

Collective Worship Network

4 November 2025



Time	Content
3.30pm	Welcome and introductions Aims of session
3.40pm	Diocesan Advisers Worship Network update
3.55pm	Encouraging greater Anglican tradition in collective worship
4.10pm	Sharing of ideas and collaboration
4.30pm	Resources for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Candlemas.
4.45pm	Other useful resources for 2025-26.
5pm	Future Dates and Final questions and close

By the end of today's session...

- Received an update from the Diocesan Advisers Worship Network (DAWN).
- Considered how we might encourage greater Anglican tradition in collective worship.
- Had opportunities to collaborate and share good practice.
- Familiarised ourselves with resources to support Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Candlemas.
- Consider wider opportunities linked to the development of Collective Worship in school.

Diocesan Advisers Worship Network Update

Role of Pupils and Adults in Worship

The NEXUS research seems to be saying that the oft-made assumption that the adult role is to provide correct answers for children's faith questions is ill-conceived.

Rather we should respect children's spiritual leadership and give more emphasis to engaging exploratory conversations and sharing in faith-nurturing practices with them.

*'CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL
AGENCY IS LIVED OUT IN
THE INTERSECTION OF OUR
LIVES ... AND IS DISCERNED
IN THE DIFFERENCE
CHILDREN COULD MAKE IN
TRANSFORMING FAITH OF
ADULTS' DAVID OSWELL*

Children as spiritual agents...

- GIVE CHILDREN AGENCY TO DEVELOP THEIRS AND OTHERS SPIRITUALITY
- PROVIDE SPACE TO ALLOW THEM TO SEARCH FOR THEIR OWN MEANINGS
- ALLOW THEM TO ASK QUESTIONS, BE CURIOUS AND PONDER
- BE GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT CHILDREN CAN TEACH US ABOUT FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

What might hold children back from being spiritual leaders in worship?

Vocabulary Children love learning and using technical words such as ‘intercessions’ once they understand what they mean. Otherwise they have no idea what is expected of them. Part of our role is to help children acquire the religious understanding and language to express themselves.

View It is hard to follow what is happening at the front of the church if you cannot see over the pew in front or beyond someone’s back.

Pace Things happening very slowly soon become boring if you have a short attention span. It is reckoned that the average attention across the entire population is just 4 minutes. On the other hand, sometimes the pace can be so fast that it is difficult to find the right page in time to join in.

Clutter Children can be distracted by the stuff around them, keep it simple.

Confusion If there is not a clearly-focused theme for the worship, children can become confused about what they should be pondering.

Being told what to think Jesus did not explain his parables but left people to reflect on his teaching. Leaders often do not leave any space for the Holy Spirit to speak to the children. When questioned, children ask for adults *not* to explain everything or tell them what to think.



Encouraging
greater Anglican
tradition in
collective worship

National SIAMS Report 2024-25

Recommendation for schools:

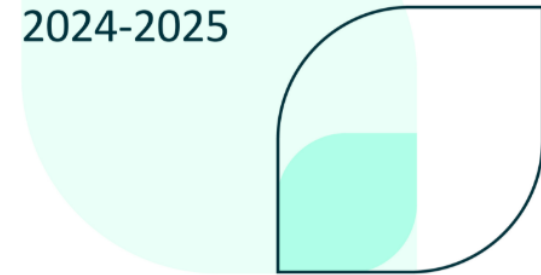
- The use of proxies for flourishing- Anglican traditions, Bible stories, pupil leadership.

<https://www.nse.org.uk/s/The-2024-2025-SIAMS-Annual-Report-002.pdf>



The Statutory Inspection
of Anglican and Methodist
Schools (SIAMS) Annual
Report

2024-2025



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Diocese of Norwich

Transformed by Christ

Prayerful Pastoral Prophetic

What can we do?

Build on the GERS approach to incorporate Anglican traditions.

Think about the greetings used in your local church.

Do you use the same Lord's prayer?

Do you have the same responses as your local church.

Do you share the same blessing?

Do you follow the church calendar?

Gathering...

Begin each collective worship in a special way, perhaps with a liturgical greeting like, "This is the day the Lord has made," to which the community responds, "Let us rejoice and be glad in it". Use symbols like a candle that you light at the start to mark worship has begun.

Engaging

Stimulate interest in the worship's content through Bible stories, songs, drama, or reflection on Christian values, reflecting on the life of Jesus, or celebrating the church calendar.

