Advent and Christmas resources for use at home, church and school

Provided by members of the Parachurch Organisations Network of

The Growing Faith Foundation | The Church of England – changing the culture so we all put

children and young people instinctively at the centre

The resources are listed in alphabetical order according to the organisation. The descriptions are in the organisations' own words. Obviously, many other organisations also produce great resources!

Bible Society

The Shiny Bright Sparkling Light (primary age booklet)

Once upon a time in a galaxy far, far away, there lived a Star – a bright, shiny, ever-so-sparkly Star who couldn't wait to complete his Star training. Follow this sparkly journey as Star becomes the STARnav that leads the Wise Men to Bethlehem. As Star reaches his destination, he discovers someone who shines even brighter than him – Jesus, the light of the world, the very one who came to be a light in the darkness. £3.70 per copy; bulk discounts apply.

Accompanied by a wonderful free instant nativity and brilliant video resource from the author, Dai Woolridge.

Who Can It Be? A Christmas Wait and See! (toddler age booklet)

It's that special time of year and our nursery is buzzing and fizzing with Christmas glee. The little ones are practising their nativity to surprise their families and friends as they knock on Christmas doors together: Rat-a-tat-tat! Rat-a-tat-tat! Who can it be? We will have to wait and see! £3.70 per copy; bulk discounts apply.

Accompanied by lovely free prayer and craft activities for your toddler group to engage with during the Advent season.

Price £3.70 per booklet for 1-4, then bulk pricing applies: 5-9 £1.40 each 10-19 £1.10 each 20-39 £1.00 each 40-1000 £0.80 each

Bristol Schools Connection

<u>Christmas in a Box</u> is a simple, creative and fun way for churches to share the Christmas story with their local schools. Children unpack 6 boxes, each telling a part of the Christmas story. There is space to pause and wonder, plus a creative activity which facilitates reflection and discussion.

Chibooks

The **True Meaning** books on <u>CHIBOOKS</u> is a collection of engaging, child-friendly books that explore the true significance of Christian holidays like Advent, Christmas, and Easter. These fact-based stories help children understand the deeper meaning of these special seasons, focusing on faith, love, and biblical teachings, rather than commercial traditions. Perfect for homes, churches, and schools!

Christmas Unwrapped

<u>Christmas Unwrapped</u> - a video presentation exploring the gospel accounts of Christmas from Slough Baptist Church, sent out to local schools. Contact Wayne Dixon

Common Good Advent

These ready-to-use resources are designed to equip children and young people to plan and initiate action that builds the common good in their local area. These include a planning session, a 'Christmas Hunt' activity and a Christmas Card competition.

Suitable for use in schools, chaplaincy, churches and small groups.

www.commongoodschools.co.uk

CPAS

CPAS have produced a <u>'Christmas Reflection Day' resource</u> to help churches and schools to enjoy a day dwelling on the Christmas story together. A participating school and church reported: 'The CPAS Christmas Reflection Day enabled our pupils to consider the story more deeply and more personally than before. The pupils' insights were so profound. It was so easy to put on and the pupils and staff LOVED it. Thank you.'

FaithinKids

FaithinKids are partnering with Go Chatter and The Good Book Company to bring you The Christmas Story Brick by Brick. For Church and children's ministry leaders, here are all the resources you need to run an engaging and memorable outreach nativity service for all ages as well as 3 brand new interactive Sunday School sessions to teach in December. Stack up the surprises as you take a Lego-themed look at the Christmas story in Luke's Gospel. All these brilliant resources connect together, just like your favourite building blocks, and click into place with Go Chatter's The Lego Christmas story and The Good Book Company's The Christmas Story Brick by Brick picture book! Coming soon: a brilliant new family podcast series landing in December and 'The Christmas Build-Up' - an all-new family advent activity plan.

Go Chatter Studios

https://gochatterstudios.org/the-christmas-story

An engaging LEGO stop-motion short film of the very first Christmas that retells the story of Jesus' birth, and points to the real reason why he came. This resource is offered completely

for free and is accompanied by teachers' notes and a Christmas activity plan to help you in your ministry.

