



**Give
hope this
Christmas**

A special Christmas service in
support of Action for Children

About **Action** for **Children**

Our vision is that every child and young person has a safe and happy childhood, and the foundations they need to thrive.

We protect and support children and young people by providing practical and emotional care and support. We make sure their voices are heard. And we campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

Incredible people like you help our 2,500 on the ground workers to support vulnerable children every day. We're a vital lifeline, working across 372 UK-wide services. And last year, we reached over 680,000 children, young people and families.



Dear friends,

For many of us, Christmas is a magical time of celebration, hope and joy. Hanging stockings. Sharing festive food. Presents under the tree. It's a time for children to feel loved and make memories that last a lifetime.

But we know that for vulnerable children across the UK, Christmas is anything but magical. No stockings. No presents. No festive food – maybe no food at all.

But you could help change that, by getting involved in our Secret Santa campaign. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the season of giving.

Worshipping together at Christmas

Worship is another powerful way to bring people together and support others. This year our theme is 'Give hope this Christmas' – helping you celebrate this wonderful time while thinking about children and families in your communities who find the season tough.

We've created this flexible worship outline to meet your needs. Please feel free to choose your own hymns and prayers, or tailor your service for you and your congregation. You can pick and choose ideas, and swap in some of your own.

Want to download more copies and our Christmas carol booklet?
Please visit: actionforchildren.uk/faithFR

A big thank you

My thanks to Melanie Cave and the Roots for Churches team, who've done a wonderful job producing this worship outline. I'd love to hear your thoughts on our worship resources, so please get in touch if you have ideas.

I'd also like to thank our church supporters for your amazing presence this year. You've helped make sure we can be there for as many families as possible. On behalf of everyone at Action for Children, a heart-felt thank you.

Enjoy your worship and thank you again for supporting Action for Children.

I wish you a magical Christmas with your loved ones, and a happy New Year.

Blessings,



Karis Kolawole

Faith Partnerships Lead

karis.kolawole@actionforchildren.org.uk

Planning your Christmas service

We hope this booklet will help you to plan a special Christmas service in support of Action for Children. You can also use it at any other services or events you're organising. Please feel free to choose different carols, prayers and activities – whatever works for you.

Your relationship fundraising executive can help you plan and also send you lots of useful fundraising materials, including:

- **Gift Aid envelopes.**
- **Posters.**
- **Leaflets.**

If you receive this as a mailing, you'll find their details on the enclosed contact sheet. If not, at: **actionforchildren.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-with-us/fundraise-in-your-church/** (This link is also where you can download extra copies of this booklet, bauble templates and PowerPoint slides).

A great way to bring our work to life is to get one of our friendly speakers to talk at your church. Get in touch with your relationship fundraising executive to find out more. Our YouTube channel – **[youtube.com/user/ActionForChildrenUK](https://www.youtube.com/user/ActionForChildrenUK)** – also has a selection of fantastic videos about what we do. You can show them at your service or any other event.

Banking funds raised

You can now pay the funds you raise into your local Post Office.

To do this, you first need to apply for a deposit card by contacting our Supporter Care Team: **ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk** or calling **0300 123 2112**.

There are other ways to pay: BACS (online banking), our website, or by telephone. These are our preferred methods as they help keep operational costs to an absolute minimum. This means we can focus funds on supporting children.

If you choose to pay in your funds by cheque, please:

- Write your and the activity that raised the funds details on the reverse of the cheque itself. This helps us to track it and – importantly – to thank you.
- Send cheques to our Watford Office:

**3 The Boulevard,
Ascot Rd,
Watford,
WD18 8AG**

Our colleagues there will receive and acknowledge them, with thanks.

Give hope this Christmas

People of all ages are welcome to this worship service. Together, we celebrate the gift of Jesus to the world, exploring the Christmas story, and recognising how poverty shapes it. We know right now many UK children and their families are facing hardship. In our service, we'll look at Action for Children's work, raising awareness of how poverty affects children. There'll also be the chance to pray and give, so more children have a safe and happy childhood.

Gather

Christmas giving

I have a question – do you wrap or bag, do you rip or peel, scrunch or fold?

Does anyone have any idea what I'm talking about?

Presents! When you are giving presents, do you wrap them in paper or put them in a bag?

