

Gingerbread & Generosity Advent 2025



Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families



**Bishops'
Appeal**
Church of Ireland World Aid and Development



Church Pack





Gingerbread & Generosity Advent 2025



Welcome to Gingerbread and Generosity 2025: Houses of Hope!

We're so excited to share this festive pack with you! It's bursting with creative ideas and ready-to-use resources to help you host a joyful Advent or Christmas event that brings families together—and raises awareness and support for two incredible projects backed by The Bishops' Appeal.

Whether you're planning something for your Church, Sunday/children's club, or toddler group, there are loads of ways to get involved. At the heart of it all is the simple joy of decorating gingerbread houses - either at a fun-filled event or encouraging your children and families to do it from the comfort of home.

Here are just a few ways you might use this pack:

- Host a gingerbread decorating event - perfect for Messy Church or a post-service gathering with snacks and festive cheer. You can make it a donation-based event or charge a small fee to support Bishops' Appeal.
- Use one of the included services—either our Advent-themed service or the “Jesus is the Light of the World” Christingle option. During the service, you can take up a collection and hand out family packs for at-home fun.

No matter how you choose to use this pack, we hope families will upload a photo of their gingerbread creations and enter our Houses of Hope competition, with a chance to win one of two £50/€50 One4All vouchers! (Check out the poster in this pack for all the details.)

What's inside the pack?

- Two complete services to choose from: Advent and Christingle.
- Gingerbread house recipe/templates and sourcing tips.
- A printable trail with questions for all ages—great for Messy Church or service time.
- A downloadable video showing how your support helps children and families in Chile and Brazil through SAMS.
- Fun games and craft activities to keep everyone engaged.

Let's make this Advent season one to remember, full of creativity, connection, and compassion. ❤️



Scan
to donate



Gingerbread & Generosity Advent 2025



COMPETITION!

WIN A €50/£50 ONE4ALL VOUCHER!

To be in with a chance to win a One4All voucher. Follow these simple steps:

- **Take a photo of your family's decorated gingerbread house along with your smiling faces if you wish 😊**
- **Scan the QR code and upload the photo with your contact details.**

(Your details will not be used for any other purpose than this competition and by entering you give permission for us to use your image on our social media platforms and contact you should you win.)

The winning houses will be chosen by our projects in Brazil & Chile and winners announced in the first week of January



Making your Gingerbread House



There are two different options when it comes to the gingerbread houses you wish to decorate. You can either bake it yourself (or find a lovely member of your congregation who is blessed with the gift of baking!)...or buy them!

For those of you brave or blessed enough to bake your own, you will find in this pack a recipe and template to help you along - of course, you do not have to follow either of these if you have your own secret recipe!



For those of you who - like me - are the furthest possible distance from being a Bake Off contender, there are some very good and affordable options for buying your basic gingerbread houses.

Our go to option is IKEA's Vintersaga house which costs €3.95/£3.50 each. At the time of writing none of the supermarkets have released details of their build your own gingerbread house, but usually these come in a little more expensive For example last year Aldi's came in at €6/£5.

Alternatively, if you are looking for a bulk order it is worth contacting your local bakery and asking for a price for batches of 10 gingerbread house blanks.



Decorations are altogether easier to purchase - but do please consider the choking hazards of small sweets and always check for allergies.



Make your own Gingerbread House

Gingerbread & Generosity Advent 2025



Ingredients:

250g unsalted butter
200g dark muscovado sugar
7 tbsp golden syrup
600g plain flour
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
4 tsp ground ginger
2 egg whites
500g icing sugar plus extra to dust



Step 1: Make the Dough

Heat oven to 200°C (180°C fan) / Gas 6.

In a pan, melt butter, sugar, and syrup.

In a large bowl, mix flour, bicarbonate of soda, and ginger.

Stir in the melted mixture to form a stiff dough. Add a tiny splash of water if needed.

Step 2: Roll & Cut Shapes

Roll out $\frac{1}{4}$ of the dough on baking paper to the thickness of two £1 coins.

Use a template to cut out house parts: 2 sides, front, back, and 2 roof panels.

Re-roll scraps to make more pieces or Christmas trees if you like.

Step 3: Bake the Pieces

Bake all pieces for 12 minutes until firm and slightly darker at the edges.

Cool slightly, trim using the template again, then cool completely.

Step 4: Make Icing & Build Walls

Mix egg whites and icing sugar to make thick icing.

Put icing in a piping bag.

Pipe icing along the edges and stick the walls together.

Use a bowl inside to support them while they dry (a few hours is best).

Step 5: Add Roof & Decorate

Once walls are dry, attach the roof panels. Hold them in place for a few minutes.

Let the whole house dry completely (overnight is ideal).

Decorate with icing and sweeties

Roof x2

**Template
for small
Gingerbread
triangular
house.**

Front/Back x2

Gingerbread & Generosity Advent 2025



Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry
Children & Families



**Bishops'
Appeal**





Advent Service

The following service outline is a template that can be picked up and used as it is or you can adapt it to your needs and to suit your style.

This service is written to be used any time during Advent.

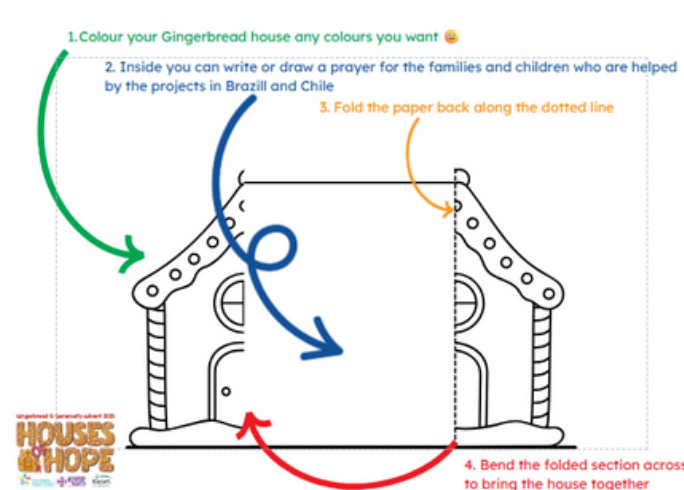
The talk is deliberately designed to be understood by all ages – as all good sermons should!

You will need a gingerbread man/woman as part of the object lesson. You might also choose to encourage the younger children to help you mime the baking of the gingerbread as per the instructions in italics.

During the service, there is an option to involve the congregation in an active prayer space. To prepare for this, you will need to print and cut out the blank gingerbread templates in this pack:



Simply skip this part if you do not have time. Alternatively you can print the open up gingerbread house template and give one to each household to take home and write a prayer:



Advent Service Outline

Welcome & Introduction



LEADER: Welcome in the name of Jesus.

Advent is an invitation to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts. It's a season not only to receive but also to share the precious gift of hope with others because Jesus is the Light of the World!

