Church of Ireland
Children's Ministry

ADVENT NEWSLETTER 2020

Sunday School Society for Ireland & the Children's Ministry Network

There are so many Advent and Christmas ideas circulating that we thought it might help if we picked some of the Children's Ministry Network's favourites and shared them with you.

1. PAPER CITY NATIVITY SCENE

This is fantastic as a craft, as a story telling tool, as a Nativity and as a safeguard against the toddler in your house who likes to throw the breakable pieces of your regular Nativity set!

CLICK HERE!

2. WANDERING WISE MEN

We got this idea from a participant at Building Blocks this year. It's a lovely alternative to Elf on the Shelf. The 3 wise men travel through your house edging towards the Nativity. On odd days – Dec 1st, 3rd, 5th etc – they read the Bible story together and on even days they get into mischief and challenge the occupants of the house to acts of kindness.

Get the full resource HERE:

3. AN ADVENT APP

WWW.THATADVENTPUPPETAPP.ORG.UK

CLICK HERE!

The advent puppet calendar app has been designed to provide families with a digital Christian advent calendar including daily video clips of the puppets explaining the truth behind Christmas, the nativity and other aspects of the Christian message.

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4. A PARISH NATIVITY IDEA

The Bible Society always have excellent Nativity resources. One suggestion from our Network is to use the Bob Hartman Instant Nativity Script and Powerpoint to run an rehearsal free nativity. Another idea is for people to send in photos of themselves dressed as characters from the Nativity (with parental consent if children are involved) and the photos then shown as a slide show as 'We're going on a Journey' is read. This is the Nativity resource from 2017 and it can be found HERE.

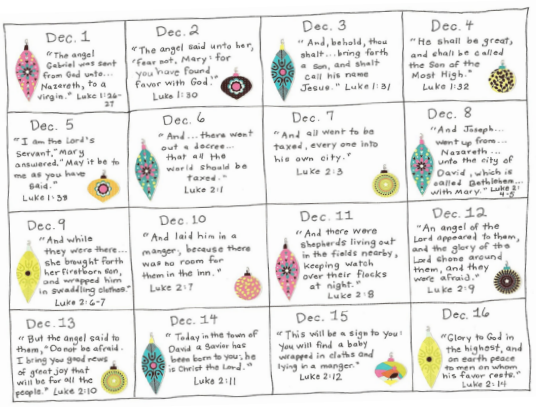
5. A SONG

We've been introduced to very catchy Christmas songs by one CMN member, who admits to getting the songs stuck in her head for a very long time! They are by singer songwriter Colin Buchanan and his album is called 'King of Christmas.' Get a taster of his Christmas music here with the song 'Christ the King of Christmas.'

SIMPLE IDEAS FOR THE FAMILY...

6. INDOORS - ADVENT BIBLE CARDS

Hide one under someone's plate at dinner time each day and read the story together throughout Lent. You can download this resource for free from the Happy Home Fairy.



7. OUTDOORS - MUDDY CHURCH

ADVENTure Trails https://www.muddychurch.co.uk/muddy-adventure

These can be done in full as a trail organised by a parish using downloadable signs and QR codes on people's smart phones / devices. Alternatively a family can take one character from the Adventure (Mary, Joseph, the Giver of shelter, even the donkey!) and use the prompts to wander and wonder together. We love how the wondering prompts help us notice our own surroundings, but also help explore and chat through things in our own lives and in the life of the person who played an important part in the story of Jesus coming to live among us.