GodVenture

Are you looking for a simple, fun way to share the Christmas story with families? The <u>GodVenture Sticker Advent Calendar</u> is perfect for busy families with children age 3-10+. It comes with an A3 calendar and 25 stickers to add to tell the story as you read it from the Christmas Story Book which comes with it.

Get 25% off individual calendars *and packs* using the code: CofE25

Christmas Story Journal

NEW this year is this 32 page luxe-feel devotional for Christian families wanting a simple way to reflect together on the Christmas story. It comes FREE with individual Sticker Advent Calendars or you can buy it separately. Each page has a piece of the story to read, questions to help you think, chat and reflect on the story and LOTS of space to draw or write your own thoughts and questions. See it here.

Get 25% off using the code: CofE25

The Hope Filled Family

Adventeen is a short, accessible, daily Advent devotion for tweens and teens. Each of the 24 readings takes just five minutes, and will help your child learn, understand and engage with the Bible, connecting deeply with the God revealed in its pages. https://thehopefilledfamily.newzenler.com/courses/adventeen

Hope Together

Jesus to the Rescue Book

The Christmas story from the God's Big Story series which uses Happyland toys to tell stories from the Bible through the lens of the big story.

Buy from Shop: Jesus to the Rescue (hopetogether.org.uk) £3 / £1.50 bulk Comes with a free animation, song, toddler group and all age church resources Hope Together: Jesus to the Rescue

Lego Christmas Cards

5 cards in a pack for £3 (£2.25 bulk). Each card tells part of the Christmas story through a Bible verse and a QR code that takes people to an augmented reality video. Shop (hopetogether.org.uk)

Lego Christmas Story Trail

Create an interactive experience for families with our LEGO Trail, encouraging them to explore the Christmas story through play and creativity. Created in partnership with GoChatter, this six-part poster set is a great Christmas activity to invite local schools and your community to participate in. This is a series of 6 A4 posters that form a Christmas story trail. Each poster features a character from the Christmas story telling their story using a QR

code and augmented reality video. £29.95 Shop: LEGO Christmas Story Trail (hopetogether.org.uk)

Gift of Christmas

Where do all our Christmas traditions come from? Why do we sing carols, send presents, make Christingles? The Gift of Christmas explains UK Christmas traditions in words and pictures helping people to find the true meaning of Christmas. It comes with a free to download resource explaining how to use this in an all-age church or school setting. $\pm 3 / \pm 1.65$ bulk

Shop: Gift of Christmas (hopetogether.org.uk)

Max7

<u>Christmas and Advent Resources Library</u> - a collection of Christmas resources for children, families, churches and community event organizers

<u>God With Us</u> - a series of evening devotions for the season of Advent, helping families to pray, wonder and learn to retell the Biblical stories of Jesus' birth.

<u>12 Days of Fitmas</u> is an all age, 12 day, family discipleship programme that is ideally suited to help your family grow together in faith and fitness this Christmas!

Messy Church

Christmas session available in <u>Get Messy! Vol. 2</u> or as single <u>December session</u>
If you're looking to send something home with families after the session, try <u>Messy Basics</u>
<u>full course</u> or <u>single Christmas session</u> – a discipleship course for an intergenerational small group, or as a family devotional time.

If you're looking for an outdoor Christmas session try 'Christmas around the fire' The classic Messy Christmas book is also available.

Missional Generation

<u>Missional Generation</u> has created an exciting resource that combines a Christmas card, craft activity, and an engaging gingerbread-themed Augmented Reality (AR) game. This resource includes six AR games centered around key characters in the advent story, along with a devotional activity booklet designed by Michaela, a young person who developed it as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award project.

This resource explores five key characters from the Advent story, offering children the chance to colour and build their own gingerbread house through fun craft activities. Each character is brought to life through a set of animations, accessible within the game and available for free on our website. The AR games can be played on any smart device, providing families with a creative and meaningful way to engage with the Advent season. Craft booklets can also be order.