Today, as we come together to worship, we're going to think, pray, and collect money to help two special projects supported by Bishops' Appeal and SAMS (South American Mission Society).

One of these projects is in Brazil, where there is a safe house for girls who need help. Some of these girls are in are in great danger because people around them are not treating them kindly. This safe house gives them a secure place to live, healthy food to help them grow, and schooling so they can learn and get good jobs in the future. Most importantly, it gives them friendship, care, and fun, so they can feel loved and enjoy being children.

The other project is in Chile and provides shelter, food, friendship and warmth to families and individuals who are homeless. Without this project's support, life would be very hard for these families, and so we want to help keep their vital work going long into the future.

Opening Prayer

LEADER: Lord Jesus, when life feels busy and noisy, help us to be still and listen to You. Fill our hearts with hope and joy this Advent. Help us to share Your love and kindness with people in Chile and Brazil who need care and a safe place to live. Thank You for always being with us.

ALL: Amen.

Opening Hymn/Song/Carol

Prayer of Confession

LEADER: This Advent, remember that God's forgiveness is greater than our mistakes. No matter our past, God offers a fresh start and a life overflowing with hope in Jesus.

ALL: Gracious God, sometimes we mess up. We don't always love you the way we should, and we don't always treat others the way we want to be treated. Forgive us and help us to live differently, showing love and sharing hope. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

LEADER: Why do we light this candle?

ALL: We light this candle to remember that Jesus brings hope. His light shines boldly in the darkness, and no shadow can ever extinguish it. (A child/young person lights the candle)

LEADER: Lord Jesus, You are the Light of the World, the source of all hope.

ALL: Lord Jesus, help us reflect Your light in our homes, our schools, and throughout the world, bringing Your living hope to all. Amen.

Key Bible Verse

Isaiah 9:2 "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."

I have a riddle for you this morning, let's see who can guess the answer:
I'm sweet and spicy, brown and round,
With icing buttons that can be found.
I have arms and legs, a cheerful face,
But don't try to catch me—I'm quick in a race!
What am I?

(Take a few random answers and then hold up a gingerbread man).

Before we get to eat our gingerbread man, or build a gingerbread house there's some preparation to do.

When we bake gingerbread, the first step is preparing our workspace and getting everything ready!

We start by washing our hands until they're squeaky clean. *(You could mime washing your hands and pretend you can hear them squeak).*

Then, we gather the flour, sugar, butter, and spices, hunt down the mixing bowl, and fire up the oven, ready for baking. It takes a bit of work, but we do it happily, because we know what's coming: delicious gingerbread!
(You could pretend to pour all the ingredients into an imaginary bowl as you mention them)

Then we mix everything together: flour, spices, butter, eggs, syrup and stir, stir, stir! *(You might pretend to stir a big bowl.)*

In anticipation of what we hope for, we roll out our dough and cut it into the shapes we want, then pop it in the oven to cook.

Now comes the hardest part... waiting!

We put the gingerbread in the oven and watch as it bakes. Soon, the sweet, spicy smell fills the kitchen, and our excitement grows.

(Take a deep sniff of the air and smile!)

Will it taste good? What do you think?

We hope so!

Well done chefs!

Now, can anyone tell me what this time of year is called?

Yes, Advent.

Did you know that Advent is a bit like baking gingerbread? How? Well:

- We had to prepare everything to bake our gingerbread. Advent is a time of joyful preparation - getting ready for Jesus!
- We were excited about our gingerbread shapes as we rolled out the dough, hopeful and trusting in the recipe. Advent is a time of hope too as we trust God's promises.
- Advent is a time of excited waiting, just like when we waited and watched the gingerbread bake in the oven.

During Advent we wait to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, and we also wait for the day when Jesus will come again as King of the whole world.

While we wait, God is at work in our hearts, helping us grow and change to be more like Jesus.

I wonder what ways we can try to be more like Jesus?

Maybe we could be generous and share what we have with those who don't have very much.

Maybe we could pray for people we know who are going through a difficult time.

Maybe we could be more patient and loving towards people in our home or in our school or work.

This Advent, one way that we can put our faith into action as we support and pray for those in need; we can remember the projects we mentioned at the start of our service. For people experiencing homelessness in Chile and for vulnerable children in Brazil. May we be the light of Christ through our compassion, generosity, and prayers.

Hymn/Song/Carol

(Collection of the offering for Bishops Appeal)

Affirmation of Faith

ALL: We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer Activity *(optional)*

Individuals and families are invited to write short prayers of hope for the girls in the safe house in Brazil and for the homeless families in Chile. Using the gingerbread house shapes in this pack, invite the congregation to write their prayers on a house and stick it with bluetack to a wall or a large board to create a whole village of prayer.

Prayers of Intercession

LEADER: Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the World.

ALL: Shine in the darkness.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for coming into our world to bring light and love. As we get ready for Christmas, fill our hearts with Your joy and peace. Help us to share Your love with our family, friends, and everyone we meet. Let our lives shine brightly this Advent.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the World.

ALL: Shine in the darkness.

LEADER:

Lord Jesus, our world really needs Your peace. Please be close to people who are sad, scared, or hurt.

We think today of homeless children in Chile and the girls in the safe house in Brazil. Bring them comfort, healing, and hope. We thank you for the staff and volunteers in these projects who work long hours to provide safety, peace, warmth and care. Bless them with energy, encouragement and provision to keep this important work going. Help us, your Church, to share your love and kindness in our own spaces every day. Teach us to be peacemakers, to use our words to help, and our actions to show your love.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the World.

ALL: Shine in the darkness.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, we thank You for our families and everyone in our community. Please take care of the people we love, those who are happy, those who are sad, and those who feel far away from you. Help our church to be a place of hope and kindness, where people are welcomed and loved.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the World.

ALL: Shine in the darkness.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, we pray for the people in Chile who don't have a home. Please give them comfort, food, and a safe place to live. We also pray for the girls in the safe house in Brazil. Keep them safe and fill their hearts with Your love and peace. Thank You for letting us help and show Your love to others.

Let us join together now in prayer, and, as our saviour Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

ALL:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
And deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory.
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

Closing Prayer

ALL: Lord Jesus, as Christmas draws near, fill us with the fullness of Your love. Let Your Church shine as a beacon of hope and light in the world. May our hearts and hands reflect Your compassion, our words carry Your encouragement, and our lives overflow with generosity. Help us share the joy of Your coming, so that all may know the peace and grace You bring. Amen.

Blessing and dismissal.

