

St Davids Children, Youth and Families

MISSION PACKS

Resources for the year of mission and beyond.



A pack of resources to help you with mission work
with Children, Young people and Families

PARK POP UPS

St Davids Children, Youth and Families

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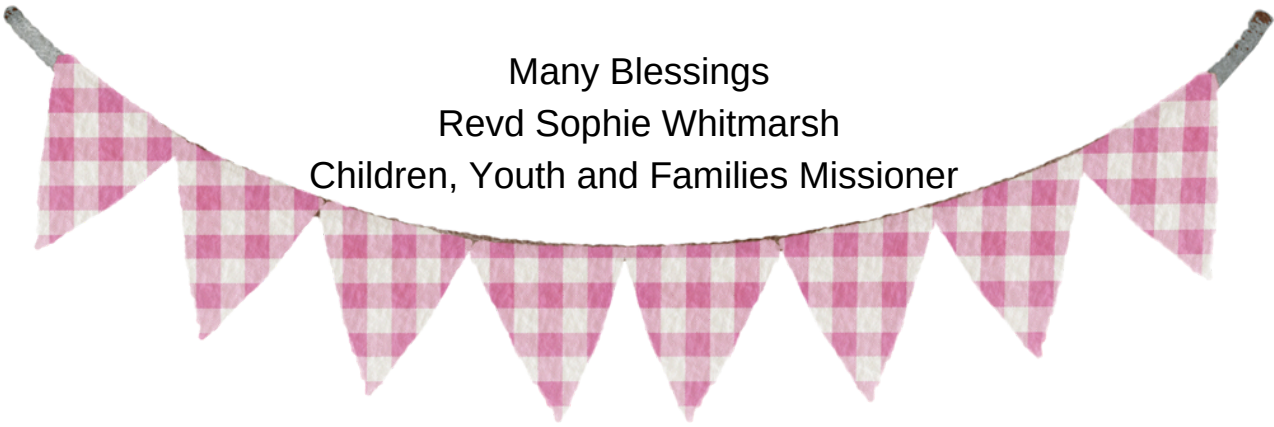
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INTRODUCTION

2026 is the year set aside by Bishop Dorrien of St Davids Diocese, as a landmark year, and kick start to mission in the diocese of St Davids. This pack is just one resource to help you and your church engage with mission alongside children, youth and families in this year of mission and beyond, and we hope to bring others. We pray that it will provide all that you need to give you the confidence to reach into your communities with the Good News.

As always, the Children, Youth and Families Officer and the team are willing to help you in any way they are able to ensure you reach your goals, this year and in the years to come.



Many Blessings
Revd Sophie Whitmarsh
Children, Youth and Families Missioner

VISION STATEMENT

“To bring the love, joy, and welcome of Jesus into the heart of our community by creating simple, relational, Spirit-led moments in our local parks.”

We believe that mission is not an event but a presence. By showing up with kindness, creativity, and openness, we offer our neighbours a glimpse of God’s kingdom — right where they already gather, play, and rest.

HOW TO USE THIS PACK

This pack is designed to help your church create simple, meaningful, and welcoming pop-up mission moments in your local park. It isn't a rigid programme or a set of instructions to follow word-for-word — it's a toolkit. You can adapt it, simplify it, expand it, or reshape it to suit your context, your volunteers, and the needs of your community.

Begin with Prayer and Purpose

Before planning anything, gather your team and pray. Ask God to guide:

- where you go
- who you meet
- how you show His love
- what He wants to grow in your community

Mission starts with listening — to God, to one another, and to the community.

Choose what fits your context

This pack contains a range of ideas, from simple activities to gentle faith-sharing moments. You don't need to use everything. Select:

- one or two activities for children
- one relational idea for adults
- one optional prayer or blessing element

Keep it light and manageable. A pop-up should feel spacious, not stressful.

Keep it Lightweight and portable.

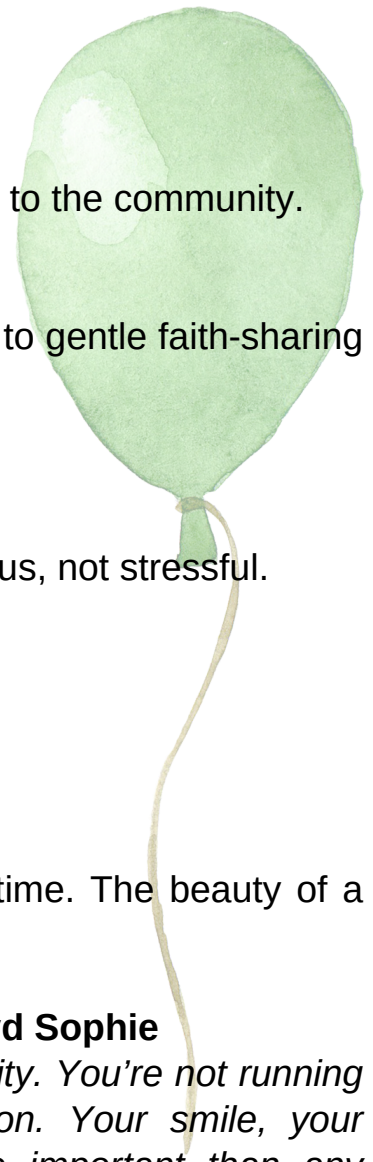
Everything in this pack is designed to fit into:

- a backpack
- a small trolley
- or a single crate

Avoid heavy equipment or anything that requires set-up time. The beauty of a pop-up is its simplicity.

