



Advent Pause Day

God's Gift and Our Friends in Uganda

We are learning to talk about ways that people express their beliefs and put their beliefs into practice, eg, ways different people celebrate Christmas. We are learning to reflect on and respond to Biblical stories, themes and concepts (Jesus as God's gift and God continuing to give to us today in different ways).

9:00 Register.

9:10 Collective worship to introduce the day, discuss ways in which God gives. Why do Christians celebrate God giving at Harvest and at Christmas too?

Today, we are going to explore Jesus as a gift from God and other ways that God gives, especially by giving us friends like our friends in our link school in Uganda. And we will all be using our value of unity to create a big piece of 3d artwork to go on display at Guildford Cathedral for Christmas!

9:30 Back to classes to begin.

Share the Big Rescue Plan reflective story, with children being detectives and looking out for ways in which God gives to people throughout the Bible.

Follow up with wondering questions:

- "I wonder what the most important gift from God has been? Why do you feel that one is most important?"
- "I wonder why Christians believe that Jesus is a gift from God?"
- "I wonder if God continues to give to us today? How does he give?"
- "I wonder how other people can be thought of as a gift from God?"

These discussion starters can be used at any point in the day and adapted for your class, they are intended just as starting point, which you can use to get the deep thinking going!

How does God give to us and how we can respond to these gifts?

Nature – caring for this amazing gift, living in a way that enables nature and all of us to flourish.

People – presents from people, provision for our needs through people, enjoying others' company, receiving help/support from people. We can do these things for others too, to show our love and God's love for them.

Inspiration – God giving us good ideas, listening to God whisper to us through our conscience, following God's lead and advice.

Today, we are going to learn more about the gift of our friends on Uganda.

| Focus | How is Christmas celebrated in Uganda? | Showing God's love to our friends in Uganda and to people in need | Cathedral artwork |
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| Activity suggestions | Read story to learn about traditions in Uganda | Messages of love/artwork to send to Ugandan school/families | Make 3d cathedral artwork (+ 1 for the church?).  |
| | Research about Uganda using books (and www.Kiddle.co ?). | CAP hamper cards | |
| | Make Uganda-inspired Christmas decorations for school, URC tree festival, Pilgrim Wood Care Home | | |

2:45 Back into the Hall for Collective Worship, with each group bringing something to show what they've learnt, with a few children to explain it.

3:10 Back to class for homework.

Activities:

- Each class take one part of the artwork for the Cathedral to complete.
- Also write (or scribe or share-write) ways God gives, to add to the Cathedral artwork.
- Make decorations for the school and for URC Christmas Tree Festival, plus Pilgrim Wood.

See below for more activity ideas

Activity Ideas

Decorations for the school and for Pilgrim Wood (to be delivered by School Council/Choir/adults, depending on Pilgrim Wood's arrangements).



Paperchains in Ugandan flag colours, with chn's ideas about God's gifts written/drawn on them.



Pompom garlands in Ugandan flag colours:



Introduce Advent Acts of Kindness (send home with children).

Dear St Nics' Family,

At St Nics', we are very good at showing our Values in school. We know what a difference it makes to show Dignity (respect and kindness) to others and we know that we can make a real difference in the world by doing kind, generous and thoughtful things for people.

Advent is a time when we prepare for Christmas and we look forward to the food, presents, parties and fun of the holidays. This year, we want to encourage our whole school community to take part in an Advent Acts of Kindness challenge. This means doing random acts of kindness for people throughout Advent. We have thought of lots of ideas for you, but there is no limit to the possibilities!

On our Advent Pause Day, we spent time thinking about how God showed Fairness and Dignity to the shepherds (who were generally poor, and probably felt unloved and left out as they were seen as unimportant in first century society), by sending a spectacular choir of angels to invite them to be the first visitors to see Jesus when he was born. We thought about people in our town who may feel like the shepherds did and how we can help them to feel loved and to have a happier Christmas. We made decorations and decorated boxes to become Christmas hampers for local Christians Against Poverty (CAP) clients. We would like to invite and encourage you to donate items to fill these hampers, bringing them to school on the 10th December. The hampers we donated at Harvest were very gratefully received, so it will be wonderful to continue our support of these people over the coming season. This time, the hampers will be filled with items to help people have a happy Christmas, such as: special Christmas food (mince pies, cake, fancy biscuits, chocolates etc.), toiletries, fairy lights or small decorations, crackers, Christmas socks, etc. If you would like to add a Christmas card from your family, I'm sure it would make the gift even more special.

This is a great opportunity to show love to some of the people who are most in need in our community. Thank you in advance for your generosity. I look forward to compiling lots of hampers and hearing all about your Acts of Kindness!

Miss Staniforth



“Have a healthy Christmas!” 

“Do a kind thing every day.” 

Offer to help an adult with a job at home. 

“Play with people who look lonely.” 

Visit or phone someone you haven't seen for a while. 

“I will give you respect and love.” 

Make a thank you card or letter to send to someone who has helped you this year. 

“Make something for a friend.” 



£51.31

VAT included (where applicable), plus postage
Ugandan Calabash Nativity



Practise Christmas Play songs.



Cathedral 3d Art:

Tree made from painted cardboard boxes

Decorations in Ugandan flag colours:

- Pompom garlands,
- Sewn decorations from recycled fabric,
- Paperchains with chn's ideas about God's gift written/drawn on them,
- Pictures of Ugandan animals?



Advent Prayers

The Bible says,

***“Every good and perfect gift
is from God.”***

James 1:17

What would you like to say to God about
the things and people God has given us to
help us live life in all its fullness?