



2025 RESOURCES

FROM WAITING TO WITNESS: ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY IN UNITY

Ecumenical Resources for Mission and Outreach during
Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany





CONTENT

- Introduction
 - Organising Ecumenical Activities
 - Advent - The Living Advent Calendar
 - Advent - Further Ideas
 - Christmas - Christmas in a Bag
 - Christmas - Christmas in Real Time
 - Epiphany - Gift Exchange for the World
 - Epiphany - Follow that Star
- 

INTRODUCTION

The seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany invite us to journey together through stories of waiting, wonder, and revelation. These are times when our communities are most open to hearing the good news of God-with-us, yet they are also times when churches can become stretched with busyness and repetition.

By working together, local congregations across Devon can share both the joy and the load. Joint services, community events, and creative outreach not only strengthen our witness, but also show something of the unity and generosity at the heart of the Gospel. When neighbours see churches collaborating, they catch a glimpse of Christ's light shining across our differences.

These seasons also offer a unique opportunity for mission. Many people who would not usually attend church are drawn to the familiar carols, the beauty of the nativity story, and the sense of hope and welcome. By joining forces, we can extend a broader, deeper invitation into God's story, reaching more households and offering a clearer sign of Christ's love at the heart of our communities.

This resource has been prepared to inspire and equip you to plan shared celebrations for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Inside you will find a few ideas and practical guidance. Use them as starting points, adapt them to your own context, and above all, enjoy discovering how much more we can do together than alone.

Let us take this opportunity to celebrate the story of Christ's coming in ways that build lasting connections – between churches, within our communities, and with the One whose birth we proclaim.



ORGANISING ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany offer a unique opportunity for Christians of many traditions to come together in prayer, celebration, and witness. The story we celebrate is one of light breaking into darkness, of hope shared for all people – and this is reflected most powerfully when we gather across our denominational and cultural boundaries.

When organising ecumenical activities or events during these seasons, it is natural to turn first to the churches and communities we have long-standing partnerships with. These trusted relationships are a gift, and they continue to form the foundation of shared Christian witness in our towns and villages.



At the same time, it is important to lift our eyes beyond the familiar. Many of our communities have seen the arrival and growth of newer Christian fellowships – including migrant churches, house churches, and congregations formed around particular languages, traditions, or worship styles. Extending a warm invitation to these communities enriches not only our celebrations but also our understanding of the breadth and vitality of the Body of Christ.

Good ecumenical planning begins with openness: openness to the Spirit, to one another, and to the wider Christian family in our neighbourhoods. When preparing for events, consider:

- Who is not yet represented at the planning table?
- Which new congregations or Christian groups have emerged in recent years?
- How can we build bridges of trust and hospitality with them?

By thinking inclusively and creatively, our Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany events can become more than gatherings of familiar friends. They can be signs of the Kingdom – diverse communities united in worship, sharing hope, and offering welcome together.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE: ORGANISING ECUMENICAL ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY ACTIVITIES

Meet the
ChurchesTogether
in Devon Team:



**Hannah Richards -
Independent
Churches
Representative and
Leadership Team City
Community Church
Exeter**

"My favourite advent tradition is the lighting of the advent crown each week. I love its rhythmic nature, slowing me down each week to fully embrace, process and live out God's details of the Christ child coming to earth; light piercing our darkness. It's such a visual reminder of the mystery and the warmth that Jesus offers us on so many levels."

1) Begin with prayer and purpose

- Gather 2–4 convenors from different traditions to pray and discern.
- Draft a one-line purpose (e.g., "To witness to Christ together by welcoming our whole local Christian family into Advent hope / Christmas joy / Epiphany light.")

2) Map the local Christian landscape (old and new)

- List the churches you already partner with.
- Add newer or lesser-known communities (migrant fellowships, language-specific congregations, house churches, student/chaplaincy groups).
- Ask: Who is missing? Who started meeting here in the last 3–5 years?
- Assign someone to make warm, personal invitations to those groups first.

