

Advent and Christmas bags

A great way to bless those in your community and offer them a reminder in the busy preparations for Christmas of the greatest gift ever given – Jesus.

Give away to those who usually come to parent & toddler groups, children’s activities, family events, messy church and more.



Take a bag

You may like to use:

- a plain paper bag with handles
- a gift bag
- a reusable option e.g. a cotton shopper

Or maybe even a box.



Consider writing a personalised gift tag, adding a sticker with your church logo and contact details or an appropriate bible verse.

Fill it

Here are some resource and activity suggestions you could pick and mix from to put in your bags.

Resource suggestions

Diocese of Norwich Christmas Bookmarks. Free, just pay for P+P.

<https://shop.dioceseofnorwich.org/collections/christmas/products/christmas-bookmark>

Bible Society ‘It begins in Bethlehem’ Nativity Rhyme storybook. £2 each, bulk discounts available. <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/bib-000519/>

Bible Society Christmas stickers. £2 per four sheets (50p per sheet).

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/bib-000522/>

Bible Society a Christ-mess story for Adults and young adults. £3.99 each, bulk discounts available. <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/bib-000574/>

The Christmas Promise colouring and activity. £1.99 each, bulk discounts available.

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/the-christmas-promise-colouring-and-activity-boo>

The unexpected gift story book. £1 each on bulk discount.

<https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/27037/give-away-the-unexpected-gift>

Activity suggestions

Make your own advent calendar. You will need to provide:

- 24 small money envelopes
- 24 mini wooden pegs
- 24 bible verses like these from happyhomefairy.com
<https://happyhomefairy.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/25-Bible-Verses-to-Countdown-to-Christmas.pdf>
- Length of string
- Optional: Bag of chocolate coins or other treat e.g. stickers

Have them decorate and number each envelope 1-24. Place the bible verse card and optional treat in each envelope. Peg the envelopes in order along the string. Open an envelope each day and clip the bible verse on the peg to discover the Christmas story.

Mini Nativity in a box. £10 for pack of 10 (£1 each).

<https://www.inf.co.uk/infinite/Messy-Church-Nativity-Box-KM0010.html>

Stained glass nativity lantern. From £1.15 each.

<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/nativity-stained-glass-lantern-kits-1#productinformation>

Advent candle wheel. From 90p each.

<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/advent-candle-colour-in-wheels-1>

Colouring Christmas Cards. £4.44 for 20 pk. Suggest they colour a card and deliver it to someone in their community.

<https://www.eden.co.uk/colouring-in-charity-christmas-cards-pack-of-20/>

Extras

- Put in a prayer card with a prayer for the Season and an opportunity for a prayer response. Maybe people could respond by hanging them on a tree at the church or suggest they add thoughts to a gratitude jar at home each day. Find more prayer ideas at <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/prayer-spaces-at-home/?ps=6>
- Prepare a service at home sheet with a prayer, a reading and a carol which families could do together at home.
- Don't forget to add some information about your church and details of anything you may be offering online or face to face in terms of services or activities during December and the New Year.