When you're opening presents, do you carefully peel the sticky tape off or rip through the paper as quickly as possible?

And when you've taken the paper off, do you fold it neatly and maybe reuse it or scrunch it up ready to be recycled?

(Allow time for a chat)

We all have different ways of doing things – different ways or traditions of how we celebrate Christmas.

As you look around the church, what items can you see that we might be familiar with at Christmas?

(Have items related to Christmas dotted around church. For example, a large wrapped gift, small Christmas tree, bag of sprouts, candle – important objects to connect throughout the service – and invite the congregation to point them out).

During the service, we're going to be thinking about the Christmas story, the gift of a baby born in a stable who became the light of the world, bringing hope to all. We will think about people facing challenges this Christmas and hear more about the work of Action for Children as they seek to help vulnerable children.

Call to worship

As we gather today,
we give thanks for each
person here.
We celebrate the gift of
being together.
Give us ears to listen and learn,
hearts of kindness and
compassion,
and hands open to receive
and to serve.
Amen.

A gathering prayer

God of all ages,
May each generation be blessed
by one another.
May each generation learn more
of your love for them,
as we come before you in worship,
wonder and praise today.
Amen.

Share the Word

Prophecy of Jesus' birth – Isaiah 9:6-7, International Children's Bible
(The leader reads the plain text, the congregation the bold response)

A child will be born to us.
God will give a son to us.
He will be responsible for
leading the people.
**His name will be Wonderful
Counsellor, Powerful God,
Father Who Lives Forever,
Prince of Peace.**

Power and peace will be
in his kingdom.
It will continue to grow.
He will rule as king on David's
throne and over David's kingdom.
**He will make it strong,
by ruling with goodness
and fair judgment.**
He will rule it forever and ever.

Or show this video:

Saddleback kids

[youtube.](#)

[comwatch?v=KEpSXxL4Nn4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEpSXxL4Nn4)

Isaiah reading ends at 1.08.

The Birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1-14,
International Children's Bible



Select four people to do the four sections of this reading. If possible, include different ages and genders to add different voices.

1 At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.

2 So, Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So, she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

3 That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very

frightened. The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David’s town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.”

4 Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: “Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.”

Or show this video:

Saddleback kids

youtu.be/L5m2GE6DFeM



Sermon ideas

Sermon idea one – Gift boxes

Have two nicely wrapped gift boxes with openings at the top.

Box one has some straw or hay, a toy sheep, map or compass, crown and LED candle inside.

Go back over the Christmas story to focus on its humble and simple background.

Take out each object from the box at the appropriate time and place on a table.

From a humble start, God had a special plan for Jesus' life.

Jesus came to be a light to the world (candle) and becomes a king (crown), a friend and saviour to all.

His birth and life weren't easy, he faced poverty and exclusion.

As Jesus faced those problems then, many also face them today.

(The candle is the connecting object to the current-day context)

So, I wonder what's in this other box?

(It is empty apart from another LED candle).

There's not much in here except this candle. I wonder what it's for?

In our own country and lives, we face challenging times. Today,

4.3 million children in the UK are living in poverty. Families are making difficult choices between heating and eating and the person who used to donate to a food bank now needs to use the food bank for themselves. For many, their Christmas may feel empty, a little like this box. For many, their gift boxes may not be filled in the way they usually would. They may not be able to have their traditions this year.

Action for Children and the people who support them are the candle of hope, a light in the darkness in the lives of these children and families (*hold up candle*). Through their work, Action for Children supported 687,755 children and their families last year.

And their Secret Santa Christmas campaign aims to help vulnerable children feel the magic of Christmas.

Let's hear from Amanda as she tells us about Max and William and how they were warm and fed thanks to Action for Children.

youtu.be/DCS68tiu08k

or

Let's meet Lisa and her family, as they explain how Action for Children helped them get through Christmas. youtu.be/O7h27QhVSXM

(If you don't have a way to play video, you can read Lisa's story on page 18).

Sermon idea two – Exploring Christmas with our senses

Explore the Christmas story with the senses: see, hear, smell, taste, feel.

Reflect on the Christmas story. Explore how each of our senses play a part in the story. For example, the sights of the busy streets. The noise of people on a journey. The silence of the field broken by the bleating of sheep. The smells of the animals, the taste of what they ate on a long journey, the feel of straw in the feeding box, etc.

