



25 Fun Activities

Discover a variety of fun-filled activities designed for children, young people and families.

Updated September 2025
Compiled by the Go Team

www.bathandwells.org.uk/children-young-people



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Bath & Wells

Living and telling the story of Jesus

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Introduction

We have compiled this booklet of fun activities for children, young people and families. Most of the activities listed have been suggested by or developed with young people.

These activities could form a whole session, or be a stand alone part of a session. Feel free to adapt and use any of these activities to make them work with your group, taking into considerations ages, abilities and additional needs.

For some activities you may require extra parental consent or permissions. You will also need to carry out your own risk assessments for all the activities listed, especially for those which take place off site. You can find a risk assessment template and instructions on our website www.bathandwells.org.uk/children-young-people.

For further help and support, you can contact your archdeaconry based Go Team Adviser- find our contact details on page 12.

If you use any of these ideas and have a story to share with us, please email us, goteam@bathwells.anglican.org, or tag us on Instagram or Facebook @GoTeamAdvisers.

Tips for planning activities with children, young people and families (cyf)

- Spending time building relationships with and between young people is just as important as the activities you are planning
- Be careful not to pack your programmes so full of activities that it leaves little or no time for informal conversations
- Involve your target audience in the planning, preparation and delivery of activities
- Plan your activities well by aiming for inclusivity, taking into consideration the different abilities and additional needs of your group
- Include other leaders when planning so that not everything depends on one person, and including others will help them feel more ownership of the activity and encourage them to want to be there
- Use a variety of learning styles, methods and creative ideas in your activities
- Choose a variety of activities that appeal to different levels of competitiveness, challenge and creativity
- Remember your job is more about helping children, young people and families to explore the world, not throwing information at them to absorb
- Shape your activities to complement what children and young people do at school- they will all learn and achieve in different ways
- Make your activities as accessible and affordable as possible
- Be realistic about the activities you can offer and deliver
- Ensure you have adequate facilities, resources and staff to make your activities safe and fun
- If you have small numbers consider joining groups together, or working with other local groups to pool resources and people
- Be flexible in your planning; unforeseen circumstances (and the weather) may make last minute plan changes necessary
- Don't use up all your good ideas at once! You will struggle to fit it all in, and there will be other opportunities to make things happen in the future
- Regularly evaluate your activities as your target audience may get bored or change, and the activities may not be as timeless as you think
- Inform your PCC or church governance body/leadership about all activities, so they can support and pray for you and for those taking part
- If you include food and/or drink in your activities, follow health and safety guidelines and be aware of any allergies, special dietary requirements, and other risk factors. (i.e. if you are trampolining, you may want to eat after, not before!)



Five fun food ideas

When using food in activities, you will need to be especially aware of health and safety, food hygiene, and allergies.

At the start of a session which involves food, everyone taking part should wash their hands thoroughly, and aprons would be a great idea!

Using food with children, young people and families is a good way of teaching basic skills while having fun and creating something tangible together. You can also help build respect and community among your group through sharing in washing and clearing up at the end.

The Bible is full of food, feasts and shared meals, meaning you can make many links between your activity and Bible stories if you want to.

1. Fondue/chocolate fountain

Make the fondue and cut up crudites as part of the session.

You will need to carefully supervise all of the cooking and chopping. When dipping, it is safer to use skewers or cocktail sticks, rather than forks or metal fondue prongs.

You can have savoury (cheese) or sweet (chocolate) fondue, and ask your group ahead of time what things they might like to dip in the fondue. In a savoury fondue you could have veg sticks, crackers, apple, bread, roast potatoes/chips or large pasta shapes.

In a sweet fondue you could dip marshmallows, fruit, biscuits, popcorn, dried fruit, mini doughnuts, mini flapjacks, pretzels, waffles, or even pancakes.

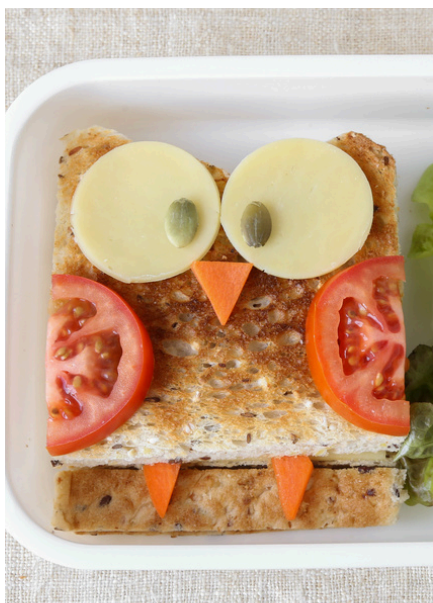
Avoid nuts and meat products to prevent cross contamination and common allergies. Make sure you know what allergies your group members have!



