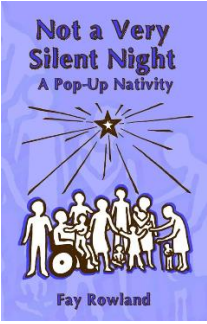
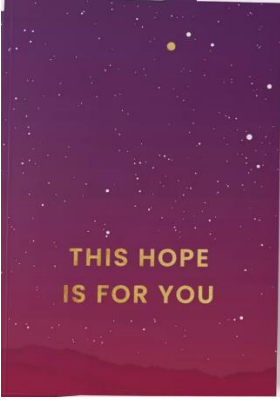

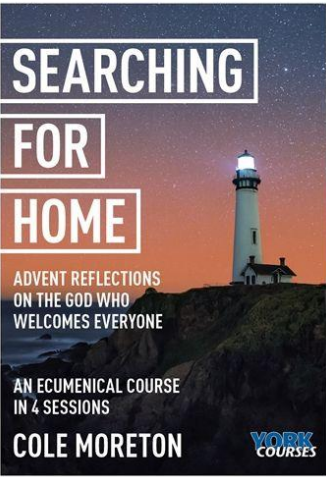








## Advent and Christmas Resources: New for 2023

(Last updated 27<sup>th</sup> October)

	<p><b><i>Not a Very Silent Night: A Pop-Up Nativity</i></b> By Fay Rowland</p> <p><a href="#">One place to purchase</a></p>	<p>This tells the traditional story of the birth of Jesus to the tune of The Twelve Days of Christmas. The book includes two versions of the script. The first is a staged Nativity with all the parts played by children. The second is an instant, pop-up Nativity where all the parts are played by the audience.</p>
	<p><b><i>This Hope is For You</i></b> By Scottish Bible Society</p> <p><a href="#">Available to purchase here</a></p>	<p>Help your church community pause and reflect on the Christmas story this Advent with a brand new A5 printed booklet with 20 readings and reflections from the gospel of Luke.</p> <p>Each reflection considers the real hope that came when Jesus was born, and how this hope came for everyone, no matter how hopeless life may feel for them.</p>
	<p><b><i>Advent and Christmas Church Resources</i></b> By Scottish Bible Society</p> <p><a href="#">Available to download here</a></p>	<p>Set of resources based on Luke for each of the four Sundays of Advent and the first Sunday after Christmas. Each has a different Advent theme – Hope, Peace, Joy, Love.</p> <p>The first three weeks provide you with an all-age section to include in your Sunday service and two separate programmes for your children’s group and your youth group.</p> <p>For the final Sunday in Advent is a complete intergenerational service, which can work as a pop-up nativity, or be organised with a bit more preparation. There is also an intergenerational service for Christmas One.</p>
	<p><b><i>Searching for Home: Advent reflections on the God who welcomes everyone</i></b> By Cole Moreton</p> <p><a href="#">One place to purchase</a></p>	<p>An ecumenical course in 4 sessions.</p> <p>Mary and Joseph's search for a place to give birth to the son of God, and their terrifying flight to Egypt to escape the murderous intentions of King Herod, have clear echoes in the accounts Cole offers of contemporary journeys. And through his captivating exploration of Leaving Home, Fleeing Home, Carrying Home and Finding Home, we are enabled to reflect on our own need for guidance, sanctuary and comfort in the love of God, whoever walks beside us.</p>

	<p>Range of resources from Christian Aid</p> <p><a href="#">Available to download here.</a>  <a href="#">And here</a> (in due course).</p>	<p>A range of resources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nakshi Kantha Star Craft Activity</li> <li>• All-Age Talk 'The Star and the Spotlight'</li> <li>• Alternative Nativity, 'What-if-ity'</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Did It Really Happen?</b>  By Scottish Bible Society</p> <p><a href="#">Download for free here.</a></p>	<p>This is a pickup and use nativity play suitable for older primary classes to perform by themselves or alongside a younger class.</p> <p>By asking the question "Did it really happen?" this nativity play provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links to technological developments that children have to navigate in their daily lives</li> <li>• Opportunities for deeper thinking and learning about the biblical story of Jesus' birth</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Festive Fred Finds the Greatest Gift</b>  (Bible Society)</p> <p><a href="#">See 2023 resources here.</a></p>	<p>Journey with Fred as he snoozes off in his bedroom and wakes up in the middle of the very first Christmas! Booklet for primary aged children, available for purchase at £3. Pop-Up Nativity, and Video of story are free to order.</p>
	<p><b>It's Nearly Time! A Christmas Rhyme</b>  (Bible Society)</p> <p><a href="#">See 2023 resources here.</a></p>	<p>Sing the story to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, count the stars, find the animals and make their sounds in this delightful interactive Christmas booklet for toddlers. Available to purchase for £3. Crafts and Activities are free to order.</p>
	<p><b>Family Advent Box 2023</b>  (Bible Society)</p> <p><a href="#">Available to purchase here.</a></p>	<p>Each box contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scratch-off poster with daily Bible readings</li> <li>• Conversation cards</li> <li>• Prayer triangles and string</li> <li>• <i>Festive Fred Finds the Greatest Gift</i> booklet</li> <li>• Activity card</li> </ul>
	<p>Eight new designs for Advent 2023.</p> <p><a href="#">Find and download here.</a></p>	<p>Praying in Color is the intersection of prayer and doodling. It is a visual, active, meditative, and playful way to pray.</p>



