

# Advent and Christmas Resources

## 2024

**This will be updated as more resources  
are available.**

**Be aware that many of these are shared freely on the understanding they are  
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**Please give credit to creators.**

Date Nov 2024





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

This Christmas they are drawing on the world-famous carol, Silent Night:

Throughout Advent, it will focus primarily on how to find **Calm** during this busy period, with reflections offering people a chance to pause during the busy

season and tips on how to prepare for a calm Christmas.

Then through Christmas, it will focus particularly on **Bright**, with a series of daily reflections from Christmas Day to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January) by Sammi Tooze, Discipleship Adviser for the Diocese of York, both in digital form and as a full-colour booklet to share locally.

There was a Webinar which has been recorded to help you think about how your church can engage with children and young people this Christmas. Get a first look at the new resources for under-18s, along with practical ways to engage at church, at home and in schools.

There are also some Cheeky Panda Videos that could be used in a variety of places.

Resources

## 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. What a great opportunity for local churches to work together. 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.



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[Winter, Christmas and New Year | muddychurch](http://muddychurch) have plenty of outdoor trails that you can use.

This is their new one, with lots of options available.

Resources

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

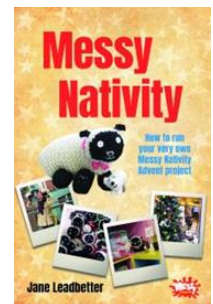
There are stickers available for those who complete the trail from –

Stickers

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



## Messy Resources

**Posada** Los Posadas (The Inns) is a similar South American tradition where Mary and Joseph move from house to house during advent, ending up in the church. This could be a great way to send an Advent story bag around your church families and build community.



**Spiritual Child Network** has designed a trail to be set up in the church building. It could be a stand alone event or combined with a kids group or club session.

[Christmas trail \(spiritualchild.co.uk\)](http://spiritualchild.co.uk)

This Tale Trail is aimed either at a family or could be used in churches or with uniformed groups.

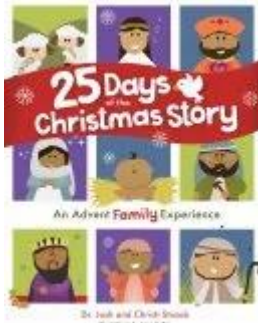
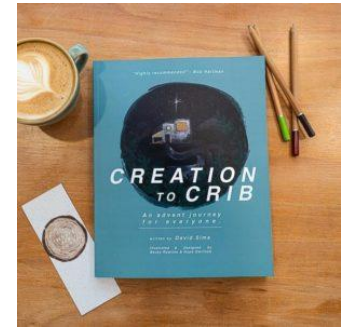
Tale Trails



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## Christmas Faith in the Home

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.

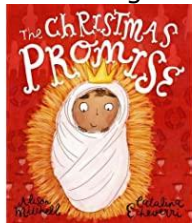


Each of the 25 days highlights a different person, place, or object from the Christmas story—from the prophet Isaiah to Baby Jesus, from the Christmas star to the gift of frankincense. All devotions include an easy-to-read story, character trait, activity, and more—each designed to reinforce the main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

## 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 devotions 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.

[Eden.co.uk](http://Eden.co.uk) Christian Shop are a fun way to take a family through Advent available through Eden.



**Care For The Family** have a Smalltalk

sheet to encourage families to share Christmas activities together

Small Talk



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**Chat Mat** – Bath and Wells Diocese have these sheets to colour with lots of interest and detail for all ages. Free to download. Easy for a Christmas giveaway – or a conversation starter with children or young people.

Chat Mat



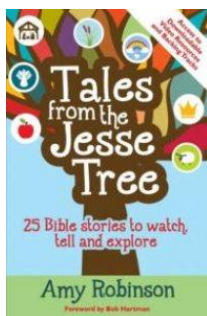
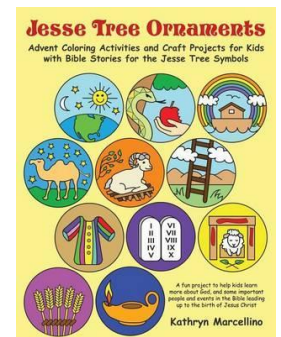
**Godforkids app** has created an i-spy Christmas colouring sheet to go with their Christmas book 'Where does God live'

<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.

## 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](#)



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



[Arts and Crafts Shop | Baker Ross](#) has a good selection of Nativity Crafts



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.



## Resources

### Edible Nativity

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



### Resource

**Mercifully Short** - funny, short sketches for Christmas, a simple humorous delivery of the Christmas story

Mercifully Short

### Lego Nativity Instructions

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



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

[Colour in Nativity](#)

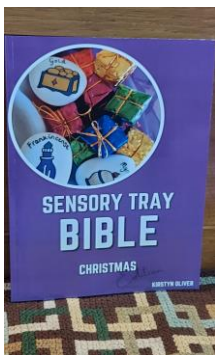
**Lego Christmas Story** in stop motion from GoChatter. They charge for the download but looks excellent. If you subscribe to Energize you can download this free of charge.