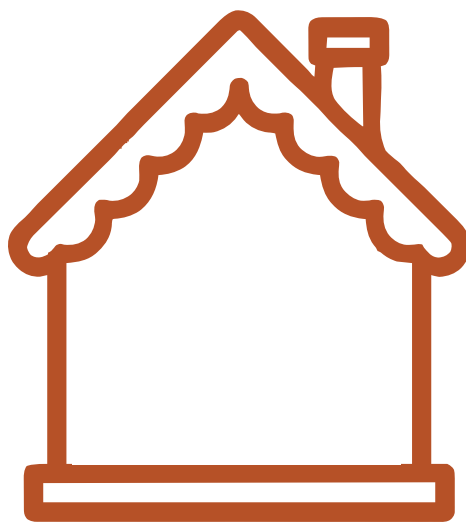


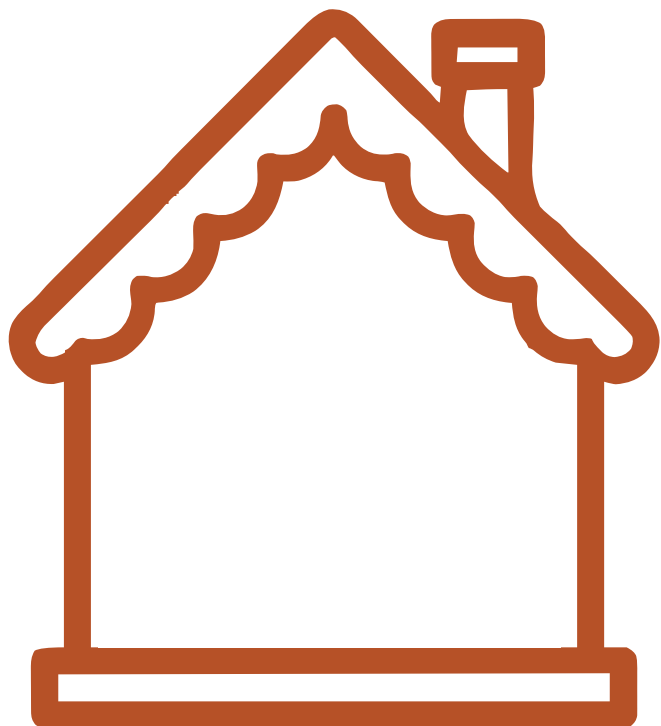
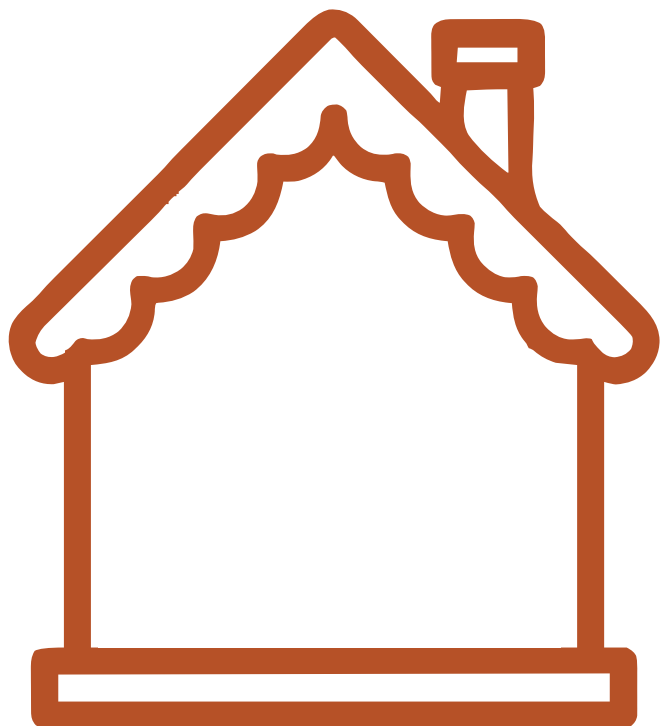
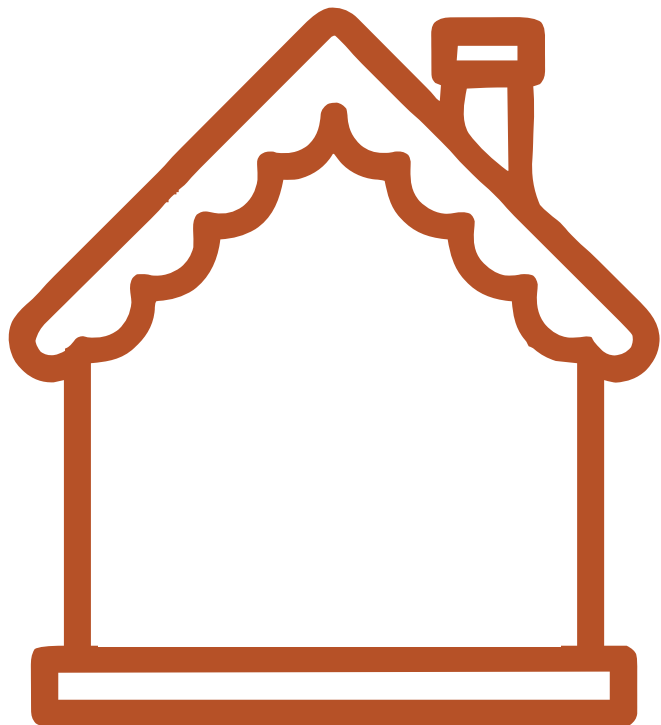
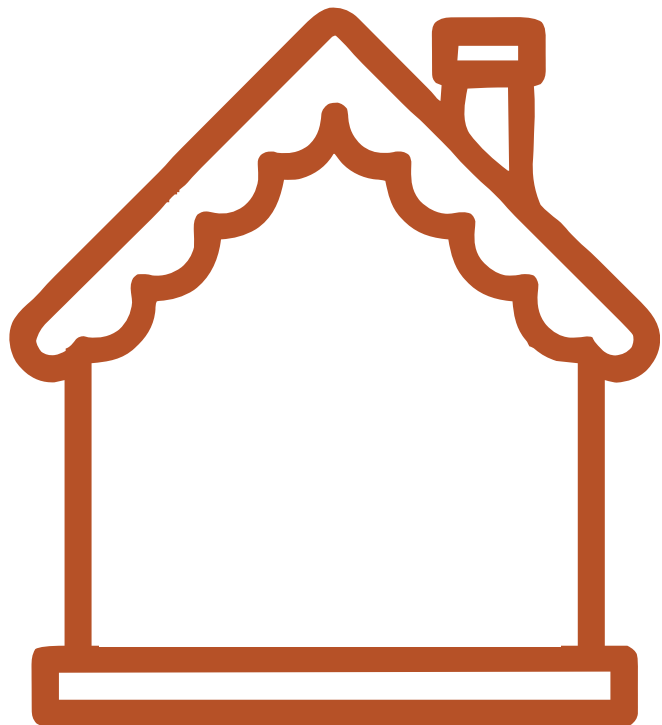
House of prayer

As part of your service or activity time, invite those present to write short prayers on the gingerbread houses. Encourage people to use their own words and remind them that God hears the heart behind the prayers, He is not bothered by our spelling or ability to use fancy words.