***Illuminating Christmas***  
Robin Hill and Katie Hill  
(Longniddry Parish Church)

[Available to download.](#)

The aim of this set of seasonal materials is to give hard-pressed ministers, elders and study group leaders a range of resources to help them through the marvellous (if outrageously busy) month of December.

Materials can be used in at least three different ways:

- A set of four Bible studies covering key topics for the weeks of Advent.
- A preaching resource for a hectic December.
- Starters for midweek presentations, whether in church or school, or at events.



***Follow the Star Advent Calendar***

By Clare Williams and Charlotte Cooke

[One place to purchase.](#)

This Follow The Star Advent Calendar is a fun and educational way for children and their families to mark Advent and celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Featuring a fold-out, stand up crib scene, stickers for every day of Advent and a rhyming Nativity story sheet, it tells the story of how – and why – Jesus came to be born in Bethlehem.

Free accompanying daily activities are also available from the Church of England available via [\*\*cofe.io/AdventCalendar\*\*](http://cofe.io/AdventCalendar).



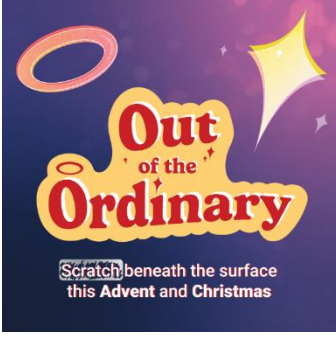

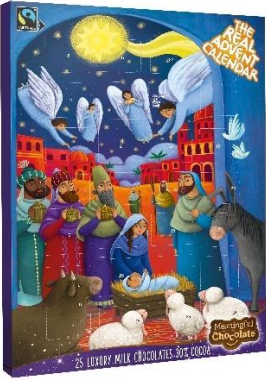
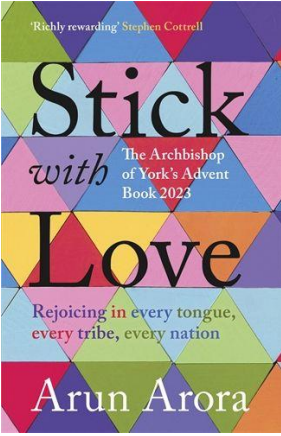
***Follow the Star Join the Song: 12 Days of Reflections for Christmas and the New Year***

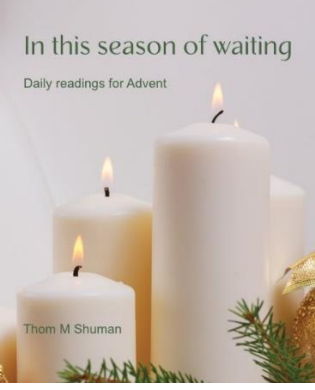
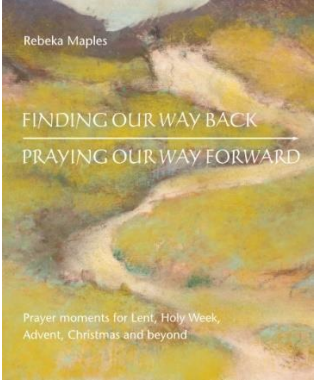
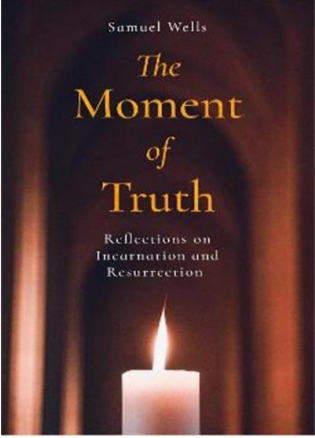
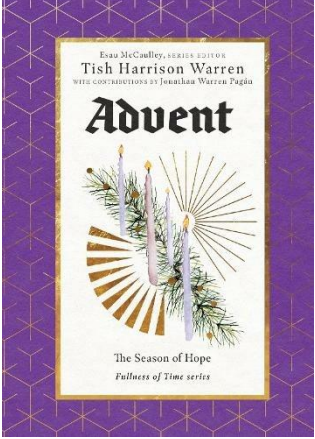
By Richard Carter

