



## Advent One – Getting Ready



Hello to you from St Mary's church! Welcome back to those who joined us for our sessions earlier in the year, when we made treasure boxes and bunting...remember those? And welcome to those joining in for the first time.

In the church, we are in a season called Advent. This means 'coming' because in Advent we are getting ready for the 'coming' of the baby Jesus in the Christmas story.

I wonder how you get ready for Christmas in your family? You might put up a Christmas tree and twinkly lights. There are presents to buy and wrap up. Maybe you make cakes and biscuits. Some people have an Advent calendar or even a special Advent candle, to count down the days to Christmas Day. It's so exciting!!!

Christmas is a really big festival in the church too. It reminds Christians that Jesus, God's Son, came down to earth, born as a baby in a manger. Jesus shows us all what God is like and helps us live our lives in the right way. Because Christmas is so important, the church decided that we need a time to get ready for it – called Advent.



Just like you have things you do in your family to get ready for Christmas, there are things that the church family do too. If you come into church in Advent, you might notice that the cloths on the altar table and on the pulpit are purple.

Purple is the colour of 'getting ready' in the church. It is also a royal colour, the colour of Kings and Queens. I wonder if you have anything purple in your house that you can wear and pretend to be a King or Queen!

Purple reminds us that Jesus came to be a King, but not the kind of King people were expecting. He didn't have a palace; he was born in a stable.

While we wait for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, the Bible tells us to get ready, so how can we be prepared? We can be loving God and loving each other, being kind and sharing what we have.

Instead of an Advent calendar to count down to Christmas, in church we have an Advent wreath. There are five candles on the wreath, one for each of the four Sundays in Advent, plus a special one in the middle for Christmas Day.



Today, the first Sunday in Advent, we light the first candle on the wreath. This candle stands for hope, because God's people in the Bible were waiting in hope for their new King.

I wonder what kind of things you hope for this Advent...?

## Advent Activity – Make an Advent Wreath

There are many different ways to make an Advent wreath. Here are a few for you to try:



**Advent Prayer** Here is a prayer you can say when you light the first candle on your wreath:

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem,  
born like him to be a king:  
be born in our hearts at Christmas,  
be King of our lives today.  
Amen.