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

Playmobil Nativity



**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 \(pinterest.co.uk\)](#)

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

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



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

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



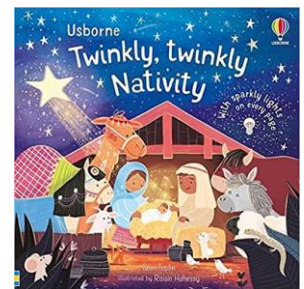
**RedTedArt** has a download – you can make as many or as few as a child's patience allows. They seem to need some payment but not much.

Printable Cone Nativity

## Books

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

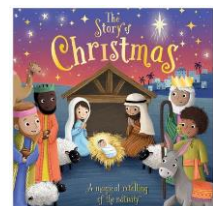
[Twinkly, Twinkly Nativity](#)



And if you are giving books away the website **tenofthese.com** has some great ones from £1 each (order 50). Some have sold out but call them for more information.

[Giveaway](#)

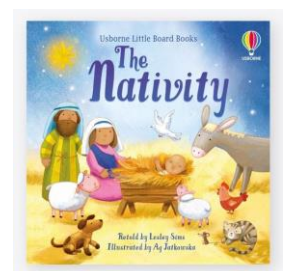
**The Works** – they have had a Christmas story book in the 10 for £10 – perfect for gifting at Toddler Groups. This one is in the 3 for £5 section. They also have sticker books and nativity wheels. Check what they have in stock they run out fast



Nativity book

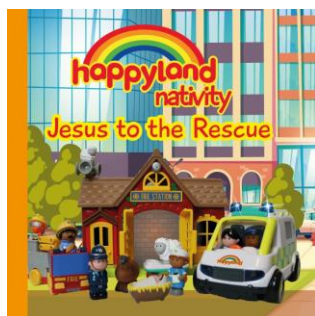
**Usborne Books** has these board books currently on offer

Board Book



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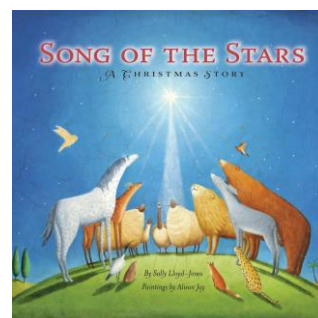
**Jesus to the Rescue** uses Happyland children's toys from Early Learning Centre to tell the Christmas story. There is a great animation, song and resources to use. [Happy land](#)

There is also a Happy Land Nativity script.

In the files of 1277 make them count Facebook page,

**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 \(new-wine.org\)](#)



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## **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 books to accompany this and one specially for the under 5's.

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

**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.

**The Scottish Bible Society (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](#)



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**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](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/Planning-Your-Christingle-Celebration) ([childrenssociety.org.uk](https://www.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](https://www.messychurch.co.uk/messy-christingle-2020)

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 Poppo! 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.

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

Join the Christingle Organisers Forum 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](#)



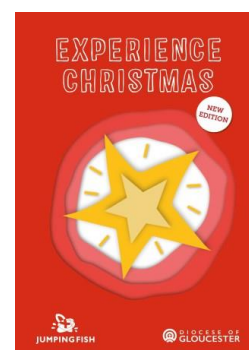
**The Christmas Journey** is an interactive re-telling of the first ever Christmas that encourages children in **Year 2** to think about why this celebration is so special to Christians. It uses puppets, actors and all the senses to bring this story alive to the children.

This 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.

## **Experience Christmas**

This is a great way of retelling the Christmas story using 6 stations in a similar way to Experience Easter.



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This has been run successfully with churches inviting their local school (community as well as church) to hear the Christmas story told in a memorable interactive way.

Experience Christmas – Jumping Fish Publications

## 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.



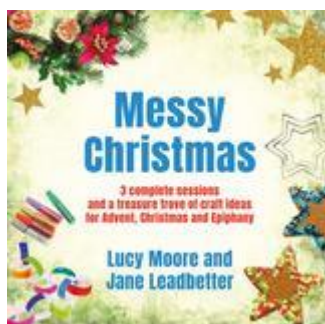
There are Christmas Story cards, a nativity I-spy colouring sheet (A2 folded to A4) as well as an **Advent Party Pack** – with the planning and prep done including an updated Excel spreadsheet with links to buy resources.

[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](http://sunhatsandwellieboots.com)



**Messy Church** has their sessions on Christmas and advent available to purchase and download

Messy Church Resources

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



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**Faith In Kids** has nativity plays, Crib services, talks and other ideas including Christmas Brick by Brick.

[Resources - Faith in Kids](#)

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

[FreeBibleimages :: Find a story](#)