These might be prayers for those in the SAMS projects you've heard about, it might be for those in your local community who are without safe places to live, or it could be for their own family. Explain that if they wish to draw a picture instead of writing this too is also an option.

Provide a blank wall or space where, once prayers are written, they can stick their house to create a village/town of prayer.



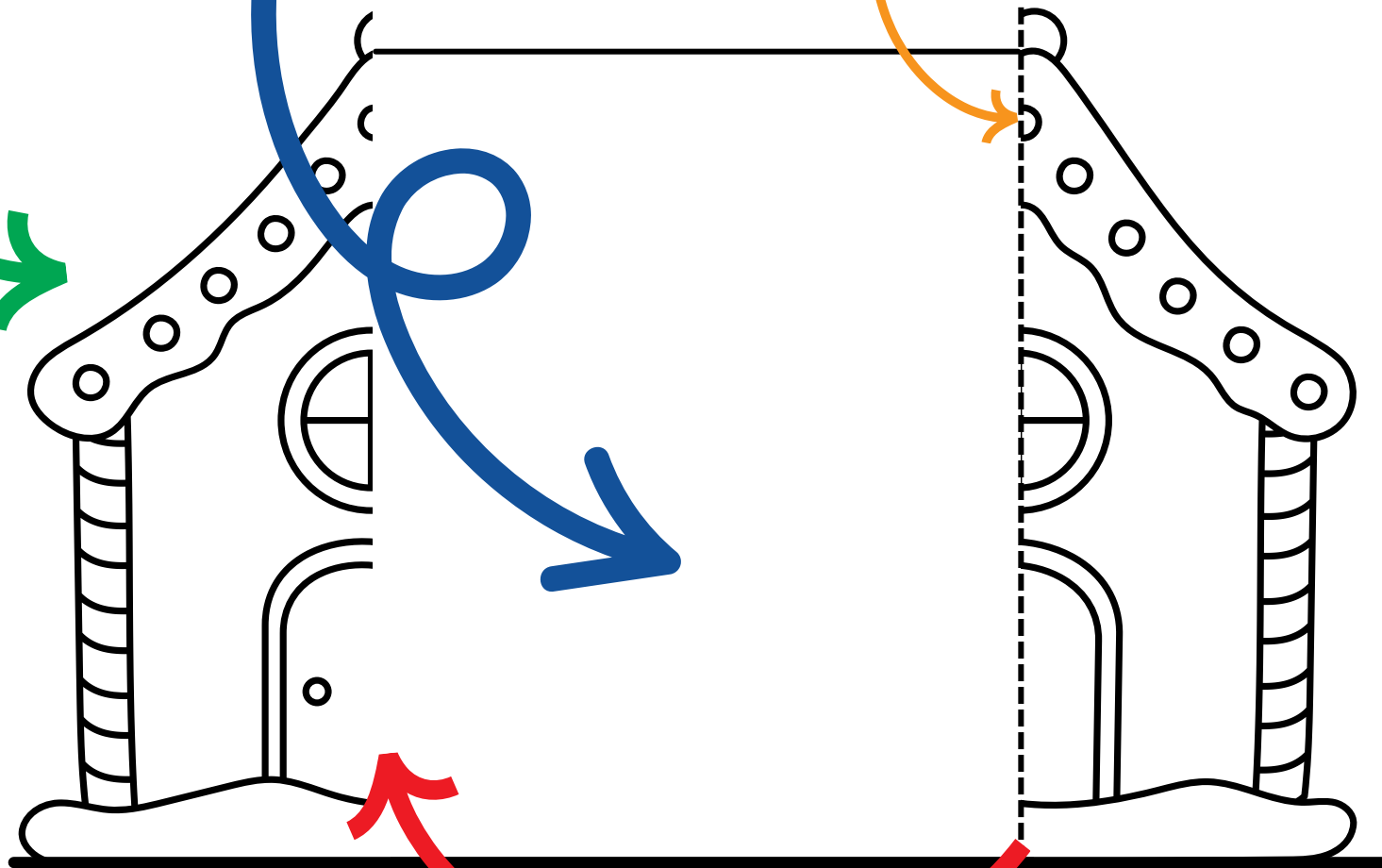


1. Colour your Gingerbread house any colours you want 😊

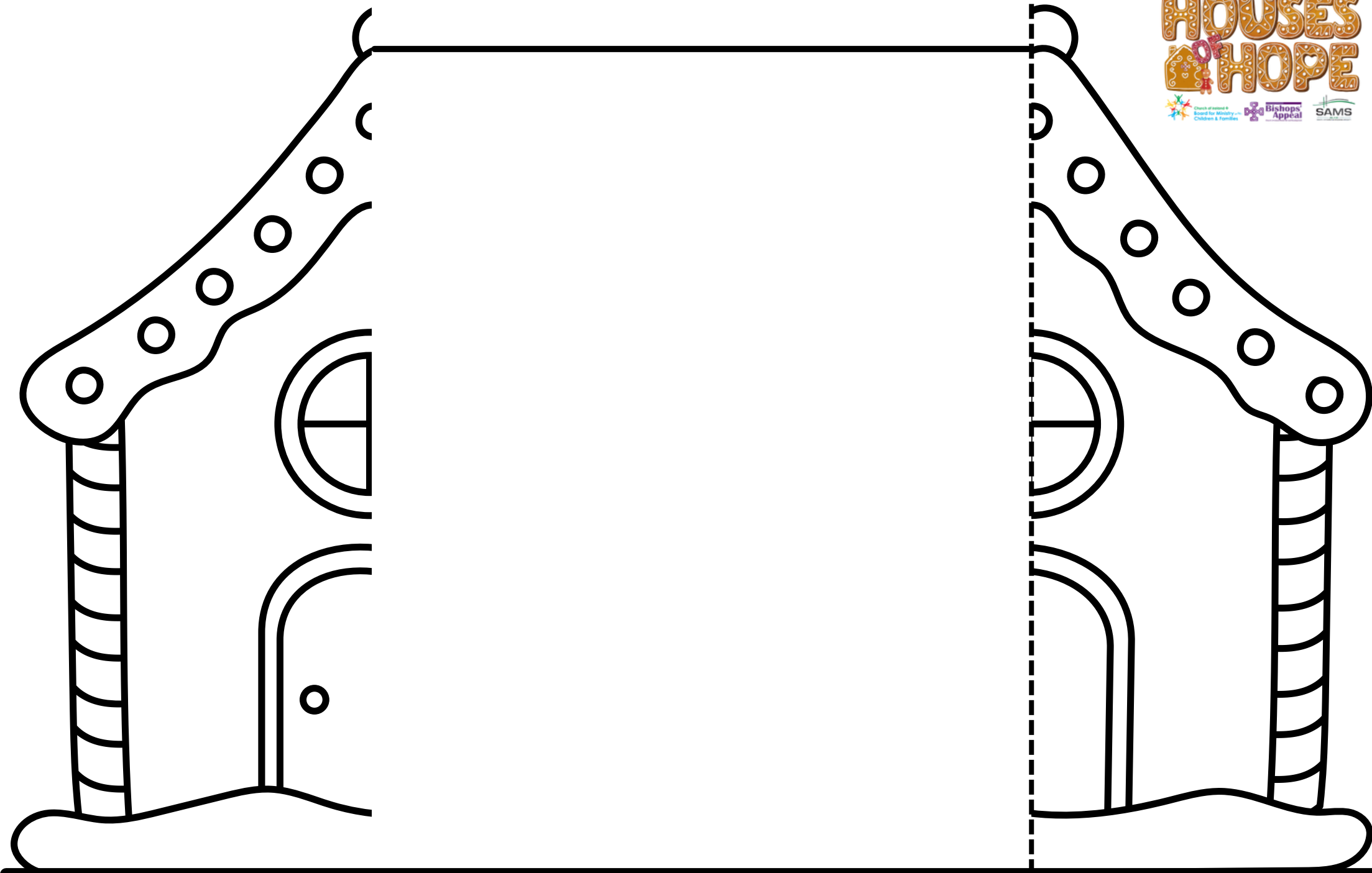
2. Inside you can write a prayer for the families and young girls in Brazil and Chile