How do our senses experience Christmas? What might we see, hear, smell, taste and feel? Do you have traditions – things you always do or eat?

Focus on 'feel', not only physically but inside, emotionally.

Acknowledge that for some, Christmas can be a difficult time for lots of reasons. For example, due to feelings of loneliness, grief, etc.

In our own country and lives, we face challenging times. Today 4.3 million children in the UK are living in poverty and families are

making difficult choices between heating and eating. The person who used to donate to a food bank now needs to use the food bank for themselves. For many, their Christmas may feel empty, with the added pressures to do what others do, buy what others buy, eat what others eat.

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Explore and respond

Action for Children quiz

Many children and families will face challenges this Christmas. Action for Children and their supporters provide a lifeline for families with nowhere else to turn.

We give thanks for their work. But how much do we know, and how aware are we of the situation that many face today?

Host this section like a pub quiz, asking people to join in groups of four to five, and then reading out the questions and answers from the front. Allow the groups to discuss their answers together. You don't need to keep track of scores, unless it would help your group get more involved.

1 How many children in the UK are living in poverty?

- A. 4.3 million.
- B. 3.3 million.
- C. 2.3 million.

Answer: A – 4.3 million.

2 The number of children living in poverty this Christmas compared to last Christmas is:

- A. Less than last year.
- B. More than last year.
- C. About the same.

Answer: B – 100,000 more.

3 In an average class of 30, how many children might be living in poverty?

- A. None.
- B. 3.
- C. 9.

Answer: C – 9.

4 In 2023/2024, Action for Children helped how many children and families?

- A. Over 100,000.
- B. Over 400,000.
- C. Over 600,000.

Answer: C – They helped 687,755 people in 2023/2024.

5 A donation of £5 could buy:


- A. A teddy for a child.
- B. Nappies and wipes for a baby or toddler for a week.
- C. Either of the above.

Answer: C – £5 could cover either A or B.

6 A donation of £10 could buy:

- A. Breakfast and lunch for a week.
- B. A trip to visit Santa.
- C. Either of the above.

Answer: C – £10 could cover either A or B.

 How can we support the work of Action for Children?

- A. Be aware of the needs in our local area and country.
- B. Pray for the work of Action for Children and those they support.
- C. Sign petitions asking the government to take action to make sure children have safe and happy childhoods.
- D. Make a donation, if possible.
- E. Any of the above.

Answer: E – Any of these actions are valuable to Action for Children and the children and families they support. We understand some people can't give money. But by being aware, by sharing what we've heard and by praying, we can still help.

Light in the darkness

Jesus came to be a light in the darkness.

- In small groups, discuss where we experience darkness in our daily lives. For example, night-time, in the cinema, train tunnels, caves, etc. Where do we see a light breaking through the darkness? For example, streetlamps, car headlights, torches, fireworks, etc.
- Have printed pieces of card with the outline of a candle. Create the cards in Microsoft

Word – four cards a page is a good size (see page 14 for template). On the candle write the places or groups in your village, town or city where children are. For example, schools, parks, community centres, organisations like Cubs or Guides, doctors' surgeries, churches etc.

- Add colourful stickers, like hearts or sparkly gems, as you pray that the light of hope may shine in each of these places.
- Keep the candles to take home, as a reminder to pray for the children and families in your community.

Making the candle

- At the front of your church (away from where people may walk) place a board or something firm to build on.
- Using stackable bricks, build a candle as large as possible and put an LED tealight or candle on the top. Ask a teenager or adult to manage the team build.

Reflect

- Give out printed copies of the Isaiah 9:2-7 – Song of Mary reading.
- Invite people to read it through slowly. Ask: is there anything that stands out to you as you read it?

A particular verse? Which of the names of God is most significant for you right now?

- Invite everyone to take the reading home and do the same again in the lead-up to Christmas.

Wordmarker

- Give out pieces of paper with ACTION FOR CHILDREN written in capital letters.
- Ask how many words of three letters or more they can make.



Cover the UK with prayer

- Display one or more large maps of the UK on tables at the front of your church with LED tealights around the side.
- Invite people to each place a tealight on the map. This could be somewhere special or relevant to them, like their favourite football team's home, or a relative, as they offer a silent prayer for children living there.
- Once finished, the service leader or a young person prays for children facing poverty in our country. Give thanks for Action for Children as they offer support and practical help.