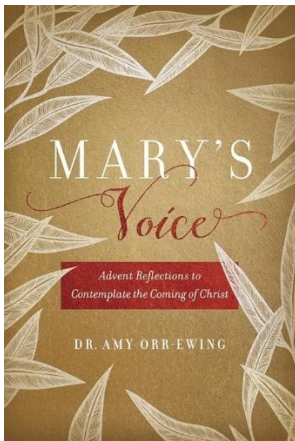
[One place to purchase.](#)

Designed to be given away at Christmas services and events. Richard Carter invites you to hear and respond to the angels' invitation to gather in the presence of the newborn Jesus.

For each day from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January), he offers a short reading from the Bible, a reflection challenging you to see the Christmas story afresh, an invitation to wonder what this Christmas means in your own life, and a prayer to help you treasure this story in your heart.

	<p>Advent and Christmas (worship) resources from the Methodist Church.</p> <p><a href="#">PDF available here.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Overview online here.</a></p>	<p>Out of our ordinary acts, in our ordinary lives, the world-transforming, extraordinary love of God can shine through. Share how the wonder of God’s love is revealed in the ordinary...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a seemingly ordinary birth becomes God’s out of the ordinary world-saving event through Jesus.</li> <li>• every day, ordinary acts of kindness can breakthrough to the extraordinary.</li> </ul>
	<p>Advent and Christmas (worship) resources from the Salvation Army.</p> <p><a href="#">Available to download here.</a></p>	<p>This year's Advent and Christmas resources for Sunday worship will use the lyrics of ‘God rest you merry, gentlemen’ (Christmas Collection 33) as a basis. The desire is that they come to life in light of the Bible and find relevance for today. Teaching starters and prayer and creative worship ideas are available alongside a PowerPoint template and logos.</p>
	<p><b>Real Advent Calendar 2023</b> The Meaningful Chocolate Company</p> <p><a href="#">More information here.</a></p>	<p>The 2023 Real Advent Calendar is a fun way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. The 2023 calendar has a new design. There is a Fairtrade Chocolate and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows. The free book has a page for every day of Advent, expanding on the Christmas story and includes some fun challenges.</p>
	<p><b>Stick with Love: Rejoicing in Every Tongue, Every Tribe, Every Nation</b> The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2023 by Arun Arora.</p> <p><a href="#">One place to purchase.</a></p> <p><i>*Also available at Cornerstone, Edinburgh.*</i></p>	<p>Martin Luther King famously declared that 'I have decided to stick with love... Hate is too great a burden to bear'. In these luminous daily readings, Arun Arora helps us consider the biblical picture of the Church as the people of God, drawn from every tribe, every tongue and every nation.</p> <p>Themes of racial justice, hospitality and welcome are explored alongside the stories of saints from across the globe. Beginning with reflections from Isaiah and Revelation, the meditations lead us on to consider the missionaries, martyrs and mystics who light our Advent way.</p>