3. Fold the paper back along the dotted line

4. Bend the folded section across to bring the house together



Gingerbread & Generosity Advent 2025



Light of the world Service

The following service outline is a template that can be picked up and used as it is or you can adapt it to your needs and to suit your style.

This service is written to be used any time pre or post Christmas, but would work particularly well as a Christingle service as the theme is Jesus Light of the world.

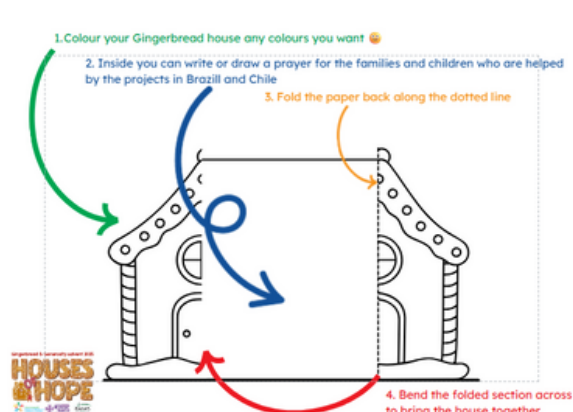
The talk is deliberately designed to be understood by all ages – as all good sermons should!

You will need: A torch – take the batteries out but have them with you, and a small range of things you could say you were going to put in the torch instead of batteries. For example a small pot of playdough, chocolate – or a banana which ever you would use yourself when you need an energy boost (please note you don't **actually** put these in the torch!!)

During the service, there is an option to involve the congregation in an active prayer space. To prepare for this, you will need to print and cut out the blank gingerbread templates in this pack:



Simply skip this part if you do not have time. Alternatively you can print the open up gingerbread house template and give one to each household to take home and write a prayer:



Light of the World Service Outline

Welcome & Introduction



LEADER: Welcome in the name of Jesus.

Let us pause, reflect, and still our hearts as we accept the call to share the gift of hope with others; for Jesus is the Light of the World.

Today, as we come together to worship, we're going to think, pray, and collect money to help two special projects supported by Bishops' Appeal and SAMS (South American Mission Society).

One of these projects is in Brazil, where there is a safe house for girls who need help. Some of these girls are in great danger because people around them are not treating them kindly. This safe house gives them a secure place to live, healthy food to help them grow, and schooling so they can learn and get good jobs in the future. Most importantly, it gives them friendship, care, and fun, so they can feel loved and enjoy being children.

The other project is in Chile and provides shelter, food, friendship and warmth to families and individuals who are homeless. Without this project's support, life would be very hard for these families, and so we want to help keep their vital work going long into the future.

Opening Prayer

LEADER: Lord Jesus, when life feels busy and noisy, help us to be still and listen to You. Fill our hearts with hope and joy as we seek to share Your love and kindness with people in Chile and Brazil who need care and a safe place to live. Thank You for always being with us.

ALL: Amen.

Opening Hymn/Song/Carol

Prayer of Confession

LEADER: God's forgiveness is greater than any mistake we've made. No matter our past, God offers us a fresh start and a life overflowing with hope through Jesus.

ALL: Gracious God, sometimes we mess up. We don't always love you the way we should, and we don't always treat others the way we want to be treated. Forgive us and help us to live differently, showing love and sharing hope. Amen.

Prayerful Response

LEADER: Dear God, Thank You for being our light when things feel dark.

ALL: Lord Jesus, help us reflect Your light in our homes, our schools, and throughout the world, bringing Your living hope to all. Amen.

Key Bible Verse

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

Has anyone here ever had a power cut in their home?

We are in the season when we have storms and quite often the power can go out. When that happens in the evening time, what is it like in your house?
(allow space for people to call out their responses)

And when it's dark and a bit scary - what is the thing you try to find first? A torch! Suddenly when we turn on the torch we can see where we are going, we stop bumping into each other and stop treading on the dog's tail! It feels less scary too when we have the torch on doesn't it?

(Lift up your torch and show the congregation - remember to have removed the batteries before you show it)

This is my torch - I know that if the darkness came, all I have to do is turn it on and I will be able to see where I am going.

(Try to turn the torch on and look at it then wonder why isn't it working - give it a shake then open the battery compartment)

Oh I see - there's something missing. Something is meant to go in here to give it power....I wonder what that might be? It'll need to be something that's going to squash into this space

I know - I've got some playdough here, that's squashy - do you think that will give it power?

Hmm, maybe not, let's think, when I need energy I eat a banana (or chocolate bar) will I put that in the torch, that will give it power won't it?

Hmmm, probably not - it would get a bit messy wouldn't it.

So what do you think I need to put in my torch to make it work? *(allow answers, hopefully one of them will be batteries!)*

Batteries? Are you sure?

Well, let's give it a go (*put batteries into the torch and turn it on*)

Wow! That was exactly what we needed. Thank you for helping me.

You know, this reminds me of our Bible reading earlier, where Jesus said something very important, He said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

That's a great promise isn't it – that when we are filled with the love of Jesus we will never walk in darkness but have the light of life. That doesn't mean that dark times, hard times and sad times won't happen in our life. But it does mean that when we go through those challenges and life is tough, we have Jesus' love to guide us, to help us keep moving. He guides us when we're confused, gives hope when we feel sad or afraid, and shows us how to live in a way that's full of love and truth.

If we think back to my torch and all the things we tried to use to make it work. In a similar way we sometimes try to rely on different things to help us get through: life, money, relationships, work, food, even our pets. None of these things are wrong, they are all good in their own ways, but but they are not what we were created to trust and rely on for life.

We are created to live our lives filled with God's love, walking His way and trusting in Him because He knows us completely, He will never end, run out or leave us.