Focus on Presence, Not Performance: a note from Revd Sophie

"The heart of this mission is being present in the community. You're not running an event — you're creating opportunities for connection. Your smile, your conversations, and your willingness to listen are more important than any activity".



Brief Your Team Before You Begin

Use the Team Briefing Template in this pack to:

- assign roles
- clarify safeguarding expectations
- pray together
- set the tone: gentle, joyful, open, and respectful

A well-prepared team creates a safe and welcoming atmosphere.

Let Conversations Grow Naturally

Some people will want to chat. Others won't. Some may ask for prayer. Others may simply enjoy the activity. Follow their lead. Offer faith gently, never forcefully. Trust the Holy Spirit to open the right doors.



Reflect After Each Pop-Up

Take a few minutes as a team to ask:

- Who did we meet
- What moments stood out
- Where did we sense God at work
- What might we try next time

These reflections help shape future pop-ups and deepen your awareness of God's presence in the community.

Stay Rooted in Safeguarding and Good Practice

This pack includes guidance on:

- risk assessment
- safe supervision
- boundaries
- first aid
- photography
- volunteer conduct

Always follow the Church in Wales safeguarding policy and ensure all volunteers understand their responsibilities.

Adapt to the Day

Weather, people, and park life are unpredictable. Be flexible. If something isn't working, change it. If a conversation opens up, follow it. If the park is quiet, pray for the community as you walk.

Remember the Heart of the Mission

A park pop-up is a small act with big potential. It says to your community: *"We see you. We care. God loves you."*

Every conversation, every smile, every moment of kindness is a seed planted.



VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Presence Over Performance

We show up as neighbours, not entertainers. Our presence is the ministry.

2. Hospitality in the Open Air

A smile, a conversation, a simple activity — these are acts of welcome.

3. Listening Before Speaking

We honour people's stories and experiences. We don't assume; we listen.

4. Light-Touch Faith Sharing

We offer prayer, hope, and conversation gently and respectfully.

5. Joy and Playfulness

Jesus welcomed children and celebrated life. We do the same.

6. Collaboration, Not Competition

We work with local groups, families, and organisations to bless the community.

7. Dependence on the Holy Spirit

We trust that God is already at work and invites us to join in.

WHY A PARK POP UP?

Parks are some of the most natural places for community to happen. Children play, families gather, neighbours meet, and conversations begin without effort. A pop-up mission in a local park takes the church out of its building and places it right at the heart of everyday life — where Jesus so often chose to be.

This mission pack has been created to help churches bring hope, joy, and connection into their local green spaces. It offers simple, flexible ideas that any team can use: activities for children, gentle faith-sharing moments, creative prayer stations, and ways to build relationships with the wider community. Everything is designed to be lightweight, adaptable, and rooted in the love of Christ.

At the centre of this pack is a simple conviction: God is already at work in our communities — our role is to join in. When we show up with kindness, curiosity, and openness, we create space for the Holy Spirit to move. A park pop-up isn't about big events or polished programmes; it's about presence. It's about being visible, being available, and offering a glimpse of God's welcome in a place where people already feel at home.

Whether you're planning a one-off outreach, a summer series, or a regular rhythm of community engagement, this pack will help you step into your local park with confidence and purpose. May it encourage your team, spark creativity, and remind you that mission can be as simple — and as powerful — as showing up with love.



PLANNING YOUR POP UP

A Park Pop-Up works best when it's simple, intentional, and rooted in prayer. This guide helps you plan your session in a way that keeps things light, safe, and Spirit-led.

Pray and Discern Your Purpose

Before choosing activities or dates, take time to pray as a team. Ask:

- Where is God already at work in our community
- What needs, hopes, or opportunities do we sense
- Who might we meet in the park
- What is the “*heart*” of this particular pop-up

Your purpose might be:

- building relationships
- blessing families
- offering prayer
- being a visible, gentle presence

Let that purpose shape your planning.

Choose Your Location

Walk the park beforehand and look for:

- natural gathering spots (play areas, benches, open grass)
- safe, visible spaces
- shade or shelter if possible
- easy access for prams and wheelchairs

Make a note of:

- the nearest postcode
- toilets
- water sources
- potential hazards (ponds, dogs, uneven ground)

This helps with both safety and confidence on the day.



