

# Organise a Community Windows Advent Calendar.

It's possible for your church to create an advent calendar with their windows! - Members of the church, or a local businesses, are invited to decorate one of their windows (visible from the street) for one day of advent each. You can then generate a map that tells people where to visit each day. (You may want to have the 24th window be at your church for the crib service or similar.)

Here's some further tips of how to make a Window advent Calendar:

## **1) Define your area**

Whilst a parish is a defined geographical area, it might be a little big for a walk. Therefore, it may be beneficial to pick an even more localised area to run the project. It maybe you'd like it to be the streets just around your church, or if there's an area you feel it's hard to reach, there might be a way in there by inviting people to take part.

## **2) Recruit volunteers**

Ask for volunteers at church, connect with local community groups and businesses. You could hold a get together to give people an introduction to the project and inspire them to get involved. You'll need enough houses or businesses to get involved so you'll have a new window to unveil on every night of Advent. Once you've got people involved, you can set up a Facebook or WhatsApp group to share updates, news and create a sense of community around the project.

## **3) Make a timetable and map**

Once you know who is taking part, assign each window a day of Advent. Once this is done, it's a lovely idea to create a timetable and map that you can use to show people which new Advent Window will be shown each day. This doesn't have to be too complicated. roughly map out the area taking part, doodle some houses and label each one with the day of Advent they will be representing. You can print these off and ask volunteers to distribute them around the community. Or, have a go at creating an interactive online map – giving you a link to share with neighbours. (And if you need help, ask if anyone has made one before.)

## **4) Spread the word.**

Once you have the volunteers, get the word out! - Get the timetables and maps to local schools, other churches, businesses, community groups, and on your social media.

## **5) Enjoy the Windows!**

Going along to the different displays is the best bit of the project! Make sure to take plenty of photos to share your experience with others. Post them on your Facebook or WhatsApp group so you can keep everyone involved. It might be on Christmas eve, you organise a walk of all the windows with mulled wine and mince pies at the end.

Some ideas for window displays -