Check what the focus is in your local church and mirror this in school-based worship.

Responding...

Provide time and opportunity for individual and group reflection and response. This can be through creating their own prayers, singing, or silent thought.

You might use the intercessional approach, where you have short prayers, with a response after each one.

You could use TSP prayers (Thank you, Sorry, Please) to give you structure to prayer and reflection time.

Sending...

Conclude the worship by sending the children out with a purpose or blessing. You may use the blessing used in your local church.

A daily challenge:

- Provide a specific, actionable challenge such as "Smile at someone," "Help someone today," or "Try something new today".

A reflection prompt:

- Offer a question to consider before the next worship session, like "What is one thing you are thankful for today?".

A Bible verse:

- Encourage everyone to reflect on a Bible verse shared during the service to carry with them throughout the day.

Activities to provide a tangible reminder

A prayer memento:

- Distribute small items like a card, a shell, or a prayer leaf that participants can keep as a reminder of the worship's message.

A prayer tree:

- Have children write their prayers on cut-out shapes (like leaves or hearts) and add them to a prayer tree.

A candle:

- Blow out a candle to symbolize the end of the worship, and send participants with a blessing or a thought.

Activities for communal action

- **A blessing or prayer:** Share a sending prayer or a blessing as a group.
- **A communal gesture:** End with an act of community such as shaking hands, holding hands, or linking arms.
- **A mission-based activity:** Ask participants to perform an act of kindness or to share something they learned with someone else.

Underpinning principles...

Use liturgical language and symbols:

- Familiarize children with Christian language, symbolism, and the cycle of the church year.

Celebrate the church calendar:

- Mark special times in the Christian calendar to give meaning and context to worship.

Include a variety of prayer:

- Offer different ways of praying, from well-known Christian prayers to children creating their own using multi-sensory foci.

Partner with the local church:

- Invite the local church community to participate and support the worship team and leaders.

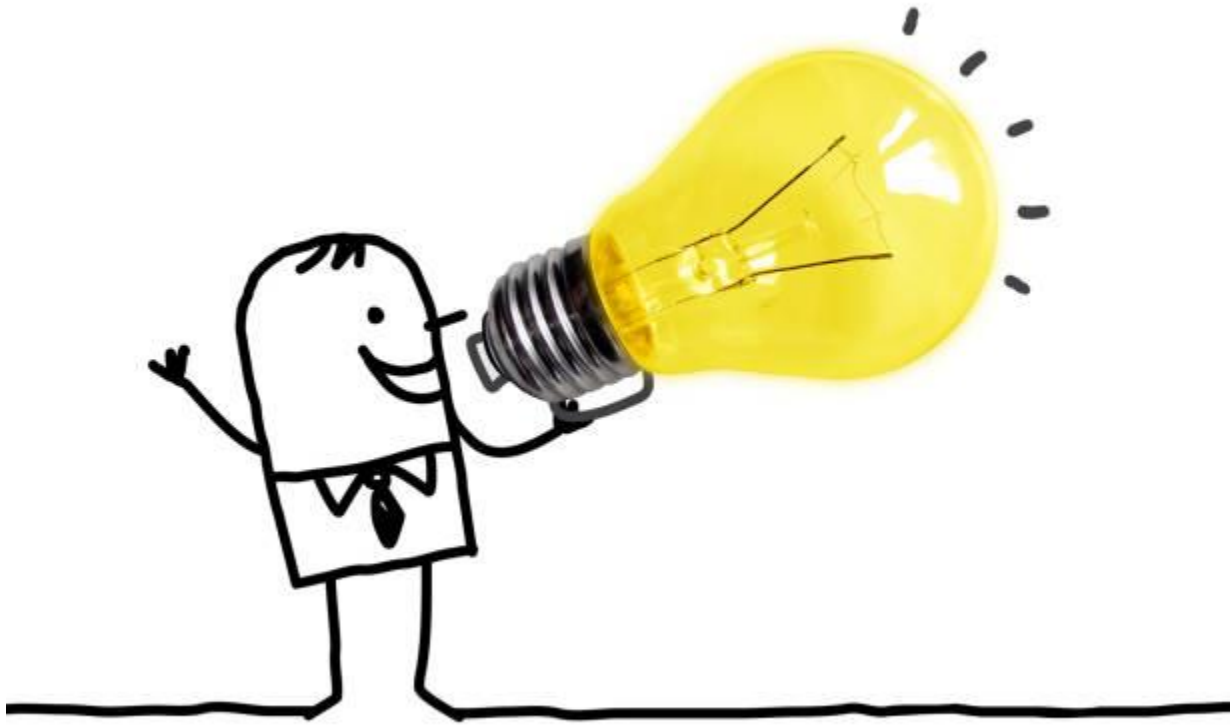
Useful resources...

