<https://familyministrytools.org/product/12-days-of-christmas-daily-hands-on-activities/>



10 of those.com have these Devotional Dippers to take a family through Advent with the 25 names of Jesus. £7

Eco Advent Is another way you may like to encourage your families to engage on an Advent Journey. It combines the spirit of the season with our commitment to caring for God’s creation. The free to download instructions invite you to set up a stable scene on a table or suitable flat surface at home, with a spiral of 24 stars leading to it.

Beginning your journey at the star furthest away from the centre, each day you’ll add something new to the spiral to represent the activity or thought for the day, using things you have to hand. The resource provides a daily Bible reading and thought that help us reflect on God’s creation, along with a prayer and an action to take, ideally with others in your household, that help us to care for it better.

Read more and watch the promo video at [Eco Advent – A Journey to Christmas - Bath and Wells Diocese](#)

Care For The Family have a Smalltalk sheet to encourage families to share Christmas activities together tinyurl.com/39ksx6yy



Chat Mat – Bath and Wells Diocese have these sheets to colour with lots of interest and detail for all ages. Free to download.

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/children-young-people/bible-chat-mat/>





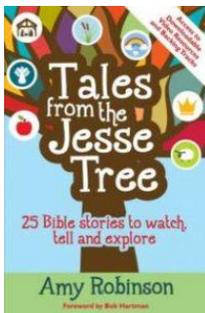
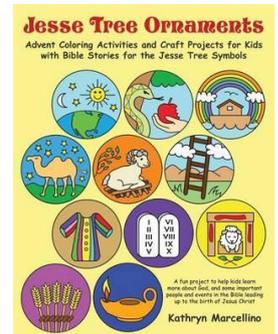
Godforkids app has created an i-spy Christmas colouring sheet to go with their book 'Where does God live?'

<https://www.godforkidsapp.com/shop>

Jesse Tree

A Jesse Tree is traditionally used in advent to tell the story of the Bible until the birth of Jesus. There are lots of resources which can be used either within families or church. Make a few simple decorations each week within Sunday Club, telling the stories as you go!

Try pinterest for different ways to make the decorations.



This is a book that the whole family can enjoy with or without the actual Jesse Tree. For each of the 25 stories there's a script, storytelling ideas to bring it to life, and ideas for further exploration. Your average family might find itself only using half the content or less – but that's fine. For school groups and assemblies, you'll find ideas to link the story in with other areas of the curriculum.

The Muddy Church Team have put together a Jesse Tree Advent-ure with challenges every day.

[Muddy Church Jesse Tree | muddychurch](http://muddychurch.com)

Christmas on a Sunday Morning



A simple version of these amazing stones would be great to help with storytelling and free-play. Use acrylic pens and varnish if desired. Or print them from here.

[Nativity Stones](#)

And these look fun using artificial grass and odds and ends to decorate.



Baker Ross has a good selection of Nativity Crafts

[Nativity Crafts](#) | [Nativity Children Craft Ideas](#) | [Baker Ross](#) |
[Theme: Nativity](#)



This website has free resources for chaplains, teachers and youth workers. Some need payment but can then be copied for church use. Check the T's and C's. There are lots of Christmas things on there currently including these pre-drawn

booklets. <https://artysarahjoy.weebly.com/shop.html>

Another creative site has a scratch nativity downloadable PDF available to purchase for £4, as well as Doodle & Rhyme booklet (£1+p&p) - with 16 pages of activities and conversation starters, as the Christmas story is told through rhyme.

<https://ko-fi.com/epyouthwork/shop>



Edible Nativity

Building Faith have loads of Christmas and Advent ideas. This interactive way of telling the nativity story would be popular.

A Healthy Edible Nativity to Tell the Christmas Story
(buildfaith.org)



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Lego Nativity Instructions

[LEGO Nativity Set Instructions - Frugal Fun For Boys and Girls \(frugalfun4boys.com\)](http://frugalfun4boys.com)

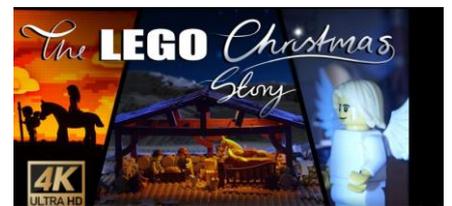


Or print the complete nativity characters either to colour yourself or already done. Free from Herdy

[Colour in Nativity](#)



Lego Christmas Story in stop motion from GoChatter. They charge for the download but looks excellent. If you subscribe to Energize you can download this free of charge.



And if you would like to make your own there are several apps to help you. You could try Stop Motion Studio (3.7* on google play) or Life Lapse Stop Motion Maker (3.8*).

The Christmas story with Playmobil

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rb0iymh24Wk>



Sensory Tray Bible has ways to share the Christmas stories to meet the needs of people of all ages, all abilities and all stages of life. Includes all you need to know to make these simply and easily.