	<p><b><i>In This Season of Waiting: Daily readings for Advent</i></b> By Thom M Shuman</p> <p><a href="#">One place to purchase.</a></p> <p><i>*Also available at Cornerstone, Edinburgh.*</i></p>	<p>Thom's voice is like no one else's. There's a vulnerability, gentleness and childlike wonder in his writing that folk deeply connect with, and that well fits the Advent and Christmas season.</p> <p>In This Season of Waiting contains scripture readings, Thom's poetic reflections, and candle-lighting prayers for Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.</p>
	<p><b><i>Finding Our Way Back, Praying Our Way Forward: Prayer moments for Lent, Holy Week, Advent, Christmas and beyond</i></b> By Rebeka Maples</p> <p><a href="#">One place to purchase.</a></p> <p><i>*Also available at Cornerstone, Edinburgh.*</i></p>	<p>Inspiration for each day of Lent, Holy Week, Advent, Christmas and beyond, including short passages from scripture, reflective poems, suggestions for meditation or action, and short prayers.</p> <p>The author's hope is that you will find an echo of your own story in the ancient text, prompting you to ask questions of the Mystery of God and sink into a space of prayer and meditation. As you feel the breath of new life, may you re-emerge from these sacred moments into the world with a sense of optimism.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Moment of Truth: Reflections on Incarnation and Resurrection</i></b> By Samuel Wells</p> <p><a href="#">One place to purchase.</a></p>	<p>Christmas and Easter, Advent and Lent, each focus on the central beliefs of Christian faith - that in the Incarnation, God comes among us, and that in the Resurrection, death is defeated and creation is renewed. This collection of seasonal reflections, unpacks the substance of these key Christian doctrines, and their practical implications.</p> <p>An ideal resource for leading seasonal services or preaching at key festivals, this collection will keep giving from Advent Sunday to Easter Day.</p>
	<p><b><i>Advent: The Season of Hope</i></b> By Tish Harrison Warren</p> <p><a href="#">One place to purchase.</a></p>	<p>Throughout its history, the church has observed Advent as a preparation not only for the first coming of Christ in his incarnation but also for his second coming at the last day. It's also about a third coming: the coming of Christ to meet us in our present moment, to make us holy by his Word and Sacrament.</p> <p>This short volume explores all three of these "comings" of Christ and invites us into a deeper experience of the first season of the Christian year.</p>



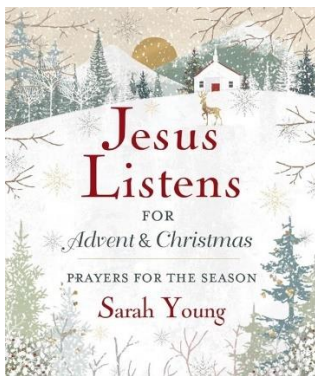
***Mary's Voice: Advent Reflections to Contemplate the Coming of Christ***

By Amy Orr-Ewing

[One place to purchase.](#)

At Christmastime we remember that an ordinary, young, poor, oppressed woman was chosen to play a significant and breakthrough role in the redemption of the world. It is no mistake that a woman gets to be a part of all this, and that her voice, her questions, her fears, and her actions matter.

Mary's faith and her wisdom form an astonishing aspect of the story of how God became a person for the love of this world. And in our weary world that is waiting and longing for light, meaning, peace, and love, we can do as Mary did when she "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."



***Jesus Listens For Advent and Christmas: Prayers for the Season***

By Sarah Young

[One place to purchase.](#)

This devotional collection of prayers and reflections from Sarah Young's bestselling Jesus Listens and Jesus Calling prepares your spirit for the Savior's coming, helps you spend the days of Advent and Christmas with intentionality, and carries you into the New Year with your heart and mind fixed on Jesus. This inspirational holiday devotional also includes Scripture verses, and words of hope from God's heart to yours.

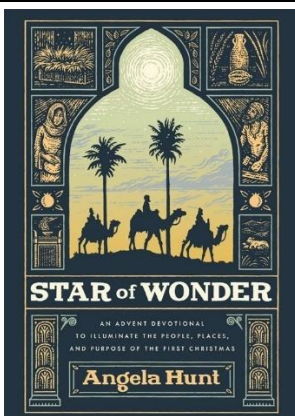


***The Gifts of Christmas: 25 Joy-Filled Devotions for Advent***

By Sheila Walsh

[One place to purchase.](#)

If you've been feeling overwhelmed and exhausted by what Christmas has become, this beautiful Advent devotional will refresh your faith, reactivate your wonder, and restore your joy. With stories of simple Christmases past, inspiration from Scripture, and pearls of wisdom from beloved author Sheila Walsh, The Gifts of Christmas offers you grace, peace, hope, and a sense of expectation for what truly can be the most wonderful time of the year.

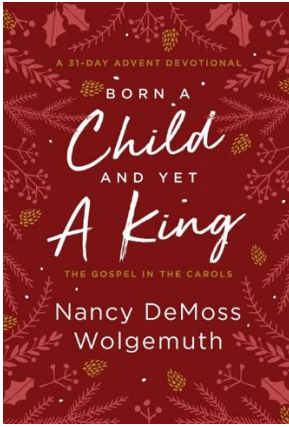


***Star of Wonder: An Advent Devotional to Illuminate the People, Places, and Purpose of the First Christmas***

By Angela Hunt

[One place to purchase.](#)

Weaving beautiful storytelling with forgotten and overlooked biblical truth, bestselling author Angela Hunt takes your family on a visceral journey to learn more about the places, people, prophecies, and purpose of Christmas. Each of the 25 devotions includes Scripture, insights, historical facts, personal application, and family activities.