Greetings to Use in Worship – St Eds & Ips Diocese:

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f214e41ab1e4/content/pages/documents/1591786375.pdf#:~:text=The%20words%20help%20children%2C%20teachers%20and%20clergy,are%20about%20and%20why%20they%20are%20used.>

Blessings to use in Collective Worship – ideas from the Church of England

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/christenings/after-christening/things-do-children-autumn/school-blessings#:~:text=School%20days%20are%20another%20opportunity,attach%20it%20to%20the%20zip.>



An opportunity to share...

- Ideas
- Resources
- Experiences
- Practice



Advent Resources

Sun, 30 Nov 2025 – Wed, 24 Dec 2025

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ADVENT

Around the World

Youth Resource

The Diocese of Bath and Wells Go Team have been working with [Send a Cow](#) and [Movement](#) on an Advent resource for young people that not only journeys through the account of the birth of Jesus found in Luke's gospel, but gives a global perspective too.

www.bathandwells.org.uk/news/advent-around-the-world-a-resource-for-young-people-.php



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Advent Primary Collective Worship

*Collective Worship suggestions to support the message from the Venerable Chris Burke,
Archdeacon of Barking.*

<https://www.cdbe.org.uk/uploads/files/Advent-Collective-Worship-Primary.docx>

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Christmas Around the World

[School Radio](#) > [Assemblies](#) > [Christmas Around the World](#)

[SMSC](#) - [Festivals](#) - [Calendar](#) - [Philosophical](#) - [Treasure Champs](#) - [Songs](#)

In short...

Themes: Christmas; Christmas traditions; celebrating difference and diversity.

Summary: this assembly is suitable during advent, the period of time before Christmas. It's a fun exploration of some unusual Christmas traditions around the world, including Mexico, Japan and Finland. It celebrates Christmas as a special time for Christians and non-Christians alike.

Resources: The [framework to download / print \(pdf\)](#) and [an illustration of a nativity scene from Mexico](#) and [a traditional nativity scene in silhouette](#).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zn7t3qt>



www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/advent-and-christmas-theme-joy-christmas



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A Christian presence in every community

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[What we believe](#)

[Advent and Christmas](#)

[Women of the Nativity](#)

[What to expect at church this Christmas](#)

[Advent: O Come, Emmanuel](#)

[Advent: O Come, Emmanuel](#)

[Home](#) — [Faith & Life](#) — [What we believe](#) — [Advent and Christmas](#)

Advent and Christmas theme: The Joy of Christmas

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people ...'

Luke 2.10-11

Christmas Resources



ASSEMBLIES.ORG.UK

School assemblies for every season for everyone



Christmas Around the World

A worldwide party

by Becky May

Suitable for Whole School (Pri)

Aims

To explore the celebration of Christmas around the world.

www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/3431/christmas-around-the-world

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Collective Worship for Christmas in Primary Schools

Exploring the Nativity Story through paintings.
(Ideal for Class Worship)

<https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Collective-Worship-for-Christmas-in-Primary-Schools.docx>



He Qi, *Nativity*, 1998. Ink and gouache on rice paper.

ASSEMBLIES.ORG.UK

School assemblies for every season for everyone



Christmas everywhere!

To show that Christmas is celebrated all over the world in many different ways.

by Rebecca Parkinson

Suitable for Whole School (Pri)

Aims

To show that Christmas is celebrated all over the world in many different ways.

www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/1392/christmas-everywhere



www.natgeokids.com/uk/primary-resource/christmas-traditions-around-world/

Epiphany Resources

Tue, 6 Jan 2026



ASSEMBLIES.ORG.UK

School assemblies for every season for everyone



Going on a Journey

An assembly for Epiphany

by Alexandra Palmer

Suitable for Whole School (Pri)

Aims

To use the story of the Epiphany to consider our journey through the year.

www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/3452/going-on-a-journey

ASSEMBLIES.ORG.UK

School assemblies for every season for everyone



Epiphany

Suitable for Key Stage 1/2 – Church Schools

Aims

To learn about the meaning of Epiphany.