Pick a Date and Time

Think about:

- when families naturally visit the park
- weather and daylight
- school holidays or local events
- volunteer availability

Short sessions work well — 60 to 90 minutes is usually enough to make meaningful connections without exhausting the team.

Decide What to Bring

Keep it simple. A typical pop-up might include:

- One or two children's activity
- one creative or reflective element (gratitude tree, prayer flags)
- a small welcome point (blanket, crate, or trolley)
- a flask of tea or squash
- a first-aid kit
- church ID/lanyards
- wipes, bin bags, hand gel

Everything should fit into a backpack or small trolley.

Build Your Team

A small, friendly team is ideal — 3 to 6 people works well.

Make sure you have:

- a team leader
- someone confident with children's activities
- someone available for gentle prayer or conversation
- a safeguarding lead or point of contact

Before the day, share:

- the purpose of the pop-up
- the plan and roles
- safeguarding reminders
- what to do if unsure (ask the leader)

A prepared team feels relaxed and welcoming.



Complete Your Safeguarding & Risk Assessments Checks

Use the guidance in this pack to:

- identify risks
- plan how to reduce them
- ensure volunteers know boundaries
- confirm who is first-aid trained
- check all volunteers have visible ID

This protects both the community and your team.

Prepare for the Unexpected

Parks are unpredictable — and that's part of the joy.

Plan for:

- weather changes
- quiet days
- busy days
- curious dogs
- spontaneous conversations

Flexibility is your friend. If something isn't working, adapt. If a conversation opens up, follow it.

Set the Tone for the Day

Before you begin, gather your team and remind them:

- We are here to bless, not impress
- We listen before we speak
- We offer faith gently
- We celebrate small moments
- We trust the Holy Spirit to guide us

Pray together. Invite God to use your presence in simple, surprising ways.

Debrief Afterwards

Take 10 minutes as a team to reflect:

- Who did we meet
- What moments stood out
- What felt life-giving
- What might we try next time
- Where did we sense God at work

These reflections help shape future pop-ups and deepen your awareness of God's movement in the community.



TEAM BRIEFING TEMPLATE

Welcome & Purpose: Leader reminds the team of the purpose of the day.

Today's Focus: Briefly outline the plan, keep it simple and achievable.

Roles & Responsibilities

Assign roles clearly but lightly:

- Team Leader:
- Safeguarding Lead:
- First Aider:
- Welcome/Conversation Team:
- Children's Activity Lead:
- Prayer/Listening Team:

Remind everyone they can support one another and swap roles if needed.

Safeguarding Reminders

- Wear visible ID/lanyards.
- Never be alone with a child.
- Keep activities in open, visible spaces.
- Report any concerns immediately to the safeguarding lead.
- No photos of children without written explicit parental consent.

Keep the tone calm and confident.

Practical Notes

Cover the essentials:

- Where the first-aid kit is
- Where volunteers can put bags
- Weather considerations (sun, rain, wind)
- Boundaries for activities
- What to do if unsure: ask the leader

Tone & Approach

Set the spiritual and relational tone:

- Be warm, relaxed, and approachable.
- Listen more than you speak.
- Let conversations grow naturally.
- Offer prayer gently and only when appropriate.
- Celebrate small interactions — they matter.
- Trust the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Prayer Together

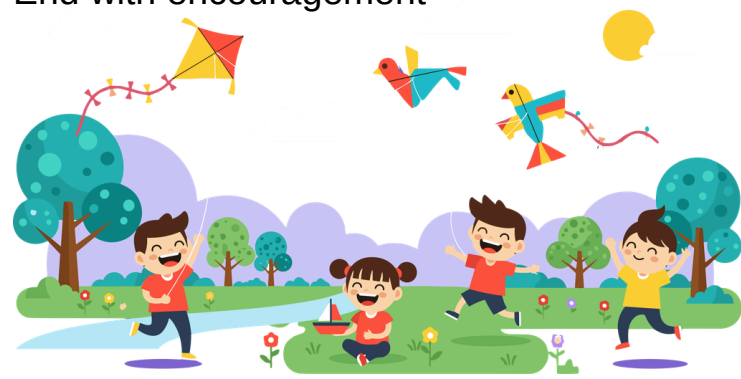
A short prayer you can use:

*Loving God, Thank you for this opportunity to be present in our community. Fill us with gentleness, joy, and compassion. Help us to notice where You are already at work. Bless every conversation, every smile, every moment of connection. May we carry Your love into this space today. **Amen.***

Final Check-In

- Does anyone need anything before we begin?
- Is everyone clear and comfortable?

End with encouragement



NOAHS ARK THEMED POP UP



CRAFT IDEAS



Popsicle Stick Ark

Theme: Creating spaces of safety, belonging, and care

Materials: Popsicle sticks; PVA glue; Brown felt tips; Cardboard base; Animal cutouts or stickers; Optional: small flags, washi tape, glitter

Activity: Children use popsicle sticks to build their own ark, colouring and assembling them before adding animal cutouts. This hands-on activity encourages teamwork between parents and children.

