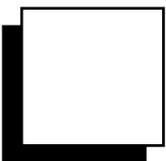


## Advent 3

Choose your worship activities for families from the list below.



Watch the film 'Treasures of the Snow' ([https://youtu.be/Nh9MLuBlh\\_k](https://youtu.be/Nh9MLuBlh_k)) or read the book by Patricia St. John (. Set in Switzerland this story of Annett, Lucien and Dani has caught the imagination of countless children. Patricia St John's classic story of love and forgiveness is as fresh now as when it was first published in 1950. (book is aimed at children age 8-15 but younger children might enjoy the film or the book could be read as a family.



Make Paper Strip Angels to hang on your Christmas tree.  
On a sheet of cardboard draw out the following areas using a pencil and ruler.

Wings x 2 - 2cm x 15cm  
Head 2cm x 10cm  
Top of the body - 2cm x 20cm  
Bottom of body - 2cm x 8cm.

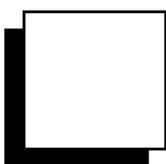


Wings- place glue on one 2cm end and stick the other end on top of it to form teardrop shape.

Head - place glue on one 2cm and stick to the other end to form a circle.

Body - take long strip and form into arch shape, place glue on ends of the arc, stick short piece onto the glued ends to form a bell shape.

Attach head and wings to body at appropriate points with glue and secure with paper clips until glue has dried. Add loop of twine or ribbon so that angel can hang on Christmas tree.



Bake and decorate some winged angel cakes.

100g (4oz) caster sugar  
100g (4oz) butter, softened  
2 large eggs  
100g (4oz) self-raising flour  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp baking powder  
15ml (1tbsp) milk  
50g (2oz) butter, softened  
75g (3oz) icing sugar  
2tbsp strawberry jam  
Icing sugar, for dusting



- Preheat the oven to 190C, gas 5.
- Line a muffin tray with 10 paper muffin cases.

- Place the sugar, butter, eggs, flour, baking powder and milk in a large bowl and mix with an electric whisk until pale and creamy.
- Divide the mixture between the muffin cases and bake for 15-20 mins until risen, golden and firm to the touch. Transfer to a cooling rack. Leave to cool.
- To make the buttercream, place the butter in a bowl and sift over the icing sugar. Beat until smooth.
- Slice the tops off each cake and fill the cavities with a little buttercream and jam. Cut each sliced top in half and arrange on top of the filling to resemble butterfly wings. Dust lightly with icing sugar.

Decorate with silver dust or small marshmallows

## Advent 3

### Read the Christmas Story

And the crowds asked him 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise (Luke 3.10-11).

All the activities of the Christmas period can be a wonderful expression of the deep connection, love and celebration we share with others. But at times, many of us also find the expectations of lavish spending and overindulgence to be distractions and burdens.

### Do

As an antidote to seasonal excess, write an alternative 'wish list' of things you would like to do, or contribute towards, to respond to Christ's presence in the world. You could do this individually and then share your lists with each other. Or together you could create a family list. This could form the basis for New Year resolutions.

Alternatively - or in addition - if you buy gifts, could you consider the alternative gift ranges offered by many charities?

If you cook, could you contribute to a Christmas meal for the lonely or homeless in your community? If you attend school or community events can you invite elderly, isolated or lonely neighbours to join you, go carol singing and instead of collecting money, give out chocolate Christmas greeting to those you visit?



### Reflect

How can you can support each other in realising together the aspirations expressed in your list(s)?

### Pray

Lord God,  
when the pressures of the season lead us away from you,  
guide our thoughts and actions back to the simple manger  
and the gift of life and hope for all people.  
Amen.

Speak with Relatives/friends by phone/zoom/text and pray for them.

### Fun

Have fun being together