3) Form a representative steering group

- Aim for small and diverse: 6–10 people including newer communities.
- Define roles as required for the specific joint activity, for example:
 - Coordinator (overall lead)
 - Worship & Liturgy Lead
 - Hospitality & Welcome Lead
 - Communications & Partnerships Lead
 - Safeguarding Lead
 - Logistics/Risk & Finance/Treasurer
- Agree decision-making (consensus where possible; simple majority if needed).

WHO AMONG US WILL CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS CORRECTLY? WHOEVER
FINALLY LAYS DOWN ALL POWER, ALL HONOR, ALL REPUTATION, ALL VANITY,
ALL ARROGANCE, ALL INDIVIDUALISM BESIDE THE MANGER; WHOEVER
REMAINS LOWLY AND LETS GOD ALONE BE HIGH; WHOEVER LOOKS AT THE
CHILD IN THE MANGER AND SEES THE GLORY OF GOD PRECISELY IN HIS
LOWLINESS.

**DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, GOD IS IN THE MANGER: REFLECTIONS ON
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

4) Set objectives & audience

- Name 2–3 measurable outcomes (e.g., “At least 8 congregations represented, including 3 newer communities”; “200 attendees; £300 for local charity”).
- Choose the audience focus: whole community, families, those grieving (“Blue Christmas”), commuters, etc.

5) Choose format(s) and date(s)

- Pick one or more: joint carol service, outdoor carols, nativity trail, crib blessing, community meal, Epiphany star procession/house-blessing, prayer vigil, service of remembrance.
- Check diaries of all represented churches; note differing calendars (e.g., some Orthodox communities celebrate Nativity/Epiphany on different dates).
- Avoid clashes with school events and civic festivals.

6) Venue(s) & permissions

- Consider rotating hosts or a neutral/community space to signal wide ownership.
- Confirm accessibility (step-free access, accessible WC, hearing loop).
- Arrange bookings, permits (for public spaces), insurance, noise/licensing if needed.
- Plan transport and parking; include clear signage.

Meet the Churches Together in Devon Team:

Rev Carl Smethurst - Churches Together in Devon Chair 2023-2025 and Regional Minister for the South West Baptist Association

“Over the years our church began several Christmas traditions, and one of my favourites was Get in the Picture. We ran a stand at the local school’s Christmas Fayre with nativity costumes and props, inviting families to dress up as Mary, Joseph, angels or shepherds and step into the Nativity. Photos were taken on their phones or professionally (with consent), and many families later shared them on social media or used them for Christmas cards. It was such a simple but powerful way of keeping Jesus at the centre of our town’s celebrations!

Find out more here:

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/248038/Get_in_the.aspx





7) Inclusion, access & language planning

- Provide large-print orders of service; consider BSL interpretation and a quiet space.
- Invite newer communities to contribute readings/prayers in their heart languages; provide simple translations in print or projected.
- Plan child-friendly and sensory-considerate elements where appropriate.
- Ensure hospitality respects dietary needs and cultural practices.

8) Worship & content design (co-created)

- Build around shared Scriptures and carols known across traditions.
- Share visible leadership: readers, intercessors, musicians from both long-standing and newer communities.
- Prepare a respectful, brief gospel reflection (avoid intra-tradition controversies).
- Manage copyright/licences (CCLI/OneLicense) and livestream permissions if applicable.
- Include a clear, jointly agreed invitation to future ecumenical life.

9) Community partnerships & witness

- Link with schools/choirs/brass bands; invite civic leaders.
- Choose a charitable focus (e.g., food bank, refugee support) and agree how offerings are collected and reported.

10) Budget, resources & eco-choices

- Draft a simple budget (venue/permits, print, tech hire, hospitality, accessibility, safeguarding, contingency).
- Agree a cost-sharing approach and a sign-off limit.
- Prefer reusable décor, low-waste hospitality, and public-transport info.

11) Safeguarding, risk & insurance

- Appoint a Safeguarding Lead; align on a shared event policy drawing from each church's policy.
- Complete a written risk assessment (capacity, fire, candles/open flames, trip hazards, weather plan, crowd management, first aid).
- Confirm DBS/children's ratios as required; designate first aiders; record incidents.
- Obtain host venue/public liability cover; document photography/filming consent.