God of our nation,
we bring to you those children
and families living in poverty
at this time.

We pray for those making difficult
decisions, for those who are not
able to live life with warmth, food
and security around them.

We thank you for the work of
Action for Children, for their heart
to help others.

Bless them we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Go with God

- Give out printed cards with hearts on. (See page 15 for template).
- Invite the congregation to write something on the heart that has stood out for them – maybe a fact or figure, a verse, or something they feel called to do in response.
- Encourage everyone to take their heart home and place it somewhere it can be a reminder to pray. Each day, give thanks and pray for the work of Action for Children, the children they serve, the heart of God’s compassion that they share.

You can find out more at actionforchildren.org.uk

Prayer

- Teach the sign language for ‘thank you’ and use it each time you say it in the prayer. Start with the fingertips of your flat hand on your chin, then move your hand down and away from you. You could use this video to show how: [youtube.com/watch?v=EPlhDhll9mw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPlhDhll9mw)

Loving God, *thank you* that your love reaches out to all people, people in this local area, this country and around the world.

Thank you for your compassion for all. May we be compassionate to those less fortunate than ourselves. *Thank you* for the work of Action for Children. May we remember them as we pray and respond. *Thank you* for being with us today and for all we have learned.

Amen.

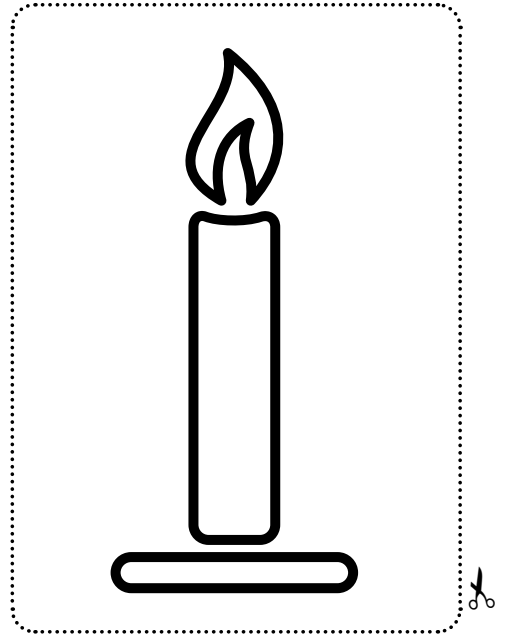
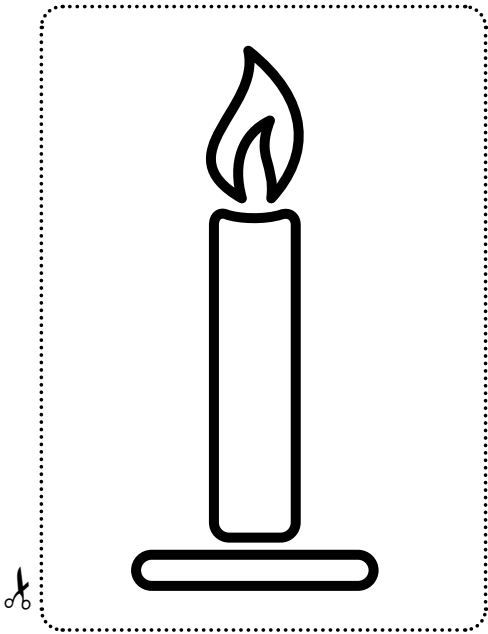
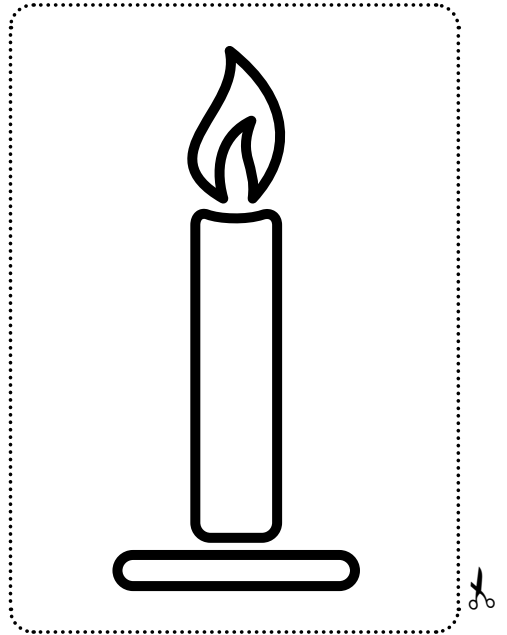
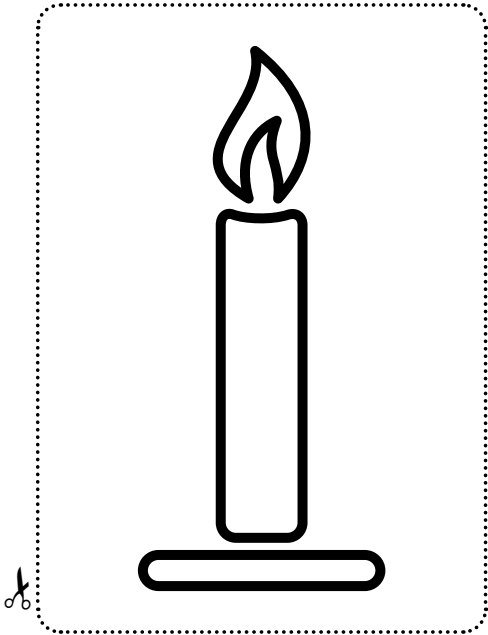
Go with God 24/7

