

Season: Advent	Year Group: Y3/4	No. of lessons: 3 - 4
Links: Cambs: CPE2, CPE3, CWO3, CPL3, CFF1, CFF2, CFF3, CFF4, CSC3 Pborough: CPE4, CWO3, CRC1,CRC2,CRC3, CSC1, Nfolk: CP, CLS, CKF		
Learning objectives:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To become familiar with the Bible stories told at Advent and the Christian teachings they demonstrate ◆ To recognise Advent symbols and understand the concept of waiting and preparing for a festival 		
Questions for reflection:		
How do we get ready for a special visitor? When should we start to get ready for Christmas? What is the most difficult thing anyone has ever asked you to do? What big thing in your life are you hoping / waiting for? How brave are you?		
Activities and experiences:		
<p><i>Probably one of the most well known features of Advent is the Advent Ring – it would be appropriate to have a ring in the classroom for each session and be able to end each lesson with a reflective moment watching the candles on the ring burning – but you will know whether this is a wise option in your own classroom! You could use some of the reflection questions above, or ones that have arisen from pupils’ responses.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Talk together about getting ready for Christmas – what is being done in the homes, schools and shops (!) to prepare for the festival? The preparation time for Christmas is called Advent – how many things can you think of which are called “Advent *****”? Have some examples available and look together at some of these (ring, calendar, candle). How many of these Advent objects are something to do with counting the time to Christmas? Find out when Advent begins (Advent Sunday) and check its date on a calendar. How many people / places started getting ready too early i.e pre-Advent? Keep an Advent calendar in the classroom –a Christian one, not a pop group or chocolate! ◆ What do the Christians and the churches do to get ready for Christmas during Advent? Ideally, visit the church and note the lack of decoration, the sombre liturgical colours of the vestments and altar cloth (purple), and compare this with the High Street decorations and talk of the mood it conveys (with a church rep. If possible). Talk about how people tidy up and get things ready when they are expecting a special visitor, and extend this to the idea of how during Advent Christians are getting their lives ready for the coming of Jesus. Make a class list of the kind of things that Christians could do to get ready for Jesus (behaviour, relationships), you may like to use this as a reflection focus. ◆ The four red candles of the Advent Ring remind us of people whose stories are in the Bible and who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus; of course Mary is a key figure here. There are many beautiful paintings of the Annunciation (e.g. see Jesus in Art by Margaret Cooling), use one or more of these as a focus, and read / tell the story at an appropriate level. Discuss the devices used by the artists to show what is happening in the story and to tell us about the people involved. Think about how difficult this moment must be for Mary, as unmarried mothers could be killed (stoned) for getting pregnant. Pupils draw their own version of the moment of announcing, using thought bubbles to show what Mary is thinking, and, if possible, using symbol and colour to demonstrate emotions and Christian teaching. (An aboriginal style painting, which uses colour and symbols to indicate emotion, could be an effective way of tackling this.) 		