12) Communications plan (co-branded, multilingual)

- Key messages: what, when, where; "All local Christian communities welcome"; include newer communities' logos where possible.
- Channels: church notices, WhatsApp groups, migrant-community networks, posters, social media, local press/council listings.
- Produce a simple invitation email/DM that names new congregations personally.
- Provide digital assets (square + A4 poster, slides, map link). Include language snippets where helpful.

13) Volunteers & training

- Roles: welcome/stewards, hospitality, tech, readers/interpreters, prayer team, child/youth team, offering counters, setup/teardown.
- Give brief written role cards and a 30-minute run-through (include safeguarding and inclusion notes).

14) Run sheet & rehearsal

- Create a minute-by-minute order with cues, mic list, reader names (and languages), processions, and contingencies (alt. hymn, rain plan).
- Conduct a full tech check; print spare scripts and large-print copies.

15) On-the-day hospitality & welcome

- Place diverse greeters at entrances; use multilingual "Welcome/Peace" signage.
- Celebrate visible diversity on the platform; acknowledge new partners by name.
- Provide clear instructions for participation, movement, and offering.
- Collect optional contact details with consent for future ecumenical updates.

16) Debrief, thanks & next steps

- Within 7–14 days, meet to review what went well/what to change.
- Thank every partner publicly (email/social) — especially newer congregations.
- Share attendance, funds raised, and photos (with consent) across all networks.
- Set a tentative date and host for the next shared event; keep the circle open

Not every step will be relevant to every event; this guide offers an overview from which you can select what best fits your context.

Meet the
Churches Together
in Devon Team:



**Janet Gray - URC
Southwestern Synod
Ecumenical Officer**

"One of my favourite traditions is to encourage people in the churches to have a "reverse Advent Calendar", either individually or as a church. The idea isn't new but is relevant to today. Instead of having something for each of the 24 days of Advent, you collect something and by Christmas you have 24 items. These are then sent on to the local Food Bank, food larder or other similar cause, the church can decide."

ADVENT

THE LIVING ADVENT

CALENDAR

What is it?

A Living Advent Calendar is a way of turning the days before Christmas into a journey shared by the whole community. Instead of opening a door on a paper calendar, people “open” their homes, front gardens, or community spaces.

Each evening in Advent (or on selected days), a different household, group, church or community organisation hosts a short gathering. The format is simple: light, song, reflection, and fellowship. It usually lasts no more than 20–30 minutes and often ends with hot drinks or small refreshments.



The heart of the idea is hospitality: neighbours meeting one another, celebrating the season, and creating warmth and anticipation and passing on an understanding of the true meaning of Advent to people we don't often see in church.

How to Organise One

1. Build the Calendar

- Choose the period (daily in Advent, or selected evenings).
- Create a schedule and invite households from your churches, schools, community groups, or churches to “adopt” one evening.

2. Give Clear Guidance

- Hosting should be simple and welcoming, not a performance.
- Suggest a short programme: lighting candles, a carol or two, a reading or prayer, followed by conversation.
- Provide song sheets, sample readings, or prayers if helpful.

3. Promote Widely

- Share the calendar in newsletters, on noticeboards, in local shops and schools, and online.
- Emphasise that everyone is welcome, regardless of church connection.

Meet the
ChurchesTogether
in Devon Team:



**Sabrina Gröschel -
Ecumenical Mission
Facilitator**

"My favourite Advent tradition comes from the church I attended as a student. On the first Sunday of Advent, each person was given a candle to pass on—a reminder that the light of Christ is not ours to keep but to share. This simple act shows that faith is meant for others, inviting us to bring hope, kindness, and God's love to those who need it."

4. Support and Encourage Hosts

- Check in with hosts beforehand.
- Encourage creativity: music, storytelling, art, or themed decorations.

5. Mark the Journey Together

- Consider beginning with a launch event (1 December) and closing with a larger gathering just before Christmas.