Reflection: What makes you feel safe or cared for? Who helps you when life feels a bit stormy? How can we help build safe places for others?

Paper Plate Stormy Seas

Theme: Recognising that storms happen — but we are not alone in them.

Materials: Paper plates; Blue crayons, markers, or paint; Rainbow streamers or tissue paper; Glue sticks; Pre-cut ark shapes; Cotton wool for clouds

Activity: Kids decorate their ark sailing through a storm. Display finished plates to create a visual 'ark flotilla' in the park.

Reflection: What does a "stormy day" feel like for you?

Animal Mosaic Table

Theme: Celebrating the diversity and value of all creatures — each one unique and loved.

Materials: Printed animal outlines; Coloured paper squares; Glue sticks; Scissors; Optional: googly eyes

Activity: Print animal templates and let kids glue colourful squares of paper to create bright mosaics. Parents can help with cutting or gluing, making it a shared, fine-motor skill activity.

Reflection: What makes you unique? How can we look after the world and the creatures in it? Who are the "creatures" in your life you're grateful for?

CRAFT IDEAS



Q-tip (Cotton buds) Rainbow Painting

Theme: The rainbow as a sign of hope, promise, and new beginnings.

Materials: Q-tips (cotton buds); Paint in rainbow colours; White card or paper; Pegs for the “Promise Wall”; Optional: cloud-shaped cards for writing hopes

Activity: Children use Q-tips and paint to create beautiful rainbows, a symbol of hope and promise, with their families. Finished rainbows can be pegged on a communal ‘Promise Wall’.

Reflection: What hope do you carry in your heart today? What new beginning would you love to see? How can we bring colour and kindness into someone’s day?

Dove with Olive Branch

Theme: Peace doesn’t always come loudly — sometimes it arrives quietly, like a dove.

Materials: Paper plates; Scissors; White paint or crayons; Green paper for olive branch; Glue sticks; String for hanging

Activity: Make a dove from a paper plate, adding a green paper olive branch. This gentle craft opens conversations about peace and new beginnings.

Reflection: Where do you feel most peaceful? What helps you calm down when you feel upset? How can we bring peace to others today?

Cardboard Animal Mask Decorating

Theme: Celebrating imagination, joy, and the playful diversity of God’s creation.

Materials: Plain cardboard masks; Felt tips, crayons, or paint; Feathers, stickers, yarn; Elastic or ribbon; Mirrors for children to admire their creations.

Activity: Provide plain cardboard masks (available from craft suppliers) for children to colour and decorate as their favourite ark animals. Families can take photos together in their masks.

Reflection: If you were an animal on the ark, which would you be and why? What makes you feel joyful or playful? How can we celebrate the differences in our families and community?

GAMES & ACTIVITIES



Animal Matching Game

Theme: Every animal on the ark was seen, known, and cared for — none were forgotten.

Activity: Giant cards featuring ark animals are scattered around the park. Children search for matching pairs, sparking conversation about the animals and the story.

Link: As children search for matching pairs, they mirror the idea that each creature has a place and a partner. It opens gentle conversations about how God notices and values every living thing, including us.

Noah's Ark Maze

Theme: Even when life feels confusing or twisty, we can find our way with guidance.

Activity: Set up a simple rope maze or chalk path, where children 'help' toy animals find their way to a large cardboard ark at the end. Parents can guide or cheer on their little ones.

Link: Helping toy animals reach the ark reflects how Noah guided the animals to safety. Parents guiding children through the maze echoes the way God guides us through life's tricky paths.

Walking Water Rainbows

Theme: The rainbow is a sign of hope, promise, and God's faithfulness after the storm.

Activity: Set up a science corner where children use cups, water, and food colouring to create their own rainbows. Volunteers explain how rainbows form, linking back to the ark story.

Link: As children watch colours travel and blend into a rainbow, they see a simple, hands-on picture of how something beautiful can emerge after chaos — just like the rainbow after the flood.

GAMES & ACTIVITIES



Noah's Ark Word Search

Theme: Exploring the story helps us understand God's care, protection, and promises.

Activity: Provide word search sheets with thematic words. Families work together to find all the words, promoting discussion and learning.

Link: Families searching for words together mirrors the way we explore Scripture — discovering meaning, asking questions, and learning as a community.

Parachute Animal Dash

Theme: We flourish when we play, laugh, and move together.

Activity: Children, wearing their animal masks, play with a large parachute. When an animal is called out, children dressed as that animal dash under the parachute, creating laughter and camaraderie.

Link: Children dashing under the parachute as their chosen animals echoes the joyful gathering of creatures entering the ark. It reinforces the idea that community — human and animal — is part of God's good design.

Animal Relay Race

Theme: Caring for the world is a shared responsibility — we do it best together.

