

Christmas Resources that support Parish worship and family engagement.

Type “Christmas worship resources” into your search engine and you are hit with a small tsunami of potential ideas, websites and Youtube video’s to look at. So to support your search and hopefully generate other ideas, I have selected a Diocese of Armagh Christmas resource list. Feel free to add in other ideas and websites that you have found useful...

For the season of Advent, visit <https://thatadventpuppetapp.org.uk/> where puppets explore the Christmas story from a child friendly, Christian world view. Simply download the App, encourage parents to show the App to their wee one’s especially or through your Parish Facebook page update each day during Advent the stories contained on this website. Highly recommended.

Again for Advent, **The Meaningful Chocolate Company** have produced an Advent Calendar (with chocolates!) that you might want to purchase for families/children in the Parish. Here’s the link...
<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/pages/real-advent-calendar>

“A Virtual Christmas”. Offered by a Christian drama company “Play it by Ear” based in Belfast, Chris and Ross for £15.00 will design, write and edit a “Virtual Nativity” that allows families, children and young people compile the Nativity story, record it at home then have it turned into a virtual Parish nativity by the boys themselves. Highly recommended as one way to ensure that the hope of the Nativity can be experienced in a virtual world! <https://www.playitbyeardrama.com/>

Written and produced by the Bible Society, **“It begins with Bethlehem”** is a beautiful (5 minute) narration of the Nativity story. Show during a Church service, send out on your Zoom/WhatsApp/Email/Facebook links. Engaging and Christ centred!
<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/christmas/>

With a focus on the needs of others, the Children’s Society have produced excellent resources for a **Christingle service** both online and if allowed in person. Go to <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/fundraise-and-events/christingle/planning-your-celebration> for resources, worship ideas and funding suggestions for young people and children badly hit by the pandemic.

Messy Church Christmas ideas. Jam packed with downloadable and printable ideas as to arts and crafts materials for unpacking the “gift of God in Christ Jesus” go to <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-church-home-messy-christmas>

Together at Home <https://www.tath.co.uk/> provide excellent printable materials that support families and children in terms of Lectionary based readings. Many Parishes may well be aware of this website but do keep an eye on their Advent and Christmas specials!

Hope Dawns. Of a musical variety, the Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) have produced an on-line Carol service drawn from Churches and Mission partners from across the globe. To join in with the Hope Dawns service visit <https://www.cmsireland.org/hope-dawns>