Why It Matters

- Reaching Beyond the Church
 - The gatherings happen in everyday places, not just in church buildings.
 - The low-threshold setting makes it easy for people to come, even if they are not used to church life.
 - It speaks through atmosphere—light, beauty, and community—often more powerfully than words alone.
 - It makes visible the message that church is part of neighbourhood life, not separate from it.
- The Value of Ecumenical Partnership
 - Advent and Christmas are shared across Christian traditions. Working together shows unity in Christ.
 - Collaboration widens participation and makes the event more representative of the whole community.
 - It sends a strong signal that churches care more about sharing hope than about denominational boundaries.

How to Host an Evening of the Living Advent Calendar

1. Prepare the Space

- Choose a visible spot: doorstep, garden, courtyard, community room, or outside space.
- Add some light: candles, lanterns, fairy lights.
- If outside, suggest guests bring coats, hats, and maybe a torch.

2. Welcome People

- Be ready to greet your neighbours warmly as they arrive.
- Keep the gathering informal and relaxed.

3. Begin Together (2–3 minutes)

- Light a candle or lantern.
- Say a few words of welcome.
- If you like, introduce the theme for your evening.



4. Share a Short Programme (10–15 minutes)

- A song or carol (provide words if possible).
- A short Bible verse, poem, or reflection.
- Optional: a short prayer or blessing.
- Keep it simple and short — it's about atmosphere and togetherness.

5. End with Fellowship (5–10 minutes)

- Offer hot drinks, biscuits, or something simple.
- Allow time for conversation before people leave.

6. Keep It Flexible

- You don't need to do more than you feel comfortable with.
- Be creative: children's stories, music, drama, or art are all welcome.

Top Tips

- Aim for 20–30 minutes total.
- Work with neighbours, friends, or groups to host together.
- Remember: this is not about a polished performance — it's about sharing light and community.

Meet the Churches Together in Devon Team:



The Venerable Verena Breed - Archdeacon of Barnstaple

"Having German roots, we hold German Christmas traditions alongside British customs. When I grew up, our Christmas tree was dressed on Christmas Eve, no earlier. We now have the compromise to dress the tree sometime between Advent 3 and 4. Our "children" receive presents from German family/ god-parents on Christmas Eve. Other presents are not opened until after church services on Christmas Day."

"THE DRAMA OF ADVENT ... INCLUDES A KING WHO SEEMS FAR AWAY ...
RETURNING TO ENACT JUSTICE AND RESTORE THE BROKEN."
FLEMING RUTLEDGE ON THE PROMISE AND PURPOSE OF ADVENT

ADVENT

FURTHER IDEAS

Community Advent Light Trail

- Collaboratively decorate outdoor spaces with lanterns, projections, and candles.
- Each light installation has a short Advent message (hope, peace, joy, love).
- Families can follow a map through town as a gentle, prayerful pilgrimage.

Advent Repair Café / Gift-Mending Station

- Instead of encouraging endless consumerism, churches host pop-ups where people can bring broken items (toys, clothes, small electronics) for volunteers to repair.
- Also includes wrapping stations for recycled/ethical gifts.
- Connects mission with sustainability and affordability.

Advent Carbon Fast Challenge

- Churches unite to encourage members and neighbours to "fast" from wasteful habits (plastic use, unnecessary lights, single-use items).
- Weekly themes (energy, food, travel, giving).
- Culminates in a community tree-planting or eco-pledge celebration near Christmas.

Community Advent Justice Walk

- Churches of different traditions partner to create an Advent pilgrimage through the town or city.
- Each stop highlights a local justice issue (homelessness, food insecurity, climate, migration, loneliness).
- Short prayers, readings, and symbolic acts are offered at each stop.
- Ends with hot drinks and space for conversation about concrete next steps.

Children's Advent Kindness Challenge

- Local churches distribute Advent cards with 24 daily kindness missions to schools and families.
- The back of each card lists all local churches' Christmas services, inviting families to join in.
- Children who complete the challenges receive a small prize and a special blessing at Christmas services.

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS IN A BAG

What is it?