So when we trust God, are filled with His love, we shine the way we were always meant to. And the best thing is, not only does that help us live our life but it means the light of God's love shines through us to help others too.

What ways could we shine God's light for other people?

In Matthew 5v14 Jesus said of **us**:

"You are the light that shines for the world to see. You are like a city built on a hill that cannot be hidden. People don't hide a lamp under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand. Then the light shines for everyone in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people."

Jesus' love helps us find the right way to live, with kindness, compassion, and care for others.

Now, do you remember at the start of the service we talked about two projects in countries called Chile and Brazil.

These projects help children and families who don't have safe places to live. Life for them is very challenging and often scary. They really need care, support, and hope. And guess what? Even though they live far away, we can still help them.

We can shine the light of Jesus all the way across the world to these children and families!

- You can raise money through the Bishops Appeal that will go to SAMS and help children and families in Chile and Brazil.
- Even more than that, you can pray for the children and families in Chile and Brazil who are finding life difficult.

When we care about people in places like Chile and Brazil, we're showing them that God's love really does reach everywhere.

So let's remember: Jesus is the light. We can share His light. And together, we can make a difference!

Hymn/Song/Carol

(Collection of the offering for Bishops Appeal)



Affirmation of Faith

ALL: We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer Activity *(optional)*

Individuals and families are invited to write short prayers of hope for the girls in the safe house in Brazil and for the homeless families in Chile. Using the gingerbread house shapes in this pack, invite the congregation to write their prayers on a house and stick it with bluetack to a wall or a large board to create a whole village of prayer.

Prayers of Intercession

LEADER: Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the World.

ALL: Shine in the darkness.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, we thank You for coming into our world to bring light and love. Help us to share Your love with our family, friends, and everyone we meet. We thank you for the opportunity to help people in Chile and Brazil.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the World.

ALL: Shine in the darkness.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, our world really needs Your peace. Please be close to people who are sad, scared, or hurt. We think today of homeless children in Chile and the girls in the safe house in Brazil. Bring them comfort, healing, and hope. We thank you for the staff and volunteers in these projects who work long hours to provide safety, peace, warmth and care. Bless them with energy, encouragement and provision to keep this important work going. Help us, your Church, to share your love and kindness in our own spaces every day. Teach us to be peacemakers, to use our words to help, and our actions to show your love.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the World.

ALL: Shine in the darkness.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, we thank You for our families and everyone in our community. Please take care of the people we love, those who are happy, those who are sad, and those who feel far away from you. Help our church to be a place of hope and kindness, where people are welcomed and loved.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the World.

ALL: Shine in the darkness.

LEADER: Lord Jesus, we pray for the people in Chile who don't have a home. Please give them comfort, food, and a safe place to live. We also pray for the girls in the safe house in Brazil. Keep them safe and fill their hearts with Your love and peace. Thank You for letting us help and show Your love to others.

Let us join together now in prayer, and, as our saviour Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

ALL:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
And deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory.
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

Closing Prayer

ALL: Lord Jesus, fill us with the fullness of Your love. Let Your Church shine as a beacon of hope and light in the world. May our hearts and hands reflect Your compassion, our words carry Your encouragement, and our lives overflow with generosity.
Amen.

Blessing and dismissal.



Tricky Trail Challenge

1. What does the name “Olinda” mean?

.....

2. How many young people can live in the Safe House at one time?

.....

3. What colour are the beans that go into a Feijoada?

.....

4. How many young girls have been helped since the Safe House opened 11 years ago?

.....

5. How many people in Brazil struggle to find enough food for their family?

.....

6. What year did the Community Kitchen in Chile start?

.....

7. What is the capital city of Chile?

.....

8. What ingredients would you find in a bowl of Cazuela?

.....

9. What helps to make the Community Kitchen a warm and welcoming place?

.....

10. Name two of the things the Community Kitchen give away in the winter?

.....



Gingerbread Trail Challenge

1 What does Gary the gingerbread man have on his jumper?

.....

2. What is Gráinne wearing on her head?

.....

3. How many wheels are on the train?

.....

4. How many hearts are on the gingerbread house?

.....

5. What is Gemma holding in her hand?

.....

6. How many gingerbread heart cookies can you find?

.....

7. What is Gordon doing?

.....

8.What is Ger dressed up as?

.....

9. How many gingerbread men are holding hands?

.....

10. What game is Garret playing?

.....



Trail Answers:

Tricky trail:

1. "Oh Beautiful"
2. Up to 24
3. Black Beans
4. 60
5. About 61 million
6. 2019
7. Santiago
8. Beef or Chicken, potatoes, sweet corn on the cob, rice, and green peppers.
9. Teamwork
10. 2 of any of the following: Blankets, warm clothing, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and soap,

Gingerbread person trail:

1. Snowflake
2. A bow
3. Six
4. Three
5. Candy Cane
6. Six
7. DAB or dancing
8. Cowboy
9. Five
10. Soccer/Football



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Did you know?

The Safe House in Brazil is not far from the city of Olinda, a name that means “Oh, beautiful.”

Something beautiful is happening as the local community and the church are working together like one big family.

They share food, help, and support families who do not have enough. It's a story of beauty in Olinda.





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Did you know?

Up to 24 young people are homed in the ReVive safe house in Brazil at any one time.

The house provides a safe place for the young girls to live and a chance for them to get back into education, receive the necessary help they need, learn new things and begin to restore their life, renew their hope for the future.



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Did you know?

In Brazil, the most famous black bean dish is feijoada, a rich, tasty stew made with black beans and different kinds of meat served with rice.

Feijoada is so special that it's known as Brazil's national dish!

This is one of the favourite dishes in the ReVive Safe House.





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Did you know?

The ReVive Safe house in Brazil opened 11 years ago and was the first and only home in the city for girls.

Since then more than 60 girls have found safety, hope and a future living in the house.



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HOUSES OF HOPE

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Did you know?

The Revive Project also runs a Community Food Market to help families who don't have enough food.

Some families in Brazil don't have enough to eat every day — this is called food insecurity.

Right now, about 61 million people in Brazil struggle to find food.

To help, the market uses extra food that would otherwise be thrown away. This means they are helping people and the planet at the same time.

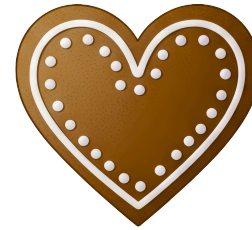


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Did you know?

The Comedor Solidario, which means The Community Kitchen started in 2019 in Santiago, Chile, to help people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even though the pandemic is over, the local church still keeps its doors open welcoming around 120 homeless people and families, sharing warm meals, kindness, and a safe place to rest.





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Did you know?

The Community Kitchen project is in a big city called Santiago, which is the capital of Chile. That means it's the most important city in the country, and about seven million people live there!

