

Additional Ideas from Learning Lunch for Advent-to-Candlemas

★ Ideas around Advent “Waiting”

- The book *The Stature of Waiting* by W H Vanstone is grounded in the Passion narrative but has general things to say about waiting that could be used during Advent. [A summary of the book can be found here.](#)
- Theme of “The Waiting Room” across the 4 weeks of Advent to explore the different emotions that we experience whilst sitting in waiting rooms (e.g. anxiety, excitement, frustration, boredom) and use it to help us think about waiting well and active waiting.

★ With children/schools

- [Bubblegum ‘n’ Fluff](#) is designed to be used with children in P6 (c.10yrs). A copy of the resource is in the Diocese Office.
- [Christmas in a Box](#) is a resource from Bristol Schools Connection that could be used in a range of environments.

★ Giving at Christmas

- Check if local foodbanks, etc, are wanting anything special ahead of Christmas Day.
- Link in with local schools, residential homes, groups, etc, about supporting gift-giving in their context.
- [Edinburgh City Mission](#) work with churches to provide Christmas ‘hampers’ to New Scots.

★ Use of Christmas Trees

- Use a bare tree throughout Advent, adding items linked with Advent to the tree each week (perhaps Jesse symbols, perhaps something else).
- On Advent 4 have a tree with lights off up during the service. At the end, switch on the lights, linking with John 1, then invite congregation to stay back and decorate the tree with you.
- Keep the tree after Epiphany to turn into a cross for Easter.

★ Ideas for Christmas services

- Can anyone sing *Silent Night* in German? Link with a football being played with / passed around congregation.
- Talk congregation through the cutting out of snowflakes from white squares. Invite them to write prayers (or a “thank you” and a “please remember”) on them, and place under the tree.
- Think about the 12 Days of Christmas: are they a secret code for Roman Catholics or not?! [More information here.](#)

★ Christingle

- Wait and do a Christingle service at Epiphany or Candlemas.