Activity: Split participants into two teams. Each team has a tub of bean bags and takes turns 'racing' (while wearing their masks) to the cardboard ark, dropping bean bags as animal 'cargo'. The first team to finish wins.

Link: Teams carrying "animal cargo" to the ark highlights cooperation and care. It mirrors Noah's task of gathering and protecting life, reminding families that we too are called to look after God's creation.

EXTRAS...



Storytelling and Family Engagement

Organise a dedicated area with picnic blankets where a storyteller recounts the story of Noah's Ark, using picture books or puppets. Involve families by inviting them to act out parts of the story, or have children parade their animal masks. After the story, families can discuss what 'promise' means to them, inspired by the rainbow craft.

Bringing Families Together

Set up picnic spots to encourage families to share snacks and chat between activities.

Create a '*Family Promise Wall*' where families can write or draw something positive they'll do for one another, inspired by the story's theme of hope and new beginnings.

Host a '*Grand Parade*' at the end, with children marching in their animal masks, symbolising unity and togetherness.

Tips for Success

Encourage intergenerational teams for games and crafts.

Provide instructions and story snippets at each station to reinforce the Noah's Ark theme.

Ensure all crafts and games are inclusive and adaptable for various ages and abilities.

Capture photos (with permission) to share memories with participants after the event.

With these activities, your park pop-up will not only entertain but also strengthen family bonds, spark creativity, and share the message of Noah's Ark with the whole community.

THE PRODIGAL SON THEMED POP UP



CRAFT ACTIVITIES



Welcome Home Door Hanger

Theme: God's unconditional welcome

Materials: Card, ribbon/wool, colouring pens, stickers

Activity: Children design a door hanger shaped like an open door. On one side they decorate the "far country" (messy, chaotic, colourful), and on the other side a warm, welcoming home. Add the words "God always welcomes us home".

Reflection: What does God's welcome feel like?

Pig Pen Pop-Up Scene

Theme: Consequences, choices, and turning back

Materials: Paper plate, brown paint, shredded paper/straw, paper pigs

Activity: Create a 3D "pig pen" on a plate. Children add a small figure of the son looking sad or thoughtful.

Reflection: What moments make us realise we need to change direction?

Footsteps Path Collage

Theme: Repentance and journey

Materials: Footprint templates, magazines, glue, large sheet

Activity: Children cut out or colour footprints and arrange them in a path from "home" to "far away" and back again. They fill the footprints with words or images representing feelings or choices.

Reflection: What steps bring us closer to God and others?

Father's Hug Silhouette Craft

Theme: Forgiveness and compassion

Materials: Black card, coloured tissue paper, glue

Activity: Cut a silhouette of the father embracing the son. Back it with tissue paper to create a stained-glass effect.

Reflection: How does forgiveness bring light into our lives?

Symbols of Love- Bracelet

Theme: Restoration — robe, ring, sandals

Materials: Beads in three colours, elastic

Activity: Children make a bracelet with three bead colours, each representing one of the father's gifts. Add a small tag explaining each symbol.

Reflection: What gifts does God give us when we return?

GAMES & ACTIVITIES



Lost & Found Treasure Hunt

Theme: Being lost and joyfully found. Hide objects some can be “far away” or tricky to find. When each item is discovered, celebrate loudly with “Lost, and Found”.

Link: Mirrors the father’s joy when the son returns.

Journey Relay

Theme: The long journey home Set up a simple relay course. Children run “away from home” carrying something heavy (a bag of beanbags), then return with nothing.

Link: The son leaves burdened by choices and returns lighter.

Pig Pen Dash

Theme: Hitting rock bottom Scatter “pig food” (balls, beanbags) around a marked area. Children race to collect them with spoons or grabbers.

Link: A playful way to remember the son’s turning point.

Forgiveness Tag

Theme: Grace and second chances A simple tag game where tagged players freeze but can be “unfrozen” when someone gives them a high-five and says “You’re forgiven”.

Link: Forgiveness restores us and brings us back into community.

Welcome Home Parade

Theme: Celebration Give children scarves, ribbons, or instruments. One child plays the returning son while the others create a joyful “welcome home” parade.

Link: Captures the father’s extravagant celebration.

Choices Sorting Game

Theme: Wisdom and consequences Lay out cards with different choices (kind, unkind, wise, unwise). Children sort them into “towards home” or “far away”.

Link: Helps them reflect on the choices the son made.

EXTRAS....



Interactive “Choose the Path” Storytelling

As you tell the story, pause at key moments and let families choose between two options (e.g., “Should he stay home or go?”). This doesn’t change the biblical ending, but it helps families explore choices together.

Storytelling Picnic

Lay out a picnic blanket and props (bread, grapes, a robe, a ring). Invite families to sit close and pass the items around as you tell the story. It creates a sense of shared table fellowship — perfect for the theme of welcome.