Christmas in a Bag is a simple but powerful Advent and Christmas outreach. Small wooden or cardboard nativity sets, packed with a short reflection or prayer card, are given away in attractive bags in everyday places — on the street, in shops, at bus stops, in care homes, hospitals, or schools.

The gift is free and without conditions. It is a way of carrying the Christmas story out of church buildings and into daily life. By placing the nativity in a home, a hospital room, or even on a workplace desk, people are invited to pause, reflect, and rediscover the heart of Christmas: God coming close in Jesus.

This is not just a seasonal craft project. It is a missional activity because:

- It meets people where they are — in public spaces, not just in church.
- It offers a visible and tactile sign of hope to those who might never attend a service.
- It gently opens conversations about faith in a non-threatening, creative way.
- It embodies generosity and welcome: a free gift that carries deep meaning.

In short: Christmas in a Bag is a creative, visible expression of Christian hope. It brings church to the people, offers hospitality through a simple gift, and proclaims the Christmas message in a way that is inclusive, accessible, and ecumenical.





How It Works

1. Design or Source the Nativity Sets

- Depending on your budget, you can either:
 - Create simple wooden nativity sets with the help of local craftspeople or volunteers.
 - Use the template in this booklet to make low-cost cardboard nativities that are easy to cut out, fold, and decorate.
- Both options offer a visible sign of the Christmas story that can be placed in homes, workplaces, or care settings.

2. Prepare the Contents

- Along with the nativity set, include:
 - A short reflection or explanation of the nativity story.
 - A simple prayer that anyone can use.
 - A clear list of local Christmas services with times and locations, so recipients know how to join in if they wish.

3. Packaging

- Place the nativity and printed materials into simple but attractive bags or envelopes.
- Keep the presentation warm, welcoming, and easy to handle.

4. Distribution Locations

- Identify public, non-church settings such as hospitals, care homes, shops, train stations, or pharmacies.
- Make arrangements or ask permission where needed.

5. Invite Partners

- Work with local charities, schools, or community groups to help distribute the bags.
- This ensures the sets reach people who may be most encouraged by them.

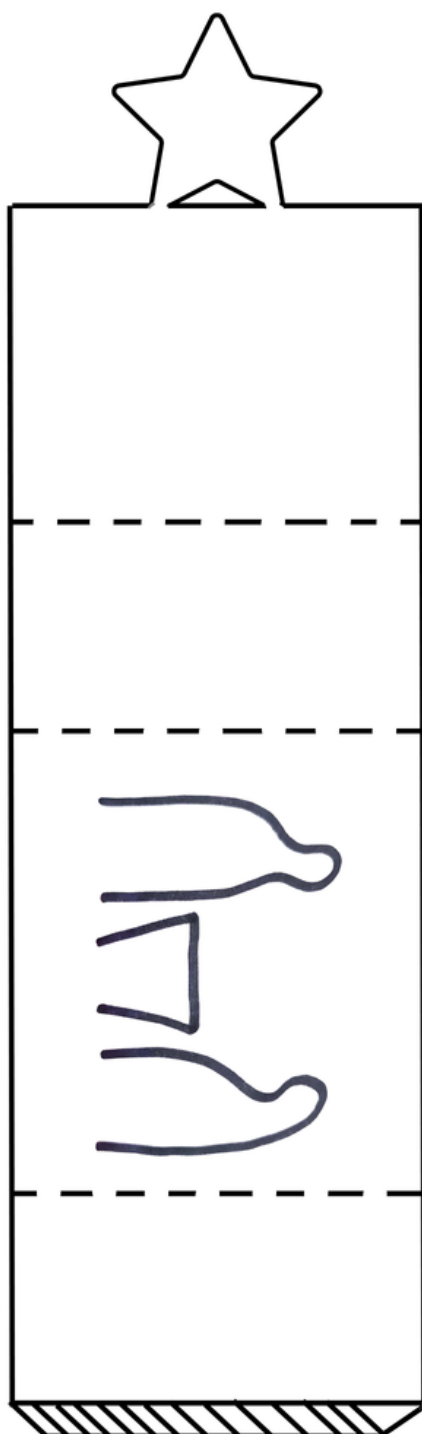


6. Publicity & Visibility

- Share in church newsletters, local papers, and online that these are free gifts available to all.
- Emphasise that they are offered with no strings attached.