Standing or seated, hold the heart cards with two hands and raise them up to the ceiling, so that everyone makes the shape of a candle with the card as a flame. The service leader shares a short prayer that the church will be the light of Christ in the community.

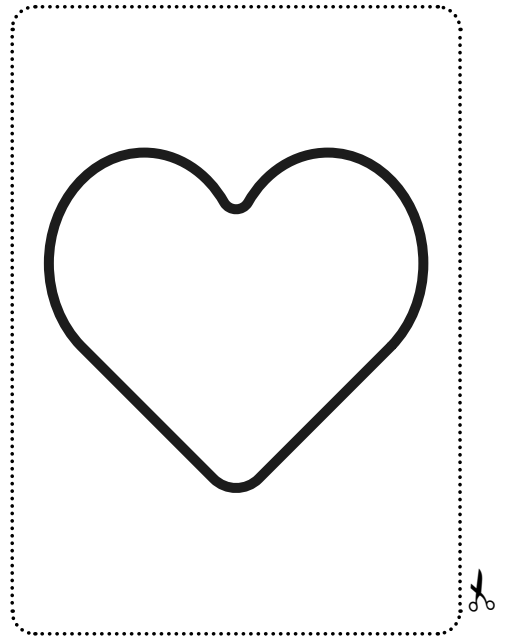
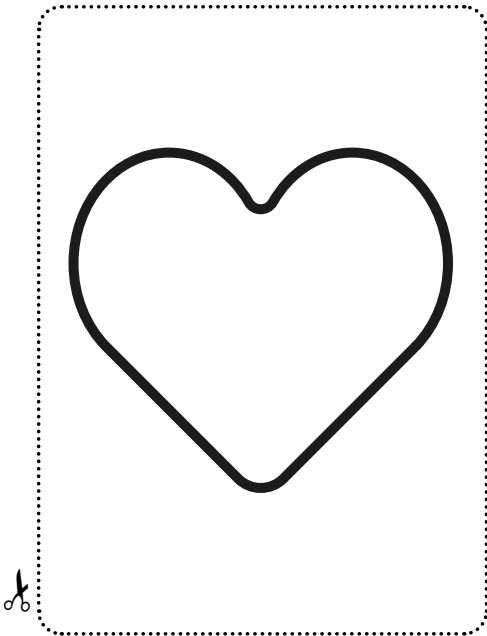
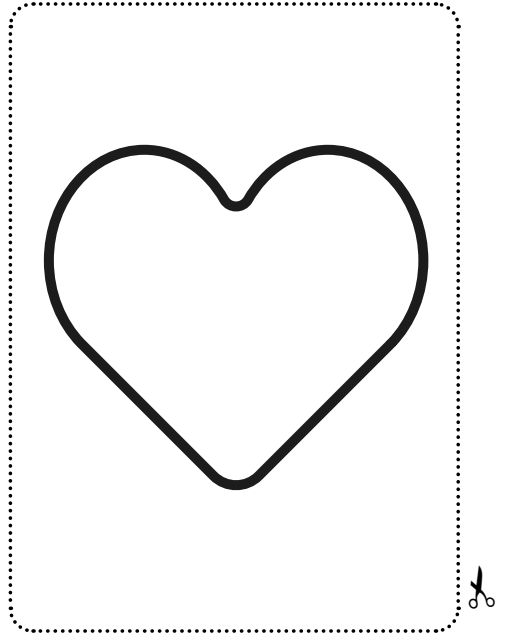
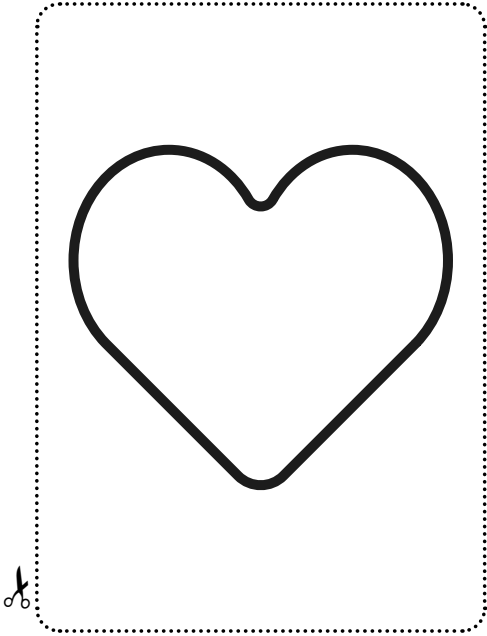
As we leave, by being more aware, by sharing what we’ve heard and by praying, we are part of living out the light of Christ in our local community and beyond. **Amen.**