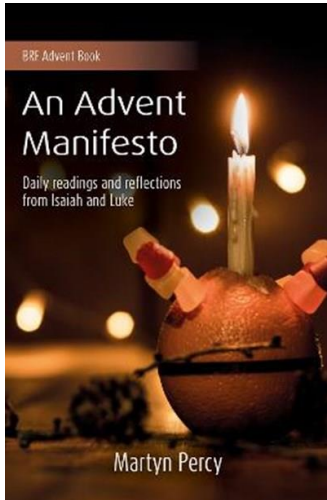


***Born a Child and Yet a King  
The Gospel in the Carols:  
An Advent Devotional***

By Nancy DeMoss  
Wolgemuth

[One place to purchase.](#)

Rediscover your favourite Christmas hymns this Advent season with Born a Child and Yet a King, an Advent devotional from Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. Spend thirty-one days tracing the gospel through your favourite carols and discover anew the awe of this season. Each day's reading will help guide your prayers, thoughts, and priorities so you may enjoy a deeper intimacy with Jesus Christ in the days leading up to and immediately following Christmas.

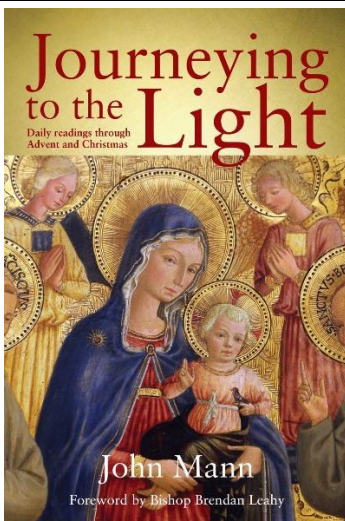


***Advent Manifesto: Daily  
readings and reflections  
from Isaiah and Luke***

By Martyn Percy

[One place to purchase](#)

The message of the kingdom of God: an ecology of equality and peace, and an economy of justice. Hope from beyond, sent to the present, is what Advent asks us to reckon with. Hope consists of God's jump leads sent from the future through time and space, wired right into our present pains, panics, and predicaments. How can the light of Christ illuminate this present darkness? This book engages with the Magnificat and Benedictus. It is also rooted in poets, prophets and the theology and devotional writing of Howard Thurman. Using the lectio divina approach to passages drawn from Isaiah and Luke, this is an invitation to pray and practise that most ancient Advent prayer, 'Come, Lord Jesus, come.'



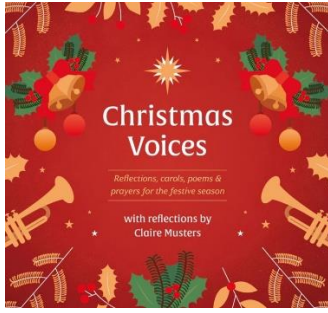
***Journeying to the Light:  
Daily readings through  
Advent and Christmas***

By John Mann

[One place to purchase](#)

Daily readings from Advent Sunday to Epiphany, based largely upon one of the Eucharistic readings (RCL) each day. There are variations, and it can be adapted to be used whatever the length of Advent, and for individual or group use.

The author weaves contemporary trends with biblical themes and with events of his own life. It has at its heart the Incarnation; anticipated by the prophets; joyfully experienced through the words of Luke, and proclaimed to the nations through the visit of the Magi, as recorded by Matthew.

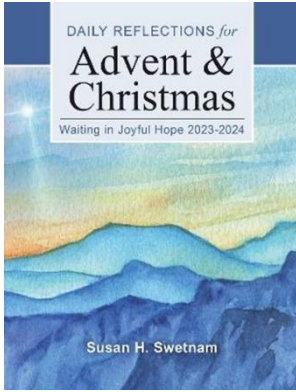


***Christmas Voices***

By Claire Musters

[One place to purchase.](#)

25 short reflective pieces for the Christmas season written by Claire Musters, travelling through promise and preparation to joy, peace and finally love. Along the way we encounter a choir of diverse voices sharing their favourite carols, poems and prayers, illustrated throughout with original colour artwork.



***Waiting in Joyful Hope:  
Daily Reflections for  
Advent and Christmas  
2023-2024***

By Susan H. Swetnam

During the especially busy Advent and Christmas seasons, this book offers brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life in a thought-provoking and lasting way. Through these reflections on lectionary readings from weekday and Sunday Masses, readers will grow in their understanding of the word of God.