The name Santiago means Saint James. Lots of places in South America are named after him because he stands for things like faith, and protection. That's just like what the Community Kitchen does—it helps people who are going through tough times by giving them food, care, and hope, and walking beside them like a good friend.



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Did you know?

In Chile, there's a dish called 'cazuela', a comforting stew made with either beef or chicken.

Other ingredients are potatoes, sweet corn on the cob, rice, and green peppers. As it cooks on the stove a yummy smell fills the air, making it taste like warmth and care.

At the homeless project, cazuela is a favourite dish during the cold winter months.





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Did you know?

The Community Kitchen in Chile is a team effort supported by around 20 volunteers. Each volunteer has an important role to play.

Some volunteers help prepare the food, while others serve meals and make sure everyone feels welcome. Many take time to chat, offering friendly conversation and a listening ear. After the meal, the volunteers work together to tidy up. Teamwork helps make The Community Kitchen a warm and welcoming place for everyone who comes through its doors.





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Did you know?

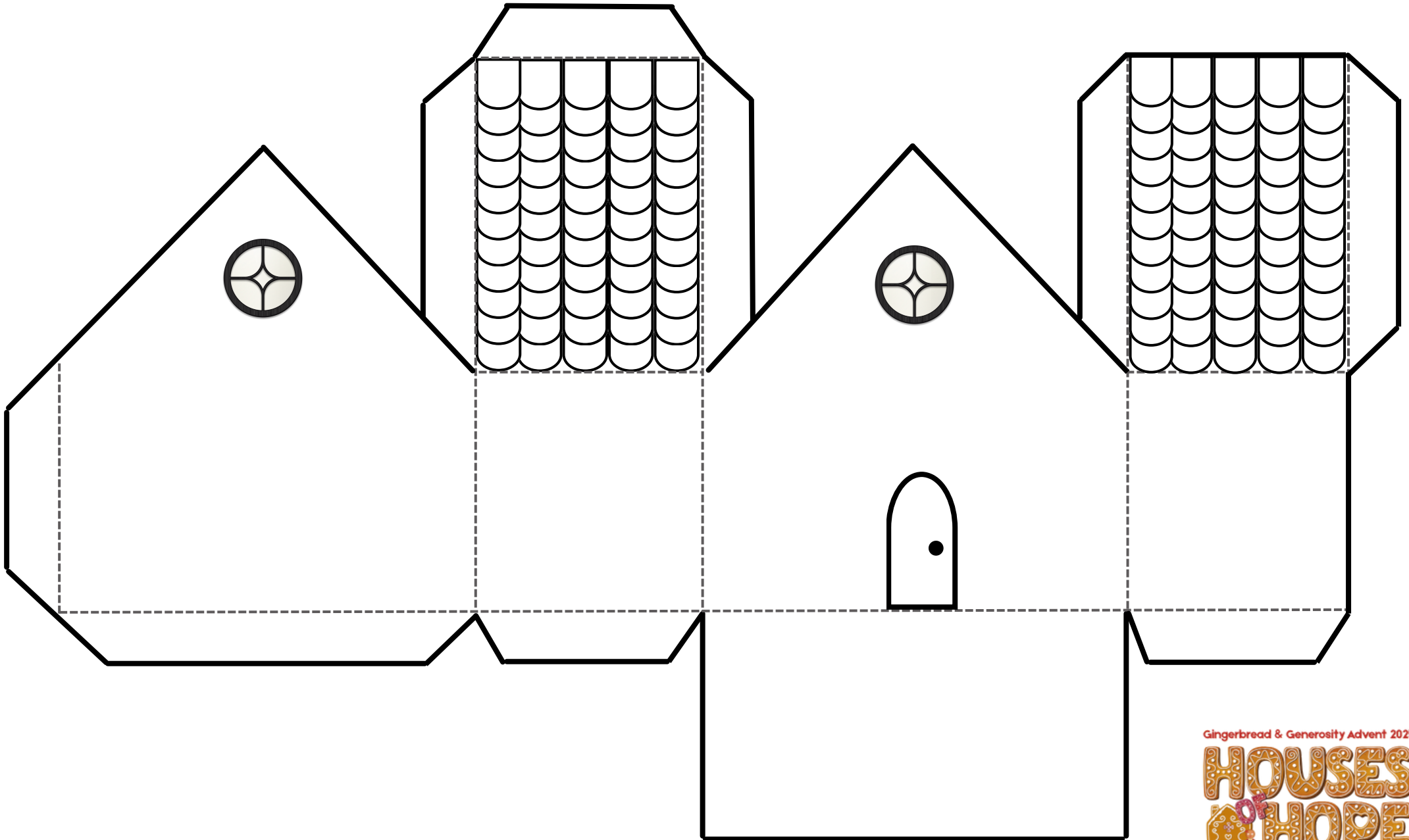
The Community Kitchen does more than provide meals, it offers support to people experiencing homelessness.

The volunteers give toiletries like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and soap, these help people feel clean and cared for.

In the colder months, they also offer warm clothing and blankets. By helping with these simple things, the kitchen becomes a happy place full of hope, warmth, and friendship for people who really need it.



Decorate, cut along the solid lines, fold along the dotted lines and stick together your gingerbread house!



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Messy Play Ideas

If you run a toddler group or have a Messy Play area in your Church, here's some ideas of ways to bring some messy fun and warming spice to your event.



Firstly, just to say, if you are new to Messy Play and fancy trying it, make sure you choose a place that is easy to clean, not carpeted and you consider all choking hazards. Parents should always supervise their children during Messy play activities.



The images here show Messy Play in Tuff trays which are fabulous resources if you have them - if not you can always use large shallow plastic boxes or individual trays. Choose from a selection of sensory items - ideally only one or two per station particularly for the wetter items. Some ideas of what you can use include:

- Brown rice (uncooked)
- Flour
- Oats
- Cloud Dough (see recipe on following page)
- Playdough (see recipe in this pack)
- Rice Krispies or Weetabix



You can then add in small rolling pins, plastic cookie cutters (do not use metal) in the shapes of gingerbread people, scoops, spoons and pots and if you can find them, some small easily cleaned toys, or plastic gingerbread decorations, Baker Ross have some [stretchy gingerbread men](#). You could also add cinnamon sticks as scented tools for the children to use. To your flour, oats or Weetabix you can add cinnamon or ginger spices or cocoa for that extra warmth, and beautiful scents.

If you're up for paint based Messy Play - you can use the plastic cookie cutters dipped in washable paint for print art. For extra fun you could cut out gingerbread house shapes and make some puffy paint: (1/2 cup white glue, 1/2 cup Shaving Foam (non gel) and either a few drops of food dye or 1 Tbsp paint). To make it even more on theme add in some cinnamon and nutmeg for scented puffy paint 😊

Gingerbread Scented No Bake Play-dough

The smell of gingerbread is so warming and comforting and it makes for the perfect sensory scented play-dough.