www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/1848/epiphany

Traditions for Epiphany from across the world, researched by Sabeeta Leghari

News

Published by Tom Pyke on Saturday, 6 January 2024 18:14

www.parishiod.org.uk/b/blog-138104-traditions-for-epiphany-from-across-the-world-researched-by-sabeeta-leghari

Christmas and Epiphany Collective Worship

Download the resource

Download our Christmas and Epiphany Drink from the well Assembly.

www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/get-involved/dftw-good-news-christmas-epiphany



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Epiphany Primary Collective Worship

Collective Worship suggestions to support the message from The Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford.

<https://www.cdbe.org.uk/uploads/files/Epiphany-Collective-Worship-Primary.docx>

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Candlemas Resources

Mon, 2 Feb 2026

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CANDLEMAS

- **IDEAS FOR WORSHIP
AND ASSEMBLIES**
- **LINKS TO CRAFT IDEAS**

https://bradfordcathedral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/worship-assembly-craft-ideas.pdf?srltid=AfmBOoqwSOSq1o3dAWtUfI164AnT9I_kqcxDWAmmezOLC5DpO6IG43x48

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Transformation for children, young people and the Church



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Lectionary Based resources

Advent +

Christmas +

Epiphany

Candlemas

Ash Wednesday

Lent and Holy Week +

Mothering Sunday

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday



Candlemas

http://www.going4growth.com/growth_through_the_year/candlemas

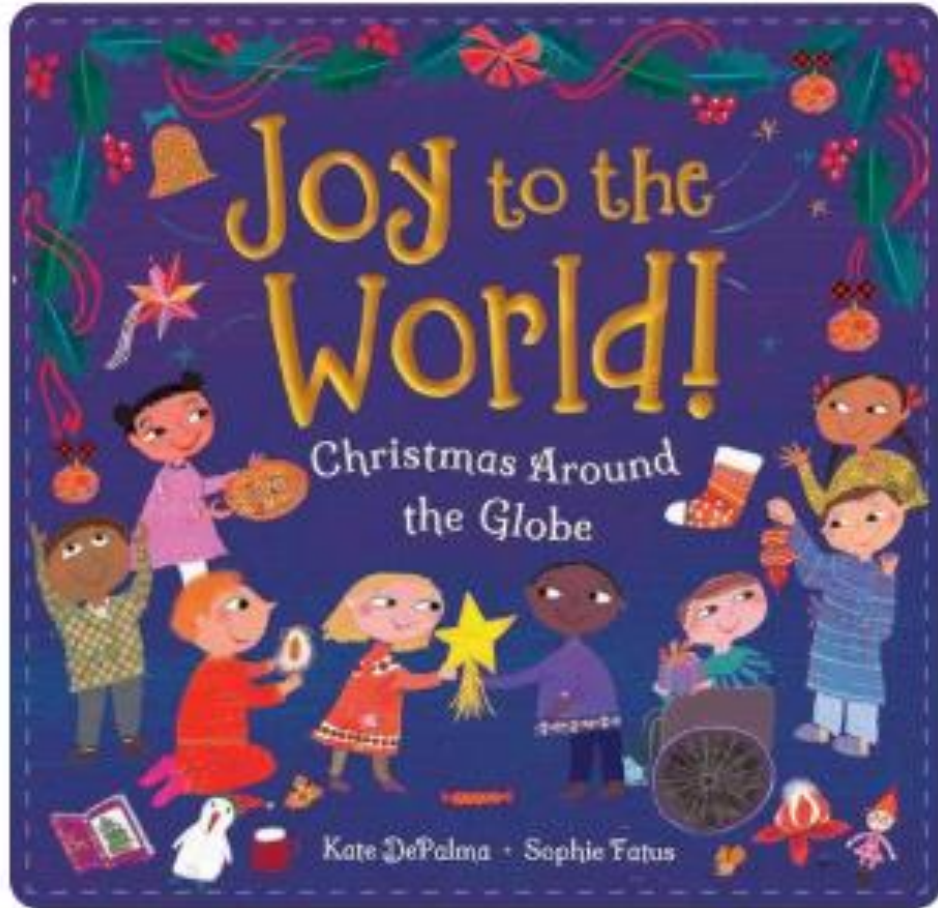
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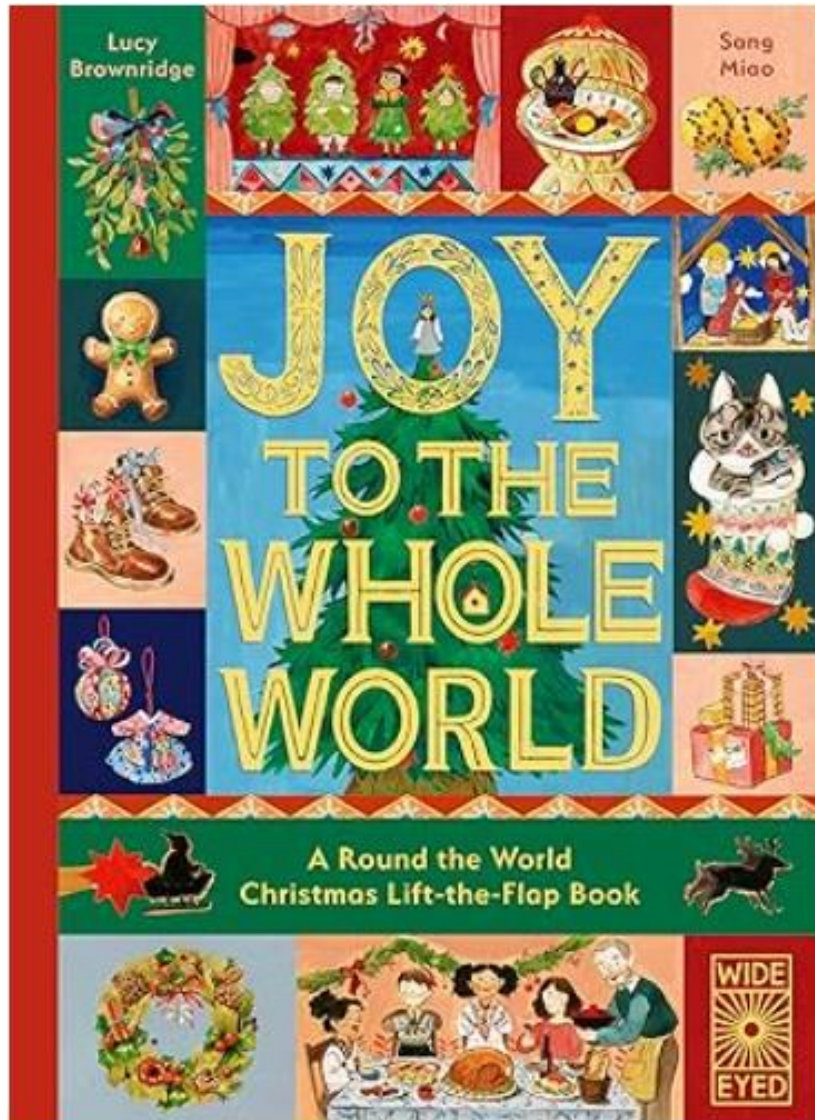
Other Useful Resources for 2025-26





Joy to the World! by Kate Depalma

Explore Christmas traditions from 13 different countries! Rhyming text and detailed illustrations make the book accessible to younger readers, while educational endnotes about the 13 celebrations add interest for older children. Gold ink and festive illustrations capture the joy of the season and make this book a beautiful gift in itself. Engaging and informative for anyone who wants to learn about the holiday. Features Christmas traditions from: Ethiopia Colombia Australia Italy Serbia Mexico India Iceland Egypt Argentina Philippines Lebanon Canada