Parenting for Faith

Last year Becky Sedgwick wrote a brilliant Advent devotional for families. As well as helping families get into the Christmas story in fresh ways, it also models and teaches a way of accessing ANY part of the bible – the idea is to help teach bible literacy as you read the bible

together through Advent. The devotional is free to download and can be found here: https://www.parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk/post/an-advent-devotional-for-families/

Prayer Spaces

Prayer Spaces at Home https://prayerspacesinschools.com/product-category/at-home/
You can select 'Christmas/Advent' from the Themes menu in the left hand column.
These are simple engaging prayer activities for families.

Prayer Spaces in Schools https://prayerspacesinschools.com/product-category/schools/ And again, select 'Christmas/Advent' from the menu on the left and you'll see 23 prayer activities. These prayer ideas are created for schools but most will work equally well in churches or at home.

Lectio for Families is a free devotional for families to do together. It features daily Bible readings, a weekly memory verse, engaging questions to pause and talk about, and prompts for reflection and prayer. We're finding that as well as families some children's workers are using it with church groups or lunchtime groups in school. There will be devotionals with an Advent or Christmas theme in the run up to Christmas so keep an eye out for these. https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectioforfamilies/

And finally, here's a guide for setting up a children's prayer room which includes a downloadable leaders guide and printable prayer activity instructions. https://www.24-7prayergb.com/childrens-prayer-room-guide/

RaiseUpFaith

<u>Celebrate Christmas with RaiseUpFaith: Explore Our Festive Curriculums and Collection!</u> for children's ministry and family fun with RaiseUpFaith. We've got Christmas lessons for Sunday school, games, crafts and videos - perfect for Kidmin at Christmas! www.raiseupfaith.com

Resources Cupboard

<u>The Resources Cupboard</u> has a new resources section on the new website. All resources are free to download, you just need to 'join' as a member. Christmas resources include a range of curriculum materials, crafts including printable Christmas cards and nativity bunting and a sewing pattern to sew your own nativity scene! (Dolls are also happy to play other Bible character roles in your story sharing).

Roots

Roots' new, outdoor **Nativity trail** helps you take the Christmas story into your local area! Families need to find six posters: at each they scan a QR code and hear the next part of the Bible story - and also try out some fun mini challenges. Special earlybird price of £8 when you order by 31 October. This is just one of six new Roots resources for Advent & Christmas that you can use to reach out to children and families in your community. Other resources include a **pop-up Toddler Nativity**, a **Christmas Bake Off** for young people, **Advent-themed activities for children and families**, and a **carol service with a twist**. See the full range at www.rootsforchurches.com/advent-christmas2024

Scripture Union

<u>Scripture Union</u>: a selection of both free and paid-for materials. Check out <u>The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas</u> and <u>God Became Like Me?</u> Both speak into the nativity in different ways and for slightly different age groups (and The Grumpy Owl even has a play that can be booked through Christian owned Theatre company Artless!) Both books also have coordinating PDF materials that contain articles, session plans and extra bits to use with children and young people.

Street Child

Street Child is a children's charity that works to ensure that children are safe in school and learning in some of the world's toughest places. Our heart through these resources is to ignite a sense of kindness, compassion, justice, mercy, generosity, and hope by thoughtfully reflecting on the impactful work that Street Child undertakes globally. To request our resources directly click here

Worship for Everyone

Worship for Everyone Advent Journal for ALL Ages - £7.99

Nick and Becky Drake from Worship for Everyone, have written this all-age devotional journal for Advent, a helpful tool for use in schools, churches and youth groups to explore faith in the build-up to Christmas. The book explores the 4 themes of love, joy, peace and hope, with space to doodle and write, and questions that will get them thinking. Each week there's a QR code which will take you to a Worship for Everyone song that will support the theme for that week, together with a fun fact of the day to keep your curious children and young people interested as they continue to grow in their faith! It's a great resource to work through in school at the start or end of the day, to encourage a short time of quiet reflection. Church leaders may like to consider giving some copies as a gift to their Parish school, accompanied by our Advent assembly - perhaps identifying one or two of the older year groups as their focus. Also a great resource to work through as a youth group and then meet for weekly discussion around what God has been saying throughout the week.