2. DIY pizza night

You can tailor this activity to the abilities or age of your group, either fully making pizza from scratch, right down to the base and sauce, or you can buy baguettes or naan for an easy base, or you could buy plain/basic cheese pizza bases, or even use slices of bread and use pre-prepared ingredients for the toppings. As always, ask your group what toppings they would like (or invite them to bring their own), create and cook your pizzas together, and you could even have competitions for the best, most creative or most outrageous pizza toppings.





3. Favourite sandwiches

If you don't have access to cooking facilities, or are working with a group of young children, invite your group to bring their favourite fillings to make creative sandwiches. You could provide a variety of bread, and encourage them to use cookie cutters to make fun or fancy sandwich shapes. This could be a great activity for an all day holiday club where you will be eating lunch together in the middle of the day.

If you want to adapt this activity for older children, families or young people, you could expand the activity to include a trip to a local shop to buy ingredients together.

You could also include competitions for different categories of sandwich- fanciest, most creative, best combo etc.



4. Ready Steady Cook

Ready Steady Cook is a fun and creative way to make food from limited ingredients. Invite your group to bring a selection of ingredients (or you could provide the ingredients). Lay them all out, and divide your group into smaller groups, and have a competition to see who can make the best/tastiest/most creative dish with the ingredients they have chosen.

You can adapt this activity for different ages and abilities, by choosing ingredients which don't require cutting or cooking, or by choosing ingredients to make a whole meal such as a pasta or rice dish. 'Ready Steady Cook' isn't just about the taste or quality of the food, but teamwork, creativity and who can have the most fun cooking.



5. Ice cream parlour

This activity is probably the easiest in terms of preparation and clear up and could work well as the starter activity in a regular Bible study or youth discussion group.

All you need is a variety of ice cream flavours and a whole load of toppings, some bowls, plates or dishes (the fancier the better!) and invite your group to create their dream ice cream sundae.

Always check for allergies and dietary requirements so you can prevent cross contamination if you include nuts or other common allergens, and provide a gluten or dairy free alternative if necessary, so no one is left out.

Five creative or crafty ideas

When running craft activities, you will need to be especially aware of resources and waste, and health and safety. Some activities will produce more waste than others, and some activities you can do using exclusively recycled or recyclable materials. You may want to encourage your group to wear clothes they don't mind getting messy, or providing aprons if applicable.

Craft is a great collaborative activity, allowing groups to learn and create together, drawing out different creative skills, and most activities are easy to adapt for different ages. It's always a good idea to encourage those taking part to help with clearing up at the end.

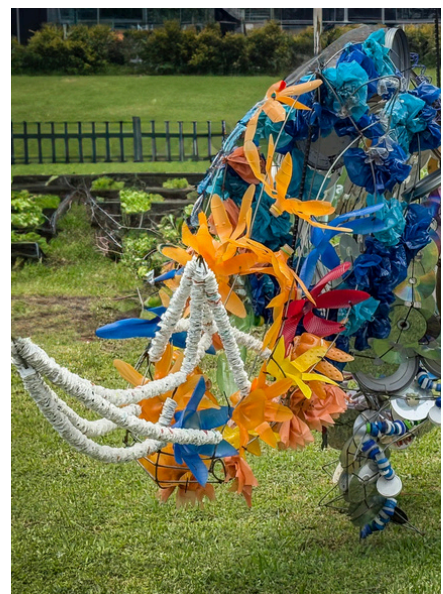
6. Scrap fashion show

Gather lots of scrap/recyclable materials such as newspapers, fabric, plastic bags. You could ask church members or community groups to collect these items for you, or visit a scrap store and buy them at low cost.

Provide scissors, tape and string. Divide your group up, and challenge them to make a costume for a willing model. You could choose a theme such as animals, ball gowns, cat walk, high fashion, or a national event such as the Olympics or a royal jubilee. You could adapt this activity to different age groups or teaching points by introducing different restrictions (amount of tape used, people, resources etc), or preparing materials in advance to help those younger or less able to participate easily.

7. Junk modelling

There are a number of ways to do junk modelling. You could use a Bible story or character as a starting point, and invite your group to create something based on that as a theme. You could divide them into smaller groups to create something, you could get them to make individual things such as boats or instruments, which they can then play with and take home, or you could do a whole group project and create an art installation or something to add to your meeting space. All you need is clean recyclable materials such as cardboard boxes, plastic bottles or tubs and newspapers. You will also need scissors, tape and string, and paint if you are feeling brave!



