

# Notes for Churches – Planning Your Holiday Club

## *Introduction*

Because of the current and ongoing restrictions on social gathering associated with the Coronavirus pandemic, this resource is designed to be for use by families in the home, with the support of churches through resource provision and online engagement. It is flexible enough to serve churches who have previously provided successful holiday clubs but now are unable to gather in the same way as before, and churches who have never done them before but might have a connection with a small number of families in their community.

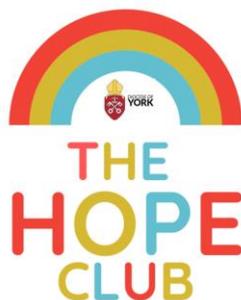
Please see below for the general principles and decisions you need to make to plan your Holiday club, but there will also be specific additional notes and ideas for churches to accompany every session, and it would be a good idea to look through these too.

The Holiday Club is called the Hope Club because we want to offer our communities the opportunity to know our hope is in Jesus the light of the world.

There are five sessions on offer and two All Age Worship (AAW) outlines. You can choose to deliver an AAW at either end of a week where you do a session every day. A session a week for five weeks, or spread the material over two weeks. It is entirely up to you and what you think will work best for the families in your context.

One advantage of doing a session a week is the extra time to prepare and distribute resources, and that you get to see the family every week. It also means that those fortunate enough to get away over the summer can take the session with them or catch up when they return. It might however be really important that you keep the same week as you have already done in preparation for a return to 'normal' next year. Whatever your decision the important thing is that this brings hope and joy to families and is not seen as another burden.

Another advantage of this Holiday Club @ Home model is that it serves to protect many of our dedicated volunteers who are more vulnerable to the Coronavirus. Do make sure, though that they are included by praying, collected resources for crafts or donating funds, being locations on trail walks, etc.



## ***Bible Basis***

Messengers from God told people that God's rescue plan, Jesus was coming, over 700 years before he was born. One messenger, Isaiah, promised that he would be like a light greater than the sun and moon. This was the hope that God's people held on to for generations. But, when Jesus arrived, many didn't see the light – the power and love that he shared with those around him – and didn't see that their hope had been fulfilled. Today, Jesus is still the light of the world and offers us hope in times of darkness. During this holiday club @ home we are going to explore what hope we can have in Jesus and the difference being his friend can make to our lives.

Hope Theme	Story	Bible Refs
AAW 1 Hope in wisdom	Solomon (featured in Wonderzone <sup>1</sup> )	1 Kings 3
Day One Hope in the Light of the World	Jesus brings sight to a blind man	Mark 8:22-26 <sup>2</sup>
Day Two Hope in the Powerful Peace bringer	Jesus calms the storm	Mark 4:35-41
Day Three Hope in the provider	Jesus feeds over 5000 people	Mark 6:30-44
Day Four Hope in the healer	Jesus heals the bleeding woman and Jairus' daughter	Mark 5:21-43
Day Five Hope in the forgiver	Jesus and the picnic on the beach	John 21
AAW 2 Hope in God's creation	Psalm 8 & Psalm 104 (featured in Wonderzone)	

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<sup>1</sup> These two AAW themes have been chosen because Scripture Union have a variety of resources online as part of their Wonderzone holiday club material

<sup>2</sup> Most of these stories appear in other gospels but we have chosen to use the Mark versions because it is the shortest gospel



## ***Resources and Costs***

Each of the five sessions will have the following materials available for downloading and printing or sharing online (more details on each below)...

- Notes for church
- Colourful family sheet<sup>3</sup>
- Magic Dan video
- Craft instructions
- Colouring pages
- Puzzle page
- Drama script/additional story
- Extra Resources

You will need to decide which of these you are going to use and in what way. You can keep it very simple, or you can include members of your congregation in online content delivery (see the [Guidelines for online delivery document](#)). You can just send out sheets in an envelope, or you can deliver or arrange collection of 'Hope Club Bags' that contain all the resources required to make the craft, etc. Tailor your programme to the resources and time you have and the context you work in.

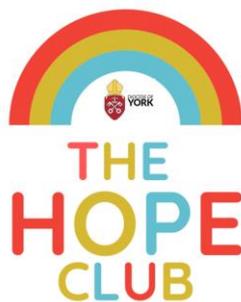
Each session will cost £1-5 per family (assuming an average of 2 children) per session, depending on printing costs and how many resources you provide.

Colouring printing £0.5-1 per family per session,  
Craft resources £1.50 per child per session,  
Bag £0.50 per family per session

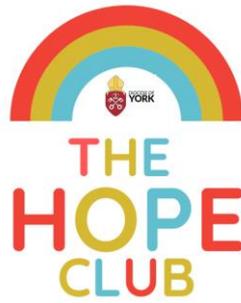
If cost is prohibitive, there are some funds available from the Archbishops Mission fund, please [contact Carolyn Edwards](#) for more information

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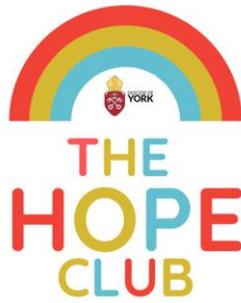
<sup>3</sup> We are only able to upload Pdfs to the website, if you require a version to adapt for your specific contact please [contact Carolyn Edwards](#) who will email the Publisher file