Family Role-Play

Give each family a simple script with three roles: Father, Younger Son, Older Brother. They act it out together in their own style — silly, serious, whispered, dramatic. It sparks empathy and laughter.

“What Would You Pack?” Family Challenge

Families receive a paper suitcase and choose what the son might have packed when he left — and what he should have packed. Great for exploring values and priorities.

“Welcome Home” Doorway Ritual

Create a decorated archway (works well if you are using a gazebo for shelter). Families take turns walking through it together while volunteers cheer and celebrate them. A powerful, embodied reminder of God’s welcome.

Community Feast

Recreate the celebration moment with a shared meal or snack table. Invite families to bring something small to contribute — symbolising the joy of being together.

“We Are a Family” Banner

Each family decorates a section of a long banner with their names, symbols, or prayers. When joined, it becomes a visual declaration of unity.

Blessing Circle

End with families forming a circle. Invite them to speak a simple blessing over one another: “May you always know you are loved and welcomed.”

THE GOOD SAMARITAN THEMED POP UP



CRAFT ACTIVITIES



Bandage the Broken - Kindness Craft

Focus: Compassion, noticing others

Materials: Card people cut-outs, plasters, felt pens, heart stickers

Activity: Children decorate a card person to represent someone who might need help — a friend, a stranger, or even themselves. They then place plasters on the figure as symbols of kindness, comfort, or healing.

Good Samaritan Story Bags

Focus: Understanding the story through objects

Materials: Small paper bags, mini props (coin, bandage, donkey cut-out, inn sign), crayons

Activity: Children decorate a bag with the words “Go and do likewise”. Inside they place small symbolic items representing parts of the story. Extension: Use the bags for retelling the parable in pairs or groups.

Carry One Another Donkey Puppet

Focus: Helping others even when it's inconvenient

Materials: Brown card, lollipop sticks, googly eyes, glue

Activity: Make a simple donkey stick puppet. On the stick, children write one way they can “carry” someone this week — a chore, a kind word, a brave action.

Optional: Create a group “caravan” of donkeys on a display board.

Road to Kindness Diorama

Focus: Seeing ourselves in the story

Materials: Shoeboxes, paper strips (road), stones, fabric scraps, figures
Activity: Children build a mini scene of the Jericho road. They place themselves somewhere in the scene — as the Samaritan, the traveller, or the innkeeper — and explain why.

Innkeeper's Welcome Sign

Focus: Hospitality and inclusion

Materials: Card, string, markers, collage materials

Activity: Create a hanging sign that says “Everyone Welcome”, “Come and Rest”, or “My Space is Safe”.

Kindness Chain Reaction

Focus: Small actions making a big difference

Materials: Paper strips, pens, stapler
Activity: Each child writes a kindness action on a strip and adds it to a growing paper chain.

GAMES & ACTIVITIES



Road to Jericho Relay

Focus: Helping others even when it slows you down

How it works: Set up a simple relay course. Halfway along, place “injured travellers” (soft toys or children pretending). Teams must decide whether to stop and help (e.g., bandage with a cloth, walk slowly with them) or run past.

Debrief: “What did it feel like to stop? What did it cost you? Why does Jesus say that’s the better choice?”

Kindness First Aid Kits

Focus: Practical compassion

How it works: Give each child a small box or envelope.

Fill it with symbolic “first aid”:

- Plaster = kind words
- Bandage = helping hands
- Heart sticker = encouragement
- Tissue = comfort

Children decorate the kit and choose someone to “treat” with kindness this week.

Donkey Dash

Focus: Carrying others’ burdens

How it works:

Children pair up. One is the “injured traveller”, the other the “Samaritan”.

They must travel a short course together (piggyback, arm-in-arm, or guiding gently). Swap roles.

Pass It On Kindness Tag

Focus: Kindness spreading like a chain reaction

Set-up: A simple open area.

Activity: One child is “Kindness”. When they tag someone, they must say a kind word or do a small action (high-five, smile). That person becomes “Kindness” too.

EXTRAS....



Family Kindness Quest

A gentle scavenger-hunt style activity that uses the park itself.

Families receive a card with prompts such as:

“Find something that looks lonely — how could you show care?”

“Find something broken — what might help fix it?”

“Find something beautiful — who could you share it with?”

“Find a path — who might need help along their path?”

Each prompt links back to the parable’s themes of noticing, caring, and acting.

Neighbourhood Pebble Painting

Families decorate stones with symbols of kindness — hearts, plasters, footprints, encouraging words. They can:

Leave them around the park

Take them home

Give them to someone who needs encouragement.

A lovely way to spread the parable beyond the pop-up.

Story Picnic

Families sit on blankets while you tell the story using simple props from a picnic basket:

- A scarf (road)
- A toy figure (traveller)
- A bandage
- A coin
- A small donkey toy

Children love seeing the story “come out of the basket”.