Candle template



Heart template



Suggested songs

Search for these songs on YouTube or SongSelect to play at your service.

★ Born on a New Day

youtu.be/9yjj5Oj4vFw?si=G_jdPE7kzHtTt_IG

★ Calypso Carol

youtu.be/W1UI5Ko34XQ?si=5FH-IBiZAYPxNc1W, or
songselect.ccli.com/songs/626892/see-him-lying-on-a-bed-of-straw-calypso-carol

★ Go Tell it on the Mountain – reimagined

Sang by For King and Country

youtube.com/watch?v=C2Sf-luP4mY, or
songselect.ccli.com/songs/7163409/go-tell-it-on-the-mountain

★ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Singing the Faith 202, or

youtube.com/watch?v=9Bwn0k0k8xl

★ In the Bleak Midwinter

Singing the Faith 204, or

youtube.com/watch?v=9FDgRXPSv3U

★ It's Christmas Time

youtu.be/lqgUD_C6gdE?si=QDctxoM5XE90tUhh, or
songselect.ccli.com/songs/5876138/its-christmastime

★ Joy to the World (You Are My Joy)

Sang by Rend Collective

youtube.com/watch?v=k7iPgWgeNsk

★ Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

Singing the Faith 330, or

youtu.be/k7iPgWgeNsk?si=1kWTXpeu2y3Uozwq

★ Manger Throne (with the First Noel)

PraiseCharts version of Phil Wickham's song

youtube.com/watch?v=52SDkla53cw

★ **Messiah**

youtu.be/D14wX0K9XJQ?si=ltFGPMHixSIFUiUP, or
songselect.ccli.com/songs/7097981/messiah
(with 'O come let us adore him' towards the end)

★ **No Ordinary Baby**

youtu.be/2zPU582wUHU?si=YN6YY0KTP8vEFcxo, or
songselect.ccli.com/songs/7064693/no-ordinary-baby

★ **Noel**

Sang by Chris Tomlin featuring Lauren Daigle
youtube.com/watch?v=5Vwu-t7QRaE, or
songselect.ccli.com/songs/7050419/noel

★ **O Holy Night**

Sang by Bethel Music Kids
youtube.com/watch?v=KNyjd94iTKE&t=205s

★ **O Holy Night**

youtube.com/watch?v=gTFG_nvreol

★ **Peace Upon the Earth**

youtube.com/watch?v=mWew49MRRGY, or
songselect.ccli.com/songs/7095541/peace-upon-the-earth