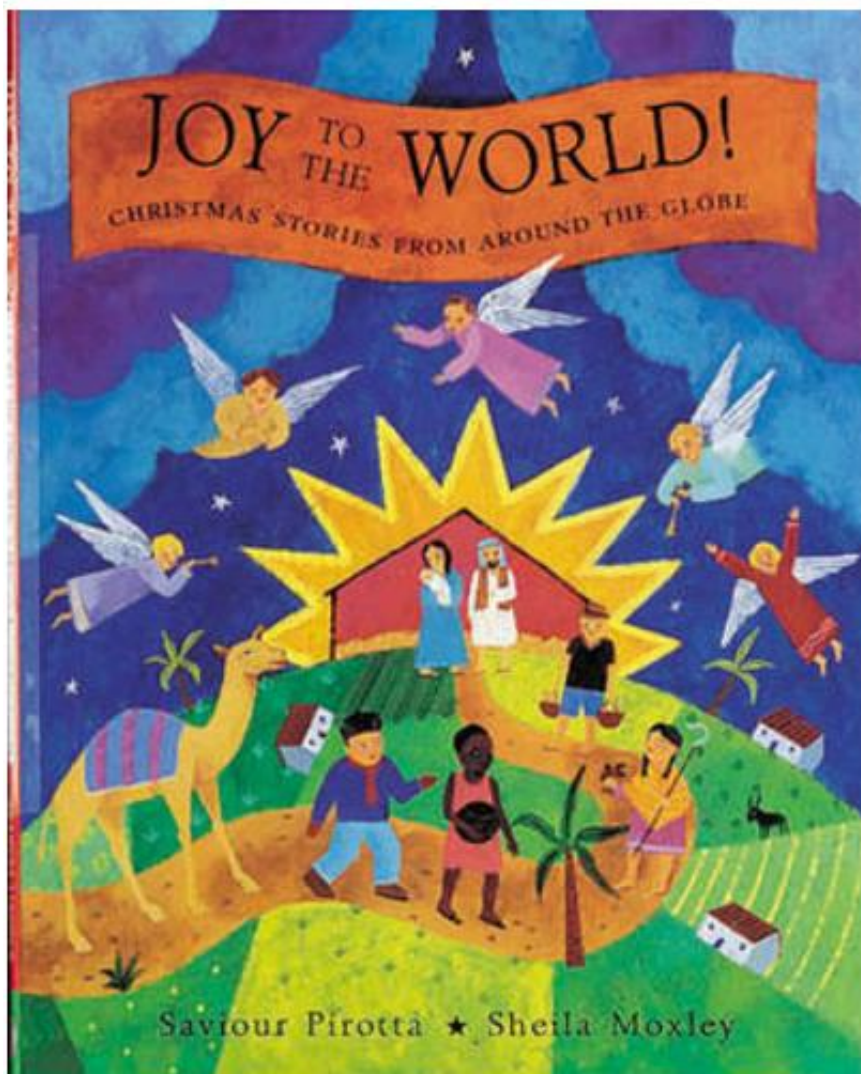


This fact-packed around-the-world adventure is designed to be revisited year after year in the lead-up to Christmas, reminding readers all about the value of other cultures and **the importance of accepting differences**.

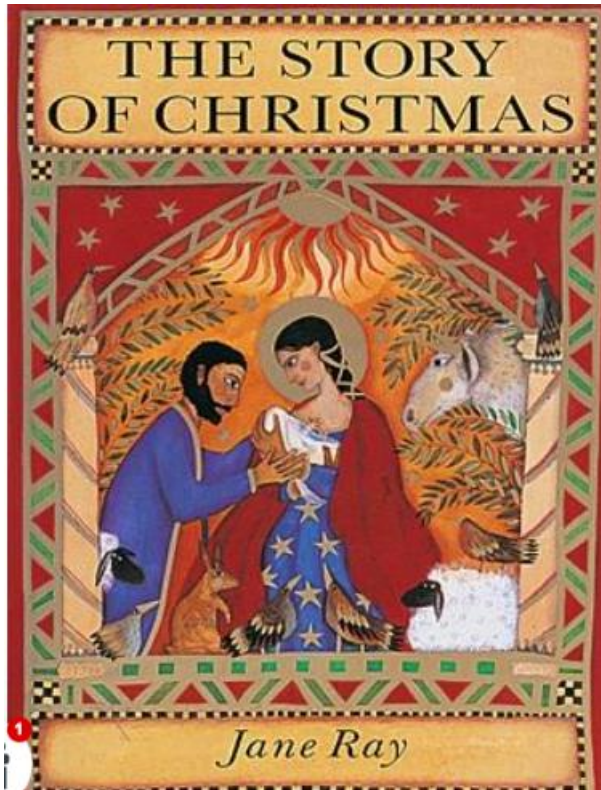
Each striking two-page spread covers the **traditional Christmas foods, decorations and symbols of 10 different countries**, complete with warm and merry illustrations to get readers ready for this wonderful celebration of love, harmony and goodwill to all.

