



DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY










CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

ADVENT PRAYER CALENDAR

The Advent Prayer Calendar is a compilation of 24 prayer ideas set out on individual A4 pages.

The idea is that each page is printed out, then folded in half creating 24 doors. You can choose to write the corresponding number on the front of the door or add your own design. The doors need to then be stuck onto a wall (cupboard, display board etc) and your young people (or grown-ups!) can then choose a door as they like and engage in any of the prayer activity ideas therein.

You will need a table nearby with a variety of 'blank craft' materials. We suggest that it includes:

-  play dough,
-  plain paper (coloured perhaps),
-  pens,
-  crayons,
-  a clock,
-  a lighted candle,
-  a newspaper
-  a piece of string tied from ceiling to floor (or so)
-  a basket of lengths of ribbons

This prayer activity is great as a quiet reflective time out alongside a youth event, or would work well set up in a small room during Advent, in a school or church or busy household.

Please allow people the space to interact with the activities in whatever way they'd like to but have some leaders around to help if needed.

We would love any comments or ideas to add to the Advent Prayer Calendar.

Murray Wilkinson & Tim Jones
ADVENT 2012

*Ideas from Murray & Tim for the Journey
inspired from a variety of sources*

'FATHER' CHRISTMAS

*draw a rough sketch/
doodle/picture of Father
Christmas...*

how do you picture God?
Take a moment to think
about how that image of
God affects what you
expect from God.

DAILY PRAYER

Set a reminder on your phone for a convenient time tomorrow when you will likely have 15seconds to say a silent short prayer:

"God is with us. God is with me. Amen".

When you've done that tomorrow set it again for the next day and so on.

INFANT MAJESTY

Read this passage of Psalm 8 as slowly as you can. Imagine God's majesty as a small baby....

¹ O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ... ³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; ⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? ⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. ⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ⁹ O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

FRUSTRATED? EXCITED?

Have you ever been left waiting for something important or exciting?

Did your impatience become frustration before it arrived, ruining the arrival? Advent is about waiting, but it is supposed to be a relaxed, excitement building sort of waiting.

Stand still for a moment and picture your favourite Christmas moment.

Excited yet?

GOD?

Take a ribbon from the basket and tie it onto the string to represent how far/near you feel you are from God.

Say a silent prayer of expectation:

"God, I long to see something of you this Christmas time".

ARE YOU READY?

Think about your home. How much preparation goes into the Christmas decorations (whatever that might mean in your family). We are challenged in Advent to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas in the same way that our homes are prepared for decorations.

"Lord God, help me to get ready for Christmas by seeing more of you in the world around me"



ARE YOU READY?

Draw an outline of your hand:
think about what that hand
does from day to day.

Write in the outline one thing
that you could do for
someone else during Advent

SMALL ACT OF LOVE

We all have 'up and down' moments with the people in our families. Chances are you are feeling a little down about someone in your family. Is there something small that you could do this week(end) to let them know that they are a part of your family regardless of those 'ups and downs'?

FINGERPRINTS

Take a small ball of PlayDough.
*Press your thumb into the ball
and pull it gently out again.*
Look at the imprint of your
thumb. The lines and swirls of
your fingerprint are unique. You
are unique. Your presence is
important for those around you...

*you bring something unique
and important wherever you go.*
Amen.

@NATWIVITY

Twitter users:
follow the Christmas story
in daily instalments on
@natwivity as a lead up
to Christmas



IN THE NEWS

Scan through the newspaper and choose one story at random. Pray for the people in that story. Regardless of whether you like/dislike them...

“God is with us” (Immanuel) applies to *all* of us!

CANDLES...

Look at one of the lit candles... we use them for atmosphere and mood but *most of the world use candles to see their family members after dark. Read this prayer silently or say your own.* "Lord God, I pray for all those who have so much less than we do. I pray that they might know your Presence, with its' hope, peace and joy this Christmas."

TIME WAITS FOR NO-ONE

Look at the clock and watch a minute go round. Take a moment to reflect on this question:
what are you waiting for.

WISEGUYS...

Like the Shepherds and
the Magi bringing gifts.

*Write down a list of 3
things you could give to
God this Christmas*

THEN AND NOW

Think about the first Christmas and compare it to your own. How central is Jesus to what you do at Christmas. Plan how you can make your focus more on Jesus this Christmas

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Think about someone
you know who doesn't
know Jesus.

Pray for them now that
this Christmas would be
different for them.

MYJOURNEY

If you feel like the magi
being called to go on a
journey but you don't know
where it will lead you, spend
some time listening to where
God may be calling you.
*If you feel you know where
God may be calling you
give thanks!!*

HARK...

Draw a picture of the angels
telling the shepherds of
Jesus' birth.

Write around it what you
would say to an Angel.

*How would you have told
the shepherds?*

AWAY IN THE PLAY DOUGH

Make a manger out of modelling clay.

Pray for someone who doesn't have a bed to sleep in this Christmas

GOING HOME...

Joseph had to go to his home town.

Think about your own journey home tonight.
What could you share with people about what you've done/heard tonight

WHATS IN YOUR BACKPACK?

Think about the donkey
that carried Mary.

How much stuff do you
carry on your shoulders
around with you.

Write down on a piece of
paper something you
need God to help you
carry.

TELLING THE STORY...

Pray for someone you don't know (either out loud or not) that they may make room this Christmas for sharing the story of their journey with God with their friends

FOLLOW THE STAR...

Make a star out of playdough, after you've made it, think about the things that you follow or guide you.

Pray that you try to see where God is guiding you in all those things.

CHRISTMAS WITH A DIFFERENCE

READ PSALM 150 (BELOW)

DOES YOUR CHRISTMAS LOOK LIKE THIS?

COULD IT?

Hallelujah!

*Praise God in his holy house of worship,
praise him under the open skies;*

*Praise him for his acts of power,
praise him for his magnificent greatness;*

*Praise with a blast on the trumpet,
praise by strumming soft strings;*

*Praise him with castanets and dance,
praise him with banjo and flute;*

*Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum,
praise him with fiddles and mandolin.*

Let every living, breathing creature praise God!

Hallelujah!