[alma autism](#)

Pinterest [Advent and Christmas \(pinterest.co.uk\)](https://pinterest.co.uk)

[Advent and Christmas \(pinterest.co.uk\)](https://pinterest.co.uk) [Sunday School- Happy birthday Jesus! \(pinterest.co.uk\)](https://pinterest.co.uk)

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/charles1481/christmas-ideas-for-citc/>

I have a sheet of crafts great for smaller children – do ask.

Etsy has a printable set of these characters for a small cost.

[DIY Nativity Scene Printable Toilet Paper Roll Templates | Etsy](#)



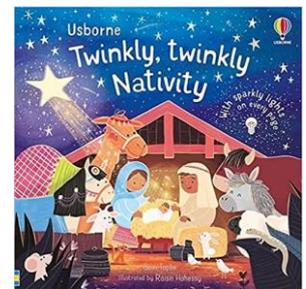
RedTedArt has a download – you can make as many or as few as a child’s patience allows. They seem to need some payment but not much.

[Printable Cone Nativity](#)

Books

This book is ideal for Toddler storytelling – with lights on every page.

[Twinkly, Twinkly Nativity](#)



And if you are giving books away the website **tenofthese.com** has some great ones from £1 each (order 50).

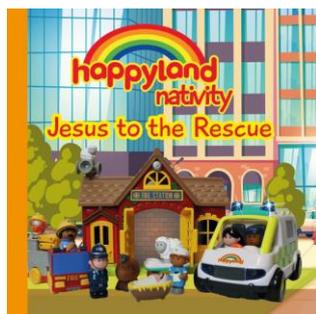
[Giveaway](#)

The Works – they have had a Christmas story book in the 10 for £10 – perfect for gifting at Toddler Groups. This one is in the 3 for £5 section. They also have sticker books and nativity wheels. Check what they have in stock they run out fast

[Nativity book](#)



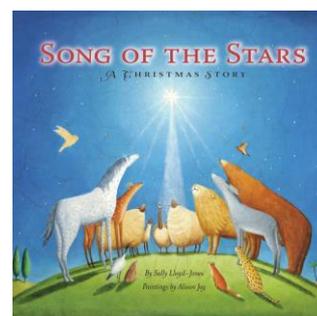
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Jesus to the Rescue uses Happyland children's toys from Early Learning Centre to tell the Christmas story. There is a great animation, song and resources to use. [Happy land](#)

Song of the Stars for lovers of the Jesus Storybook Bible here is a Christmas book for the very young. And there is an accompanying nativity ask us for the download.

[Song of the Stars](#)



Songs for Christmas

[Baby Boy](#)

[Hush There's a Baby](#)

[Oh What a Glorious Night](#)

[The Angels Knew](#)

[All The Angels Sing](#)

[Feeling Like Christmas](#)

Little Donkey with signing

[Joy to the World actions](#)

[Your Love For Me](#)

[Let's Go To the Manger](#) A song aimed at toddlers

[We're Going Home](#) A football/nativity song

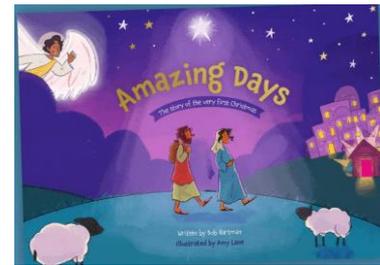
Games to Play

New Wine Kids leaders have put together some great ideas for Christmas games.

[Christmas games for family services and kids groups - New Wine \(new-wine.org\)](#)

Nativity

The Bible Society has a 'pop-up' nativity script with power point and animation as well as books to hand out. It is very simple to use. If your church would struggle financially please do let them know as the Bible Society has a Mission Support Fund.



They also have a book *The Christmas Poem* for the under 5's written by Bob Hartman. There is a short animation too suitable for toddler groups and services.

[Celebrate Christmas with Bible Society! - Bible Society](#)

Messy Church has *The Gingerbread Man's Christmas Adventure* as a script. Could be used in conjunction with Renita Boyle's book *The Gingerbread Nativity*.

[Gingerbread Nativity](#)



Action Packed Nativity – ask the team for a short but fun-filled script.

A Doctor Suess Nativity – narrated by the cat in a hat.

[Suessical Nativity Script.pdf \(energize.uk.net\)](#)

We have a powerpoint for the **Chocolate Nativity**- you will have to provide your own confectionary though.

We also have nativity scripts for *No Rehearsal Nativity*, *The Story of Michael Mouse* and *The Newest Angel*.

Bibleworld have put together 2 intergenerational gathering resources for Christmas.

[Intergenerational Gatherings](#)

There are resources to tie in the Intergen parts of services with children and youth group resources to work together.

[Whole-Church resource](#)

They have also produced a nativity play suitable for schools.