7. Follow-Up & Reflection

- Invite recipients to place their nativity somewhere visible and use the prayer or reflection provided.
- After Christmas, gather volunteers to share stories of how the project was received and what impact it had.



Meet the
ChurchesTogether
in Devon Team:



**Mary Ann James -
Ecumenical
Representative for the
Roman Catholic Diocese
of Plymouth in Devon**

"My favourite Christmas church tradition is a Christmas crib featuring baby Jesus lying in a manger with Mary and Joseph close by. It is also good to see a cross above the crib and angels in attendance confirming the Lordship of baby Jesus. Often also it is nice to see sheep, a donkey, cattle in the background which speak of the earthly reality of the Christmas Nativity"

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS IN REAL TIME

What is it?

This is a simple shared project for Christmas: telling the gospel story in short, timely WhatsApp messages over several days allowing participants walk with Mary and Joseph, hear the angels' song, and join the shepherds at the manger — all in real time. . Each "drop" pairs Scripture with a striking image or 30–60-second voice note, written in everyday language and sent via broadcast (so people receive it privately). A small cross-church team curates the content and offers gentle, human replies to those who write back. The focus is the common biblical narrative we hold together across our traditions.



Why it's mission-focused

Mission means going to where people actually are. Today, that's on their phones. This approach places the good news in the middle of daily life—on the bus, in a break room, at the kitchen table—offering hospitality rather than pressure. It's invitational, not argumentative; relational, not transactional. Short messages create touchpoints for prayer, curiosity and conversation, and naturally signpost into local services, carols, children's events and pastoral support. It also equips church members to be witnesses: each message is easy to forward. The format is low-barrier and on-demand. People can opt in quietly, read at their own

pace and respond if they wish—helpful for the cautious, the lapsed, the sceptical and those who've felt unseen or unwelcome. It travels through friendship networks and family chats, crosses languages with minimal effort, and includes those who are housebound, working shifts or caring for others. Because it's grounded in Scripture and shared across denominations, it carries a credible, united invitation: come and see.

How it works

1. Form an Ecumenical Team

- Gather a team of volunteers from different denominations.
- Share responsibility for preparing messages, visuals, and recordings.
- Ensure different Christian voices are represented.

2. Set Up the WhatsApp Channel

- Create a WhatsApp Channel or broadcast list.
- Write a clear welcome message:
 - “This Christmas, you’ll receive messages in real time as the story unfolds.”
 - Explain how often messages will arrive (short, scattered through the day).
 - Explain how to unsubscribe at any time.

3. Build the Real-Time Timeline

Map the story to a chronological flow, so messages mirror the events of the Nativity:

- Early Advent (optional): Prophecies and announcements.
- December 23–24: Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.
- Christmas Eve, late afternoon/evening: Arrival in Bethlehem, no room at the inn.
- Christmas Eve, night: Birth of Jesus shared around midnight.
- Christmas Day, early morning: Angels announce the news to shepherds.
- Christmas Day, morning/afternoon: Shepherds visit the stable, messages of joy.
- Following days: Simeon and Anna, Magi’s journey (if extending into Epiphany).

4. Create Content for Each “Moment”

- Short text updates written as if happening “live”:
 - “Mary and Joseph have just arrived in Bethlehem. The town is full...”
 - “Tonight, a child is born!”
- Images or illustrations of the scene.
- Audio/video clips: short carols, prayers, or spoken messages from leaders.
- Ecumenical reflections: rotate voices so people hear from Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox, and Free Church, etc. perspectives.

Tip: Keep every message simple, brief, and immersive.





5. Promote the Experience

- Share widely online: “Walk through the Christmas story in real time on WhatsApp.”
- Invite personal sharing: encourage church members to forward the link to friends.
- Place QR codes in community spaces (shops, cafés, schools).
- Post a teaser message: “Something special is coming this Christmas — sign up to experience the Nativity as it happens.”