★ **Poverty/All Poor Men and Humble**

youtube.com/watch?v=6ZLfzkXWOGM

★ **The Angels Knew**

youtube.com/watch?v=5flkKjaxYcg, or
songselect.ccli.com/songs/6300988/the-angels-knew

★ **Welcome to our World**

Sang by Elevation Music featuring Chris Brown
youtube.com/watch?v=o1XagHAdzYY

★ **What Child is This/ Child of the Poor**

youtube.com/watch?v=letPAANnhzQ

★ **When out of Poverty is Born**

youtube.com/watch?v=MzwyjnACz0o



Lisa's story

Content warning: Please be aware this story contains mentions of suicide, self-harm and other content that readers might find upsetting.

**“Do you heat or do you eat?
Which one do you choose?”**

Action for Children's Aberdeen Priority Families helps families at Christmas and all year round – like Lisa's.

Having young children and a lack of childcare options means that Lisa can't work and has often found it hard to pay for basic items for her children. At Christmas, it's particularly tough.

“I worry a lot about the children waking up on Christmas morning and not having enough presents to open,” she said.

“Their friends might get bags of presents, but my children won't have much. My heart breaks because I can't get the things they want – I just can't afford it.”

Last year, Priority Families gave the family gifts and a food hamper, making sure they could still make Christmas special.

“Jake is a footballer, so it's especially hard to keep up with all his football boots and goalkeeping gloves,” said Lisa.

“He's 5 foot 9 so it's quite expensive! [Priority Families] asked me what football boots he would like, and they went and got them. I remember when Jake opened them on Christmas day he actually cried. To see him cry with happy tears – it was amazing. I was so, so grateful to Action for Children.”

Lisa was also very grateful for their hamper.

“[The hamper] helped us massively over Christmas – having stuff in the house to eat that's good for them. Having meat from the butchers is such a luxury.”

Living with depression and anxiety

Lisa's struggles aren't just about money. She's also been living with depression and anxiety for 15 years since her mother died. Sadly, in the past she tried to take her own life.

"I was seven months pregnant with Jake when I lost my mum," she explained.

"I didn't have time to grieve and then depression and anxiety hit. I used to self-harm, and I've tried to overdose. I just didn't want to be here anymore. I thought that my children will be better off without me, because what's the point in having me when I can't do anything for them?"

With emotional support from Priority Families, Lisa's mental health has improved, giving her a confidence boost.

Surviving another Christmas

The cost of living crisis has pushed Lisa's finances to breaking point and she's struggled to pay for food, gas, electricity and nappy rash cream for baby Callum.

"It's extremely difficult," she says.

“Do you eat or do you heat? You've got to heat your house, you've got to feed the kids, you've got to feed yourself... which one do you choose?”

"Christmas is going to be extremely hard again this year. There's nothing worse than turning round and saying to your child 'I'm sorry you can't have that because I can't afford it'."

“If it wasn't for Kay and Arlene [from Priority Families], I don't think I'd be here today. They're always at the end of a phone if I need them and it's made me realise when I need to ask for help.”

Children's Christmas activities

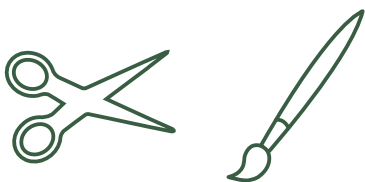
Shoe box Christmas scene

Craft | 15 mins

You will need: shoe boxes or something like them, lots of paper, card, general craft materials, glue, and scissors.

Christmas brings different emotions to everyone. For some, it's excitement and joy. For others, it's a time of uncertainty and loneliness. While feelings about Christmas change from person to person and year to year, the story of Christmas stays the same. It's a story of hope, love, obedience, and a baby who was born to be the Light of the World. Let us capture a moment of that story today.

- ★ Give each child a shoe box, or something like it, and craft materials.
- ★ Encourage everyone to think of part of the Christmas story that stands out to them and create it as a Christmas scene.
- ★ What can they learn from these scenes this Christmas?



Christmas tree ring toss

Game | 15 mins

You will need: three cones decorated like Christmas trees, three plastic or wooden rings and space to play.