[Nativity Play](#)



ASD Friendly Nativity – a script for a service without sensory overload. A messy style with an aim to welcome those who would struggle with too much noise and chaos. Ask for the download

Christingle Look at the **Children's Society** for leaflets, tape, stickers and advice at [Planning Your Christingle Celebration | The Children's Society](#) (childrenssociety.org.uk) as well as balloons



They have sheets to help you plan a Christingle for Primary schools, Nurseries (under 5's), Diddy Disciples (for under 7's) as well as suggested talks to remove some of the hard work.



There is a **Messy Christingle** version [Messy Christingle 2020 | Messy Church](#)

As well as a **Muddy Christingle** trail with optional QR codes

<https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/the-children-s-society-christingle>

DIY Christingles

Rather than having them pre-prepared why not make them during the service with the resources in a bag. Have candle, square of foil (for wrapping base of candle), cocktail sticks pre-loaded with sweets and hand out pre-holed and taped orange separately.

We have several scripts for unusual takes on the Christingle service which the author was happy to share. Do ask for info on Christingle meets Jumangi, Starwars, Mary Poppins, Dr Who or Professor Pops! You may have to adapt them to suit your cast but they sound very fun.

The Reflectionary has a treasure hunt and talk for your Christingle

[Christingle Treasure Hunt – The Reflectionary](#)

Lego stop motion animation for your Christingle service. Here's a link where you will be able to download it... Thank you Emy Buxton.

[How to make Christingle.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

Join the Christingle Organisers Form on Facebook for ideas.

Christingle services will need robust risk assessments, do ask the team for some help on what to include.

Christmas in School

Tales from the Miracle Book have put together a series of videos of the Christmas story you could offer to your local school. Each film comes with an extensive downloadable resource pack full of teaching resources, games and worksheets, to unpack the meaning behind each story which can be used in both classroom and Assembly/Collective Worship settings.



They also have a Christmas script and production guide.

[Tales from the Miracle Book – Bringing RE to Life for a visual generation!](#)



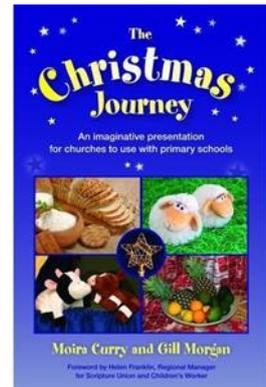
Christmas in a Box : Bristol Schools Connection allows primary school children to explore the stories of the characters in the Christmas story. Offer a set of boxes to your local school which they (or you) can use to tell the story. Each child also takes home a smaller Christmas in a Box. There is a complete list of what is needed and where to

source it from. [Christmas in a Box - Bristol Schools Connection](#)

The Christmas Journey is an interactive re-telling of the first ever Christmas that encourages children in **Year 2** to think about why this celebration is so special to Christians. It uses puppets, actors and all the senses to bring this story alive to the children. This event allows children to experience the Nativity like never before; starting with the creation of the world and how our relationship with God became broken. The Christmas



Journey then takes the children to the events in Nazareth, to the stable in Bethlehem, to the wise men in the East, and then back to the modern day. Whilst following the star, the children will meet the characters from the Nativity story, hear in detail about the events and learn why Jesus came to be the rescuer!



This is used all over the country including in local churches. Ask your CYP team to put you in touch to find out what is involved.

Assembly Ideas

[SPCK Assemblies - Find an Assembly](#)

Websites with lots of Christmas ideas

GodVenture have a range of resources including a **Sticker Advent Calendar** – available individually and in packs with a discount. With large stickers that tell the story, along with the mini-book which comes with it.



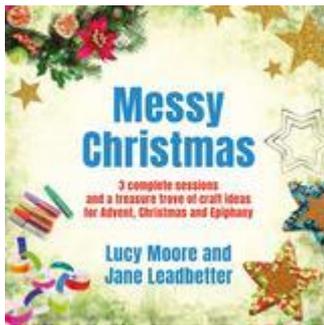
There are Christmas Story cards, a nativity I-spy colouring sheet (A2 folded to A4) as well as an **Advent Party Pack** – with the planning and prep done including an updated Excel spreadsheet with links to buy resources.

[Godventure](#)



Sun Hats and Wellie Boots – has a variety of resources including 2 trails, advent scene to colour, stick puppets, nativity printables to colour, and these pictures to make your own set of nativity stones. As well as more craft ideas.

sunhatsandwellieboots.com



Messy Church has their sessions on Christmas and advent available to purchase and download
<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resources/advent-and-christmas>

There are also 3 complete sessions for your Messy Advent, Christmas and Epiphany available as a book.

Faith In Kids has nativity plays, Crib services, talks and other ideas

[Resources - Faith in Kids](#)

The Reflectionary [Christmas Round Up – The Reflectionary](#)



The Religious Crafts shop has stickers and other faith resources to buy.

Free Bible Images has pictures you can use in this season.

[FreeBibleimages :: Find a story](#)

Messy Church

[Summary of Christmas resources | Messy Church](#)

The **Church of England** has started combining Christmas ideas on

[Going 4 Growth](#)