Step 6: Run the Real-Time Journey

- Send messages at the approximate times events might have happened. For example:
 - Morning, Dec 24: Mary and Joseph set out.
 - Evening, Dec 24: No room in the inn.
 - Night, Dec 24 (near midnight): Birth announcement.
 - Early morning, Dec 25: Angelic proclamation to shepherds.
 - Later morning: Shepherds arrive at the stable.
 - etc.
- Space messages so participants feel like they are “waiting” with the characters.

Step 7: Engage Participants

- Occasionally include prompts: “Where would you place yourself in this story tonight?”
- Allow replies (if manageable) and ensure moderators respond warmly.
- Celebrate ecumenical unity by sending Christmas greetings from leaders of different traditions on Christmas morning.

Step 8: Wrap Up and Look Forward

- On Christmas night or December 26, send a final thank-you message.
- Invite feedback: “What part of the journey touched you most?”
- Offer next steps: an Easter real-time journey, or information on local church services.

EPIPHANY

GIFT EXCHANGE FOR THE WORLD

What is it?

Drawing on the Magi bringing gifts to Christ, churches of different traditions come together to offer gifts outward into the community. The project emphasizes generosity, creativity, and shared mission.

How it works

1. Three Gifts, Three Needs

The ecumenical group discerns three pressing needs in the community (e.g. food insecurity, youth mentorship, refugee support). Each “gift” represents a coordinated missional response.

- Gold → Resource gift (fundraising or tangible goods, like food/clothing drives).
- Frankincense → Spiritual gift (creating spaces of prayer, blessing, and hope—e.g. prayer walks, chaplaincy drop-ins, or community vigils).
- Myrrh → Healing gift (supporting those who grieve, are ill, or are marginalized).

2. Epiphany Sunday Service of Sending

Churches gather together in one host church for a joint service. During the service each community presents one “gifts” symbolically (e.g., a chest of donated food, a prayer book, anointing oil for healing). Together, they bless these gifts as offerings for the world.

3. Public Visibility

To make it missional, each “gift” is delivered beyond the church walls. For example:

- Volunteers cook and deliver meals with donated food.
- A portable prayer tent or “Blessing Station” is set up downtown.
- Teams visit hospitals, shelters, or prisons with encouragement and support.

4. Gift Exchange Element

During the joint service each member of the congregation is also invited to bring their “gifts” (talents, time, donations, or even written prayers). These are gathered and displayed (e.g., stars hung in a public place, a digital wall of prayers).



EPIPHANY

FOLLOW THE STAR: CHILDREN'S TREASURE HUNT

What is it?

Children become the "junior Magi," following a trail of stars that leads them to different churches in the area. At each stop, they encounter a new piece of the Epiphany story and are invited to leave or receive a "gift" for Jesus and the world.

How it works

1. Star Trail

A map or set of clues guides the children (with parents/leaders) from church to church. Each church is decorated with a large star outside to mark the stop.

2. Story & Activity at Each Church

At every stop, children hear a short part of the Epiphany story and take part in a simple, hands-on activity:

- Stop 1 (Journey) – Hear about the Magi setting out. Children decorate small paper stars with their names.
- Stop 2 (The Star) – Learn about following the light. Each child receives a glow stick or mini lantern.
- Stop 3 (The Gifts) – Churches prepare little "gift stations" (food donations, prayer cards, or art supplies). Children place something small in a shared treasure chest for Jesus (e.g. a drawing, coin, or donated food item).
- Stop 4 (The King) – At the final church, children gather around a nativity scene or icon of Christ, place their treasure chest there, and receive a blessing.

3. Final Celebration

The pilgrimage ends with a short joint service or outdoor gathering where all the children (and families) come together. The treasure chest filled with their offerings is presented at the altar. A festive snack (star cookies, hot chocolate) can finish the event.





LET'S WORK
TOGETHER

Churches Together in Devon
www.ctdevon.org.uk