Below is a simple no bake recipe that you can use - this will make a ball of dough big enough for 2 children to play with...or three if they have very small hands!

As always with any messy play, make sure that children are supervised at all times - especially as this smells quite edible!

150g plain flour

100g salt

2 tsp. cream of tartar

2 tbsp. vegetable oil

200ml water

1 Teaspoon ground nutmeg

2 Teaspoons ground cinnamon

1 Tablespoon ground ginger

Mix all the dry ingredients together in a large bowl.

Add in the oil.

Then gradually mix in the warm water and knead until the dough comes together to form a lovely ball of sensory squishyness! (I have to admit I may take a little longer than necessary kneading the play-dough before I hand it over to my kids! - there has to be some perks to this job right?!)



Gingerbread Scented Cloud Dough

Cloud Dough is simple to make and fun to play with - it holds together in a similar way to Kinetic Sand and using this recipe you can fill the air with the smell of gingerbread and joy!

- 2 Kg bag of plain flour
- 240g ground cinnamon
- 4 Tablespoons ground ginger
- 2 Tablespoon ground nutmeg (optional)
- 2 Tablespoon allspice (optional)
- 480 ml vegetable oil

How to Make Taste-Safe Cloud Dough

1. Heat-Treat the Flour (for safety):

- Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C).
- Spread the flour evenly on a baking sheet.
- Bake for 5 minutes.
- Let the flour cool completely before using it.

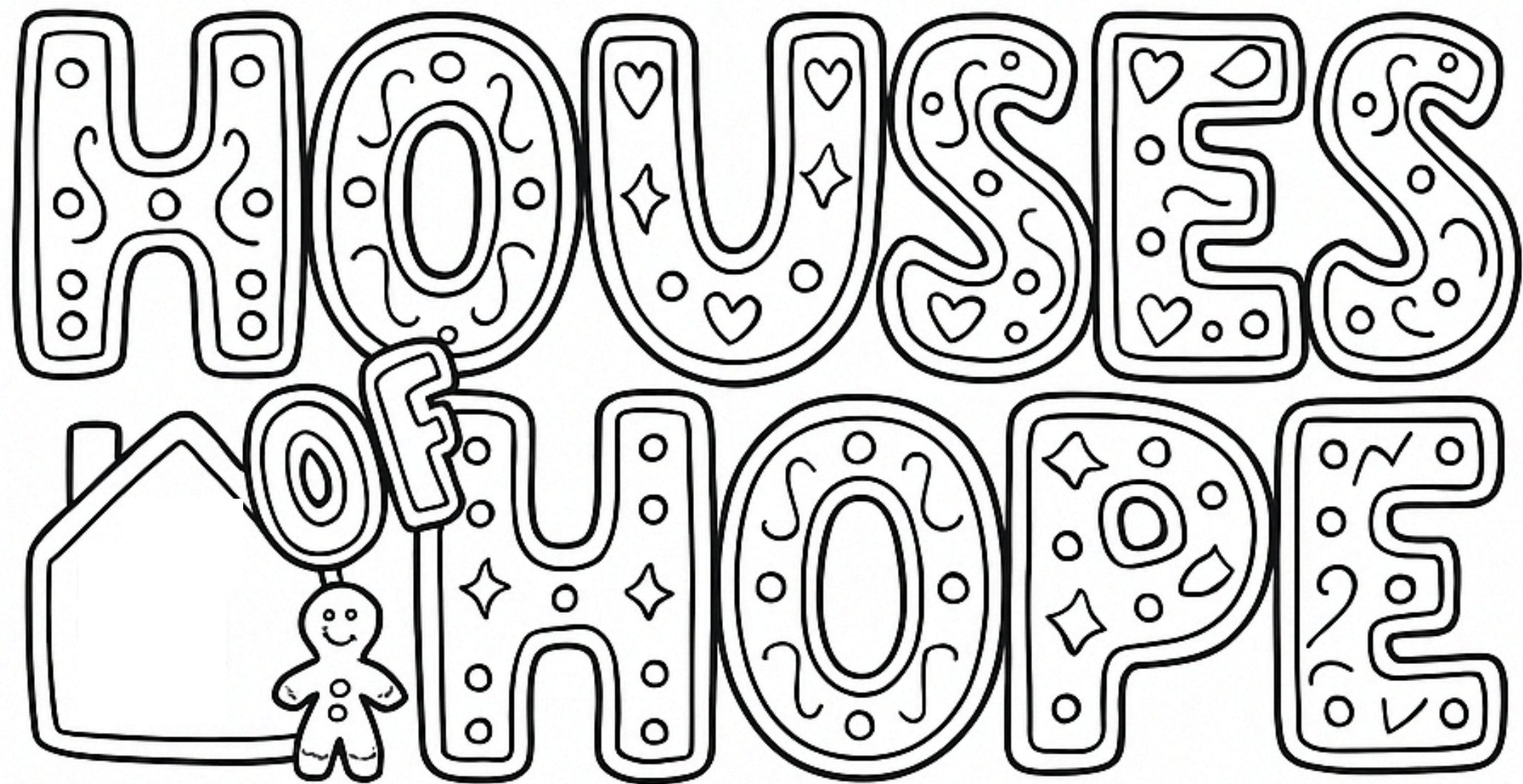
2. Mix the Dough:

- Mix all the dry ingredients together in a large bowl or a plastic box if you are using this as your sensory box. If you don't have a range of spices available focus on using
- lots of Cinnamon or Allspice as they bring the strongest aroma 😊.
- Add vegetable oil to the cooled flour.
- Mix thoroughly until the dough is dry but moldable.
- The ideal texture is one that clumps together when pressed, without being sticky or wet.
- Make sure there are no dry patches of flour remaining.

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Gingerbread Bowling

To make your homemade gingerbread bowling alley you will need:

- 6 paper cups
- A ball made from scrunched up foil large enough to knock the paper cups down - or if you have a light tennis ball you can use this too.
- Cut out the gingerbread houses on the next page and stick them onto the paper cups.



To play, simply stack the cups in a triangle formation as shown in the image.

Take it in turns to throw the ball at the cups, you get a point for each cup that falls down.

Winner is the person with the most points after 10 throws each.





Candy Cane Hunt

A super simple way to keep children active and entertained. You can either use real candy canes and hide them around your house/church hall, or print and cut out the candy canes on the next page. Print multiple pages if you have lots of children and a large hall!

If using the printed versions you could have an edible prize for the person who find the most paper canes.





Roll a Gingerbread House

YOU WILL NEED A DICE TO PLAY THIS GAME.

Print the house pieces on the next page onto card. Cut out the parts of your House (one house per player). If you are able to laminate the pieces they will last longer.

Each part of the gingerbread house has a number that links to a number on the dice.

Take turns to throw the dice - you must throw a number 6 first to get started with your main house base (if you are short on time you can skip this rule).

Then see who can roll the numbers they need to build their house first!

