Anglicare Christmas Connection

christmas.anglicare.org.au

Welcome to Christmas Connection for your church



Thank you for running Christmas Connection at your church. We are grateful for your partnership with us, and excited to see how each church brings this program to life in their own community.

What's in my Christmas Connections kit?

Inside this starter kit, you'll find everything you need to set up, promote, and run Christmas Connection yourself. We see this program as part of a season of generosity and thanksgiving during Advent. Our hope is that by taking part, your congregation will learn more about Anglicare's vital mission, and be encouraged to share the hope of Jesus with families facing hardship in our communities.

Mail Pack

- Gift Cards
- Card display stand
- Message Mailbox
- Christmas Connection Promotional Poster
- How to Poster
- Offline giving envelopes
- Helpful Fact sheets
- Reply paid envelopes

Watch an explainer video on how to assemble your church display.

Digital Downloads

- Church announcement slides
- Social media graphics
- Colouring-in sheets for kids
- Instruction and Inspiration sheets
- Print at home Connection Cards (in case you run out)
- Print at home posters (in case you need more)

Download digital files and resources from our website.

How to run
Christmas Connection

Getting ready

01

Plan how you want to facilitate Christmas Connection at your church

Christmas Connection is designed to be flexible, so every church can take part based on the resources and time they have. There are plenty of ways your church can participate - from a simple stall in your foyer, to a whole season of reflection.

02

Get your materials ready

Open your pack and watch the video about how to assemble the message box, display stand and posters.

Check out the extra resources available online, and print out the items you'd like to use. Anglicare can send you more materials if you run out, or need more - just get in touch with our team.

03

Pray

We would deeply appreciate if you could spend some time praying for Anglicare, and for this initiative. At the end of the day, Christmas Connection is all about sharing the love of Jesus with people facing hardship - both through practical care and meaningful connection. None of this is possible without God's grace to us, and his generous provision.

Need some inspiration?

- **Host an event**

  Host a Christmas dinner or BBQ at your church, and spend an evening learning about Anglicare, writing messages of encouragement, praying for the mission. You could even invite someone from Anglicare to speak at this event.

- **Christmas Connection Sunday**

  Theme Advent Sunday or a Sunday in December around Anglicare Christmas Connection - with prayers, carols, and a time to hear about our work. Invite kids church to take part as well.

- **December-long season**

  Treat Christmas Connection as a season of generosity. Run the stall every Sunday after the service from Advent Sunday until Christmas. Invite small groups to dedicate an evening to prayer during the month of December.

Ways to pray

- Thank God for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the work of Anglicare throughout the year.
- Pray for the people Anglicare serves.
- Pray that people would be generous this Christmas.
- Pray that God would use our messages of encouragement for his purposes.

The lead up

04

Set up your stand

We've provided you with 2 large posters, a set of 12 different gift cards, a display stand for the cards, and a message mailbox to collect the words of encouragement.

Place the display stand somewhere visible, welcoming and easy to access after the service. If the location is a windy spot like a doorway, make sure you weigh the mailbox down with something inside.

You'll also need enough space for a table so people can write messages. If there's a wall nearby to attach the posters to - even better.

05

Spread the word

Let your church know about Christmas Connection in the lead up to December. We've provided you with a set of announcement slides, newsletter notices, and social media graphics to help you spread the word.

Need some inspiration?

- Set up a Christmas tree, fairy lights or decorations next to the mailbox, to draw attention.
- Create a cafe style space with chairs and tables, so people can sit down with their coffee, write their messages and pray.
- Provide coloured pens and stickers for people to jazz up their Connection Cards.
- Add a kids' activity table where children can colour in, draw or write their own messages.
- Display our inspiration sheets with sample Bible verses and messages, to help people know what to write.
- Display a few completed sample cards so people can see what they're being invited to do.
- Create height on the table using boxes or crates, so the display feels full and is easy to spot.



During Christmas Connection

06

At the stand

It's best to have someone available at the stand to help people choose a gift and pay. Each card tears into two panels: one side is for the giver to keep, and the other side is for writing a message of encouragement, which goes straight into the mailbox.

If you run out of cards, people can see and buy the whole collection online. For people who prefer not to give online, there will be giving envelopes available, which can be placed into the box by the giver, and then sent back to Anglicare *(see Step 07)*.



07

Mail back to Anglicare

We have provided four reply paid envelopes for you to send us back the Connection Cards and giving envelopes you collect. For security reasons, we ask that you clear the mailbox every week after the Sunday service(s) – just in case there's cash, card details or cheques inside.

After Christmas Connection

08

Pack down, ready for next year

Your mailbox, posters, stand and cards can be kept and reused next Christmas. So if they're still in ok condition, please store them somewhere safe.

09

Report back to your congregation

In the new year, we will communicate with you about your church's collective impact, and what you can be praying for in the year ahead. We invite you to share this update with your church family, to encourage them in their ongoing mission and to convey our deep gratitude for their partnership.



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

How message delivery works

- **Our team receives your words**

  Once your parcel of cards arrives at Anglicare, our team will sort the messages, along with messages from other participating churches, and distribute them to our frontline teams, including community pantries, foster care teams, caseworkers, financial counsellors and chaplains.

- **Your encouragement is hand-delivered**

  Our staff hand-pick messages and deliver them directly to families and individuals during moments of real care throughout the year. With your help, we hope to create a cycle of encouragement, prayer, and connection across New South Wales.

Please share with us!

We'd love to see a photo of your decorated stand. Share in your church newsletter or social media to encourage others to join in. (Don't forget to tag @**anglicaresydney**)

We'd love to keep a record of your messages, to share with our community of supporters and social media followers. You might see a photo of your message appear on our channels during or after the program (anonymised of course).

Got questions? Don't hesitate to reach out for help.

Call our team on 1300 111 218
Email us christmasconnection@anglicare.org.au
Read our FAQs at christmas.anglicare.org.au