<p>Notes for churches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas on how each session can be delivered, with extra ideas for online engagement and outdoor activities and song ideas</li> <li>• A list of all the resources required if you are doing bags</li> <li>• A printing checklist for all the available pages</li> <li>• Links with the free online book for children edited by Katherine Rundell called <a href="#">‘The Book of Hopes’</a> that you can either signpost or read as part of your online engagement</li> <li>• The Hope Club Prayer</li> </ul>
<p>Family Fun Sheet</p>	<p>This is the central piece of the Hope Club and is designed to enable families to work together to explore the Bible story and the relevant Hope theme. There will be some links to online content but this will be kept to a minimum for families who don't have reliable internet connection, etc.</p> <p>There are two versions of the Sheet: a single and a double page spread. The single sheet is text heavy and therefore might not be suitable for some contexts, but the double page spread includes pictures will increase printing costs. Both sheets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Story summary and ‘teaching’ – a short account of the Bible story and the reason why it gives us hope</li> <li>• Links to videos – related to the theme</li> <li>• Prayer ideas – simple encouragement for families to talk to God in a variety of ways</li> <li>• Wondering together – based on the notion that wondering together is less intimidating than having to give answers that might be wrong and that every member of the family has a part to play in exploring the theme and getting to know God better. This might be something you follow up if you are doing online engagement, or ask families to complete ‘ask the vicar’ postcards from their pack with questions that have arisen from their wondering</li> <li>• Make a scene – an encouragement for family members to dress up or make a scene from the Bible story from toys and share photos of it</li> </ul> <p>The stars on the sheets indicate age suitability - so two stars is for everybody, one star might be better suited to younger children and three stars for older children</p>



Dynamic Dan video	Dan has produced a video for each of the five sessions in which he explores the theme of the session, through magic and jokes. As the Diocese owns the copyright for them, you can post these on your website, stream them as part of an online gathering or even project them onto an outside wall at a social distanced gathering!
Craft instructions	These are best printed in colour as the pictures give step by step instructions for families to follow to create a craft as a reminder of the Hope theme they have been exploring
Colouring page	An extra resource you can print for families. You could ask people to post completed ones on a facebook page
Puzzle page	An additional resource for families that like to work things out with their minds. You could go through the answers to these in an online session
My Hope diary	A booklet containing material from the family fun pages, puzzle pages, etc for all five sessions. If you are using these instead of the Puzzle pages, then every child aged 6-10 needs to have one for the first session. The pages are designed to print as an A5 booklet, flipping on the short side, then collated folded in half and stapled in the centre. There is space on the back page for information about activities your church will be running in the Autumn and contact information, etc. The file is too big to upload to the website so please <a href="#">contact Carolyn Edwards</a> and she will send one to you directly.
Drama Script/additional story	Resources for your online engagement. These are all original works and the Diocese owns the copyright so you can use them as part of your online engagement. You could get some young people from your church to practice these and film them, or if you are able to do an outdoor socially distanced gathering, they could perform them live



To bless families taking part in your holiday club and enable them to enjoy the craft activities you could put together a 'welcome pack' which could include things like:

- A packet of felt tip pens
- A glue stick
- A pair of children's scissors
- A copy of one of the gospels (Mark is the shortest!)<sup>4</sup>
- A battery tealight (for craft and a focus for prayer)
- A packet of pipecleaners (for crafts and active prayers)

The grown ups in the families taking part in your holiday club will range from enthusiastic Sunday School helpers to those with no faith or experience of church at all. From those who have relished the weeks of home schooling to those who are frazzled and don't want to see another 'worksheet'. As you plan, try to think about what will make their life easier rather than add another burden. You might want to send a simple letter with the first pack to help them feel confident in using the resources and inform them of what else you are doing as part of the club

### ***Health and Safety and Safeguarding***

Guidelines for the easing of lockdown are changing regularly, so it may be that you can add different, more gathered activities as the summer progresses. Please do make sure you do everything to protect the families and your volunteers by complying with social distancing and cleaning requirements (your church wardens are probably experts in this by now!).

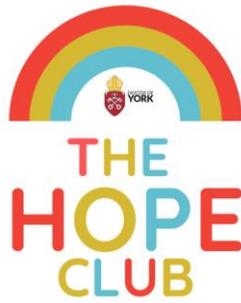
***If you are making up bags or packs, then they need to be quarantined for 72 hours before delivery or collection. Make sure you have a labelling system so that you know how many children are catered for in each bag.***

***When delivering bags wear gloves and a mask, place the bag on the doorstep and knock or ring the bell. Step back from the door before it is answered.***

***If you are asking people to collect the bags from the church, you can hang them on fences or create a socially distanced queue so that you get to greet every family personally.***

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<sup>4</sup> You can purchase these in packs of ten from <https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780564071173/good-news-gnb-gospel-of-mark>



Online engagement must also be thought through in terms of safeguarding and GDPR. Please make sure you read the [guidelines and suggestions for online engagement](#) before you start. If you are going to use a Facebook platform a private group means that pictures posted are not public, but it is nevertheless worth reminding parents to be careful. It is advisable that most of the activities will be family based but do take a look at our guidelines for [video conferencing with children](#) and [young people](#) if you already have a relationship with the families and are wanting to re-make connections that have been lost because of closed weekly groups.

Although registration is not required in the same way as for a traditional holiday club, because you will not be responsible for the children. In order to be able to tailor your materials better it is a good idea to encourage families to register so that you know:

- their address for delivery,
- the ages and number of children,
- any health issues e.g. allergic to balloons
- whether you have permission to use photos they post online in church posts/circulation

Or you can use an online app like [Planning Center](#), [Guidelines for how you handle this data to comply with GDPR](#) are available on the Diocesan website.