Parable in the Wind

Use ribbons or scarves that families wave whenever a character appears:

- Red = traveller
- Blue = priest
- Green = Samaritan
- Yellow = innkeeper It keeps children engaged and gives the story a sense of movement.

GENTLE FAITH SHARING MOMENTS

These are extra things that you might like to try to encourage a time of sharing faith. They are not theme specific, and can offer opportunities for conversation and building relationships.

Wonder Questions Hanging From Trees

Tie simple, open-ended questions to branches with string. Families can pause, read, and chat together.

Examples:

- *"Where have you seen kindness this week?"*
- *"What helps you feel safe?"*
- *"Who has been a neighbour to you?"*
- *"What makes you feel thankful?"*

These spark spiritual reflection without pressure.



Blessing Bubbles

A volunteer quietly blows bubbles near the activity area. As children pop them, you offer a simple line like:

- *"May you feel loved today."*
- *"May you find someone who helps you when you need it."*

It's playful, light, and deeply pastoral.

Kindness Stones With a Story

Have a basket of painted stones with words like Hope, Peace, Kindness, Courage. Offer them with a gentle line:

"Choose one to remind you of something good today."

Prayer Ribbons on a Tree

Families tie a ribbon to a branch for:

- Someone they love
- Something they hope for
- Something they're worried about You can quietly say:
- *"We'll hold these in our prayers this week."*

It's tactile, beautiful, and communal.

RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING IDEAS

The “Hello Table”

A simple table with colouring sheets, stickers, or bubbles.

Volunteers intentionally stay seated so families feel free to approach. The posture is: *“We’re glad you’re here — stay as long as you like.”* It’s amazing how many conversations begin with a child asking for a sticker.

Picnic Blanket Hospitality

Have a couple of blankets laid out as *“community spaces”*. Families can join if they want — no pressure. Volunteers sit with families, not above them, and chat about:

- favourite parks
- weekend plans
- pets
- what they enjoyed today

These small conversations build trust over time.

Shared Creative Projects

Create something together rather than individually. Examples:

- A giant kindness mural on a roll of paper
- A collaborative chalk design on the path
- A *“community tree”* where everyone adds a leaf

Working side-by-side opens up gentle conversation.

Snack Sharing Station

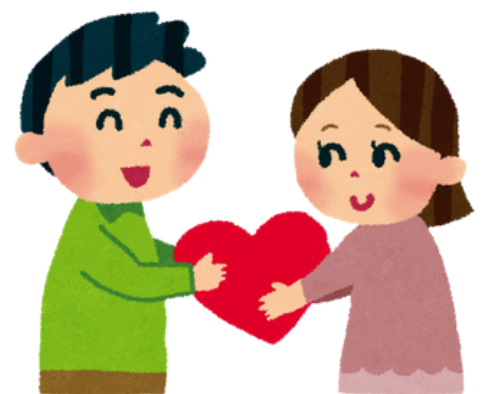
A simple table with biscuits or fruit. Food lowers barriers and creates natural conversation. It’s amazing how often that leads to deeper chats.

What’s Your Favourite...?” Conversation Cards

Have a bowl of fun prompts families can pick from:

- *“What’s your favourite season?”*
- *“What’s the best thing you’ve done outdoors?”*
- *“If you could have any superpower, what would it be?”*

It’s playful, but it opens doors to real connection.



SAFEGUARDING & PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This guidance ensures that every child, young person, and adult who engages with our park pop-up mission experiences a safe, welcoming, and caring environment. It supports volunteers in offering hospitality, creativity, and gentle faith-sharing while maintaining clear safeguarding boundaries.

Every person is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and care.

The safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults is our highest priority.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility — all volunteers share this commitment.

We operate in line with Church in Wales safeguarding policies and local parish procedures.



SAFEGUARDING & PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Visibility & Accountability

- Always work in pairs or teams, never alone.
- Volunteers should be easily identifiable (T-shirts, lanyards, badges).
- Keep all activities within clear sightlines — no hidden corners or enclosed spaces.
- Ensure at least one volunteer is free-floating to keep an eye on the wider environment.

Parents & Carers Stay Responsible

- Make it clear that children remain the responsibility of their parent/carer at all times.
- Use gentle signage or a friendly verbal reminder: *“We’d love you to join in with your child — this is a family activity.”*
- Avoid situations where volunteers are left supervising children alone.

Photography & Consent

- Only take photos if you have explicit written permission from parents/carers.
- Never photograph a child who is alone without their adult present.

First Aid & Emergencies

- Have a named first-aider on site.
- Keep a small first-aid kit visible and accessible.
- Know the exact postcode or location marker of the park in case emergency services are needed.
- Volunteers should know who to alert and how.