On this fascinating, festive journey across continents:

- Visit a **Christmas market in Germany**
- In Italy, have a feast of seven fishes on Christmas Eve
- Hang out stockings on Christmas Eve in the UK
- Go to a special **Christmas Ganna procession in Ethiopia**
- In France, put your shoes by the fire and open your presents on Christmas Eve
- Go to a St Lucia's day procession and have a **smorgasbord on Julafton in Norway**
- Be dazzled by the Nochebuena light displays in the Philippines
- In India, go to midnight mass and prepare a special Christmas Biryani with spices and nuts
- ...and have a **BBQ in the sunshine in Australia!**

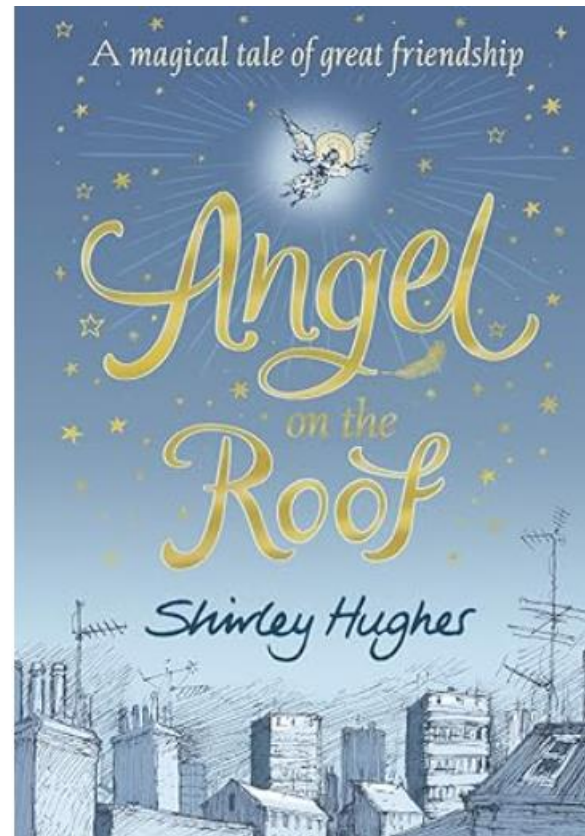


Joy to the World:
Christmas Stories from Around the Globe



The Story Of Christmas by Jane Ray

This beautifully illustrated version of the story of Christmas, with text adapted from the words of the Bible, captures the sense of wonder and magnificence of the Nativity. Jane Ray's art shines from each page making this a book that will be shared year after year as part of the Christmas tradition.

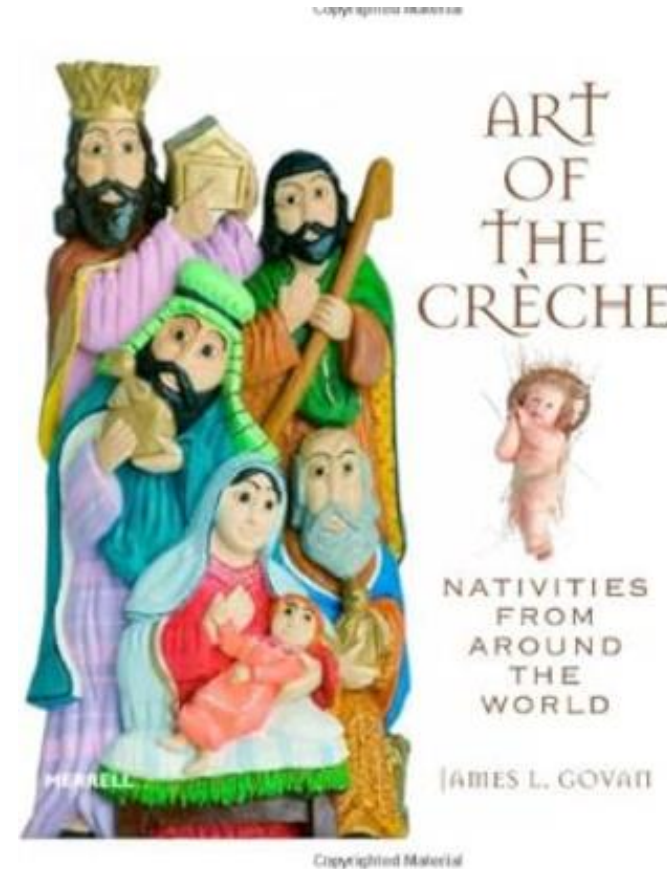


Angel on the Roof by Shirley Hughes

In this heartwarming Christmas story, by celebrated author Shirley Hughes, a young boy called Lewis Brown is looking out of a window and wishing that someone might notice him. Then he spots a single golden feather floating down from the heavens and discovers an angel on the roof. And so begins a great friendship, as the angel takes Lewis under his wing on an adventure that will change everything, and allow Lewis, his family and his friends, to start to see the world around them for the better.

