

### Simple Ways to Use Christmas Resources for Community Connection

As soon as schools return in September, shops start preparing for Christmas... you know when the sweet tubs appear on supermarket shelves, that the mince pies won't be far behind! For churches, Christmas is the single biggest mission opportunity in the annual calendar, as even those who don't attend regularly may willingly join carol services or nativity plays. So how can we make the most of this opportunity without being buried under the weight of endless lists...or tinsel?

Here at Hope Together we've cracked Christmas for you! Browse our Christmas shop for resources that can be picked and mixed to suit your context.

#### Connecting

#### Hope Christmas Magazine

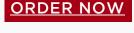
Inviting people to Christmas outreach events is easier if you're already connected, and our Hope Christmas Magazine helps facilitate this. Featuring celebrities like the Brit award winning artist Raye, Anne Hegerty from 'The Chase', and Olympic swimmer Adam Peaty, along with inspiring real-life stories, the magazine serves as a conversation starter and a tool for sharing hope for all. Churches often use this magazine as their parish magazine during Christmas, distributing it to every home with an invitation to their festive events.

#### Countdown to Christmas Hope

Our Advent booklet, 'Countdown to Christmas Hope,' serves as a follow-up to the Christmas magazine. It offers an interactive daily journey through stories, crafts, puzzles, and reflections during Advent, exploring questions about hope beyond Christmas, through Jesus. Countdown to Christmas Hope is a great tool for sharing with friends, via our Facebook group, but local WhatsApp groups are even more effective for connection and conversation.

Finally, what better way to connect with people at Christmas than to send them a Christmas card. Despite our digital age, many still enjoy receiving cards. This year Hope have not one but TWO Christmas Cards for you to choose from...







ORDER NOW



# LEGO Christmas Cards

These Christmas cards, available in packs of 5, are ideal for families, children, and toddler groups. Each card features a different character from the Christmas story and, when combined, they tell the whole story. The cards include a QR code that links to more information and a Lego Christmas film!

# Gift of Christmas Cards

These cards, featuring images from our gift book 'The Gift of Christmas', are perfect for sharing with family, friends, or even the whole community!



### Inviting

Once you've established a connection with people, with faith being part of everyday conversations, the next step is knowing what to invite them to this Christmas. If you need resources for church community events, outreach carol services, or children's activities, then look no further!

## The Gift of Christmas

The Gift of Christmas is a beautifully designed book that explores the origin of many Christmas traditions, along with stunning, contemporary artwork. There's even a free downloadable resource with guidance on using the book for Christmas events, along with activity ideas for schools and intergenerational groups. To get the most from this little book, download the below guides and slides to use GOC in your service and small groups.

<u>Gift of Christmas Service/Schools Plan Slides Download</u> <u>Gift of Christmas Pictures for Activities Download</u>





# LEGO Christmas Story Trail

For families, check out The LEGO Christmas Story Trail a series of posters connected to our Christmas cards, which together tell the Christmas story. Each poster not only has a QR link to a video that features a character sharing their part of the very first Christmas... but the picture on the poster comes to life too! This resource is perfect for Christmas community events, all-age services, or Christmas Messy Church sessions. For additional ideas on using this resource, we have a helpful guide available <u>here</u>.

## Jesus to the Rescue

For very young children, we offer 'Jesus to The Rescue' from the God's Big Story series. This book uses Happyland toys to tell the Christmas story and includes a free animation, action song, and resources for toddler groups and all-age church events.

### What's Next?

When guests arrive at an event, it's good to provide them with resources that invite further exploration of faith. The Hope Christmas magazine or The Gift of Christmas book make excellent giveaways for Christmas services. Research suggests that people exploring faith often turn to the Bible. In a culture where truth can be complex and relative, the Bible provides the Way, the Truth and the Life.

### Luke's Gospel

This Christmas... why not offer Luke's Gospel (available in both printed and digital forms), and take people on an exciting journey beyond Jesus' birth, to who he was, what he did, and ultimately, the salvation we have.

So, in this busy season, let us take the strain and help you make the most of the mission opportunity at Christmas. If you have any stories about how you've used our resources, we'd love to hear them. Please send them to office@hopetogether.org.uk