Clear Boundaries for Volunteers

- Volunteers don't:
 - Take children to the toilet
 - Lift or carry children
 - Offer physical comfort beyond what is appropriate (e.g., no hugging unless initiated by the child and appropriate)
- Volunteers do:
 - Offer warm presence
 - Use open body language
 - Redirect children to their adults when needed



SAFEGUARDING & PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Weather & Environment Safety

- Check the ground for hazards (glass, dog mess, uneven surfaces).
- Provide shade or water if it's hot.
- Have a wet-weather plan (gazebo, umbrellas, or a quick pack-down strategy).
- Ensure equipment is weighted down in windy conditions.

Safe Activity Design

- Avoid small choking hazards for younger children.
- Use non-toxic, washable materials.
- Keep scissors, stakes, or heavy items supervised.
- Ensure obstacle courses or trails are low-risk and age-appropriate.

Gentle, Non-Intrusive Faith Sharing

- Volunteers should never pressure or corner anyone.
- Use invitational language: *"You're welcome to join us if you'd like."* or *"This activity is inspired by a story Jesus told about kindness."*
- Respect families who simply want to play and not engage spiritually.

Incident & Concern Reporting

- Have a simple, agreed process for:
 - Lost children
 - Injuries
 - Safeguarding disclosures
- Volunteers should know who the Safeguarding Lead is on the day.
- Record concerns factually and pass them on promptly.

Food & Allergy Awareness

- If offering snacks:
 - Keep packaging visible
 - Avoid nuts
 - Ask before offering
 - Provide hand wipes
- Never feed a child without checking with their adult.

STAY
SAFE

Toileting

- Volunteers never accompany children to the toilet.
- If the park has public toilets, direct the parent/carer to them.
- If a child needs help, their adult must provide it.

RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Risk Assessment Guidelines for Park Pop-Up Missions

These guidelines help ensure that every activity is safe, well-supervised, and appropriate for an open public space. They can be used when planning each session and as a quick reference for volunteers on the day.

1. Identify the Activity

Begin by clearly defining:

- What the activity is
- Who it's for (families, mixed ages, toddlers, etc.)
- Where it will take place in the park
- What equipment or materials are needed

A clear description helps you spot risks early.

2. Identify Potential Hazards

Consider anything that could cause harm. Common park pop-up hazards include:

- Uneven ground, tree roots, slippery grass
- Weather conditions (heat, wind, rain)
- Public access — dogs, cyclists, strangers
- Small craft materials that could be choking hazards
- Trip hazards from equipment, bags, ropes, or gazebos
- Allergens (grass, pollen, food items)
- Lost children
- Water features or ponds nearby
- Heavy or unstable equipment

Think broadly — physical, environmental, and social risks.

3. Consider Who Might Be Harmed

Think about:

- Young children
- Children with additional needs
- Parents with buggies
- Volunteers
- Members of the public passing through
- Pets (if relevant)

This helps you tailor safety measures appropriately.



RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

4. Evaluate the Level of Risk

For each hazard, consider:

- Likelihood (low / medium / high)
- Severity (minor injury / significant injury / major harm)

This helps you prioritise what needs the most attention.



5. Put Control Measures in Place

These are the practical steps that reduce risk. Examples include:

Environment

- Choose a visible, open area with good sightlines
- Check the ground for hazards before setting up
- Avoid areas near roads, water, or dense bushes
- Use gazebos or blankets to create safe zones

Equipment & Materials

- Use age-appropriate, non-toxic craft materials
- Keep scissors and sharp items supervised
- Weight down gazebos and signage in windy weather
- Store bags and boxes out of walkways

Supervision

- Volunteers work in pairs or teams
- Parents/carers remain responsible for their children
- Volunteers stay alert to the wider environment
- A designated Safeguarding Lead is present

Weather

- Provide shade and water in hot weather
- Have a wet-weather plan
- Avoid activities that become unsafe when wet

6. Plan for Emergencies

Every session should have:

- A named first-aider
- A stocked first-aid kit
- Knowledge of the park's postcode or location marker
- A clear process for lost children
- A way to contact emergency services quickly

Volunteers should know who to alert and how.



RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

7. Record Your Assessment

Write down:

- The activity
- Hazards identified
- Who might be harmed
- Control measures
- Who is responsible
- Review date



Keep it simple and practical — one page is often enough.

8. Review and Adapt

Risk assessments are living documents. Review when:

- You change activities
- You move to a different part of the park
- Weather conditions shift
- New volunteers join
- An incident or near-miss occurs

Adapt as needed to keep everyone safe.

9. On-the-Day Dynamic Risk Assessment

Even with a written plan, volunteers should stay alert and ask:

- Has anything changed since we arrived
- Is the ground safe
- Are there dogs running loose
- Is the weather affecting safety
- Are children wandering beyond the activity zone

If something feels unsafe, pause and adjust.

10. Keep the Tone Warm and Welcoming

Safety doesn't need to feel heavy.

Your team can hold boundaries while still offering:

- Smiles
- Hospitality
- Calm presence
- Gentle guidance

A safe environment is a relational environment.