- ★ Line up your Christmas tree cones at different intervals and ask the children to stand away from them. The children take turns to toss the rings over the cones to collect points. The nearest tree is worth 10 points, middle tree is 20 and the farthest tree is 50.
- ★ They each have three attempts to throw the rings. The person with the most points at the end wins.

String light painting

Group art | 10 mins

You will need: lining paper or something like it, lots of different coloured paint (including black), paper plates or bowls for the paint, craft pom poms, and pens.

- ★ Before the session, paint a long, black, wiggly line across the paper with little lines evenly spaced out along it.
- ★ Explain that Jesus understands what we're going through. He understands how it feels to be hungry and feel pain.

He understands because he's been through it. The Light of the World understands our hard times, and not only cares, but calls us to care too. As a group, let us add light to the picture.

- ★ Dip the pom poms into the coloured paints and dab them on the paper at the line markers. Discuss what areas of your community need some light. You could write your group answers around the 'string of lights' as a group prayer.

Joy to the World garland

Craft | 15 mins

You will need: different coloured card, string or ribbon, a hole punch, scissors, and pencils.

- ★ Explain that Joy to the World is a famous Christmas hymn sung all over the world, especially at carol services. Isaac Watts, who wrote the hymn, was inspired by Psalm 98:4-9. He believed we should always make a joyful noise to the Lord. Let us bring joy to the world with a joyful decoration!
- ★ Cut the letters 'JOY TO THE WORLD' out of the card. Make holes in them and thread onto the string for the children to make a banner they can hang up at home. If the children don't want to see pencil marks

on their letters, they need to draw them backwards on the back of the card.

The alternative gift list

Into action | 5 mins

You will need: paper or sticky notes and pens.

- ★ Explain that it's easy to think about ourselves over Christmas, especially when it comes to getting presents. We can forget the importance of giving rather than receiving.
- ★ Give the children these headings: Want, Need, Wear, Read, Make, Do, Share, Feed. They should all write one thing under each heading:
 - One thing they want.
 - One thing they need.
 - One thing they can wear.
 - One thing they could read.
 - Something they could make to bring light to someone's day.
 - Something they could do to help their community or family.
 - Something they could share with others.
 - A way they could feed a person in their life.
- ★ Challenge them to complete their Alternative Gift List over the coming weeks.

Be a
Secret
Santa
for a vulnerable child



The magic of Christmas begins in childhood. Hanging stockings. Sharing festive food. Presents under the tree. It's a time for children to feel loved and make memories that last a lifetime.

But for vulnerable children across the UK, Christmas is anything but magical. No stockings. No presents. No festive food - maybe no food at all. Their first memories of Christmas could be going to bed hungry, being too cold to sleep and losing all hope when Santa doesn't come.

But you could help change that. Your gift could help a vulnerable child feel the magic of Christmas.

Children across the UK need a Secret Santa like you.

4.3 million UK children now live in poverty. That's almost 1 in 3 children. It's the worst number ever recorded, with 100,000 more children in poverty last year than the year before. More children are suffering. More families are at breaking point.

It's easy to think that poverty happens elsewhere. But it's affecting children in your community. For many, Christmas is just another day of empty cupboards and putting on an extra jumper to keep warm. And wondering why their friend got presents and they didn't.

Simply donate and you could give the essentials of warm clothes, a hot meal, or a special present just for them. They'll know Santa has remembered them - but they won't know that Santa is you.

At Action for Children, we have over 2,500 frontline workers supporting children every day.

We're there when families can't afford the basics. We top up the gas meter when children are shivering in a freezing house. Put food on the table so children don't go hungry. Buy a Christmas present when a parent can't. We're a vital lifeline for desperate families with nowhere to turn.

By supporting Action for Children last year, and being a Secret Santa, incredible people like you helped us be there for 687,755 UK children, young people and families, through 372 services. Vulnerable children and families given hope and support, because of your amazing generosity.

Be a Secret Santa for a vulnerable child.

iamsanta.org.uk/hope

Deck your halls

Come together as a family, school or congregation this Christmas, and decorate your own Action for Children bauble. Find your bauble templates enclosed in this pack, or download them from actionforchildren.uk/faithFR



Share the joy

We love seeing pictures and videos from your events. Send them to us or post on social media (...and make sure you tag us!)



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