Art of the Creche: Nativities from Around the World

One of the most enduring and universal Christmas traditions is the creche, or the Nativity scene: a representation of the story of Christ's birth. This beautifully illustrated book - now available in a perfect gift-size edition - reveals the worldwide appeal and custom of the creche and the diversity of creative expression displayed in this art form. James L. Govan, a foremost collector of creches, insightfully interprets more than 100 nativities and explains the origins of the artists' works. From the Makonde in Tanzania to the Wichi in northern Argentina and the Asmats in Indonesia, the indigenous cultures of more than 70 countries are represented, and the collection is far from restricted to the work of Christian artists: the creches include examples made by Muslim, Taoist, Buddhist and Jewish artists



www.speakingvolumes.org.uk



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Grants for Christian books for public libraries, schools, prisons and other places.

Applications for new grants open
on 24th March until 1st May





**Brilliant! Many thanks
for this grant which
will go a long way in
helping our students
to understand
Christianity better.**

www.regrants.org.uk

The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase Christianity resources for use in RE lessons.

The scheme is open to state funded schools in England and Wales.

Secondary school grants are still currently available this Autumn term. Please make secondary school applications as normal. Please read the grant [Criteria](#) and [FAQs](#) before applying.

Speak out Stay safe

Speak out Stay safe is a safeguarding programme that aims to equip a generation of children with the knowledge they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect.

It provides resources for primary schools, home educators and practitioners in alternative provisions to help children aged 5 to 11 years understand:

- abuse in all its forms and how to recognise the signs of abuse
- that abuse is never a child's fault and they have the right to be safe
- where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including Childline.

Primary schools

[Sign up for Speak out Stay safe: primary schools](#)

Who is this for

The Speak out Stay safe: primary schools resources are for delivery to children aged 5 to 11 years in the UK and Channel Islands.

If you are supporting children in another country, please visit [Child Helpline International](#).

What is provided

Everything schools need to deliver Speak out Stay safe is provided including:

- virtual assemblies for children aged 5 to 7 and 7 to 11 in English, Welsh and British Sign Language (BSL)
- follow-on lesson plans with engaging activities and resources to help reinforce and embed key messages in English and Welsh
- face-to-face workshops for children aged 6 to 7 and 9 to 11 (talk to us about availability in your area).

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe>

5-7 years – 20 mins (approx.)

Introduces 'Buddy' and talks about how Buddy is a speech bubble because we believe children should speak out if they have any worries.

Children's rights

The assembly explains that all children have the right to speak out and have their views taken seriously, be kept safe and get help when they need it.

Sam's story

We tell a story about Sam. The story demonstrates the importance of speaking out about any worries a child may have.

Forms of hurt

We explain the different forms of hurt in a simple age-appropriate way so children understand when something is not right.

Speaking out

Children think about safe adults who may be good to talk to, both in school and out of school.

Childline

Children learn about Childline, and how they can get in contact if they're worried or need to talk.

7-11 years – 30 mins (approx.)

Sack of worries

We talk about the types of worries a child might have. We use bricks to represent worries and put them in the sack. We then use the sack of worries to talk about safe adults a child could talk to. With each example, a brick is removed.

Definitions of abuse

We explain the different types of abuse in a simple, age-appropriate way, so children understand when something is not right.

Speaking out

Children think about safe adults who may be good to talk to, both in school and out of school.

Childline

Children learn about Childline, and how they can get in contact if they're worried or need to talk.

Ali's story

We tell a story about Ali. This demonstrates the importance of speaking out about any worries a child may have.

Children's rights

The assembly explains that all children have the right to speak out and have their views taken seriously, be kept safe and get help when they need it.

Collective Worship Network

3 February 2026, 3.30pm-5pm

Online. Cost: Free

DofN.org/CW-Feb

Collective Worship Network

11 May 2026, 3.30pm-5pm

Online. Cost: Free

DofN.org/CW-May

Feedback and Contact...

<https://forms.office.com/e/F41eXYJgfn>

chris.allen@dioceseofnorwich.org