8. Customising t-shirts or bags

Customising t-shirts or bags is a great activity for a holiday club or camp, especially if you want your group to have something to take home as a reminder of their time. It also works with all ages! You can either provide the items for customisation, or ask your group to bring their own white or very pale coloured items are most suitable for customisation. There are a number of ways you can customise t-shirts or bags.

Tie-dye: You can buy tie-dye kits from craft shops or Amazon, or you can DIY with dylon dye, if you want to do it with a larger group

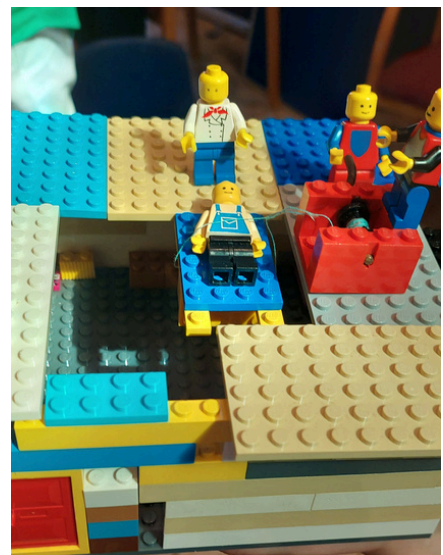
Fabric pens: You can provide pens for your group to create their own designs and colour them in. This is more suitable for older groups, or groups with a lot of supervision, as using the pens can sometimes be tricky.

Stencilling: If you want a more involved/skilled activity, you could teach your group how to do printing or stencilling with fabric inks or paint, and you could even get them to cut their own stamps from lino cutting. This activity would work particularly well over a number of sessions with a small youth group.



9. Lego

Everyone loves Lego! It's suitable for all ages (you can always use larger bricks such as Duplo or Mega Bloks with those under 4) and there is so much scope for what you can do! From building a scene, to creating a stop-motion sequence to retell a famous movie or Bible story, you can challenge people of all ages to work as teams or individually. You can also set challenges for your group to do at home and send photos in, and you could even run a whole ministry based on Lego building activities. If you have a limited budget, you can find Lego second hand online, buy cheaper alternatives, or ask for donations from local churches and community groups.



10. Card making

Another activity suitable for all ages and abilities, you can run a seasonal or themed activity to make, for example, Christmas or Easter cards. You could have a card making activity as part of a session on kindness, or you could make cards to sell as a fundraiser. All you need are basic craft resources such as pens, card, scissors and glue.





Fun things to do indoors

Sometimes the weather, or lack of outdoor space, or the nature of your group, means that your sessions will largely be inside. This doesn't mean that they can't still be fun!

There are dozens of ideas for group games and activities that you can find with a quick Google search, but here are some of our favourites!



11. Bingo night

Playing bingo can be a fun and simple activity to do with your group. Adaptable for any age or ability, you can make it a themed bingo using words instead of numbers, or keep it simple with numbers and pre-made bingo cards. You could buy or create reusable bingo cards (laminated or dry-wipe cards) and you could go all out with professional number balls and a spinner, use an online number generator, or even write the numbers on bit of paper to be chosen from a hat! You can also add to the excitement with prizes or forfeits. Bingo even works for online meetings if you ever host a zoom or similar type group.



12. Scavenger or treasure hunt

Hide items, or create a trail around your venue, and invite your group in pairs or teams to follow the trail. You can adapt this to suit any type of venue or age group. You could include clues or escape room style challenges, or just hide items that need to be found. You can always increase the stakes by adding a time limit, and you can encourage team building, critical thinking and creativity by adding prizes and forfeits around the course.

Alternatively, you could provide a list of items or objects that need to be found and do a scavenger hunt where they either have to collect the items, or take photos of them. This could be a great way to get a new group to familiarise themselves with a venue, or you could use it as an activity to help a group learn about a special building such as a church.



13. Board/card games

People of all ages can enjoy board games. It can be a great way to get new groups to get to know each other better, and could be one activity in a free-flow youth style club, or a single activity that takes a whole session.



14. Murder Mystery/Cluedo/Traitors

A murder mystery could be an opportunity for your group to go all out in theming, dressing up, eating a meal together and involving prizes. Or you could run a game of Traitors, based on the TV series, with in character drama and betrayal!

Another murder mystery type game could be organised over a weekend (or longer) residential. Everyone is given a name, a location and an item. The idea is that they have to get the person to hold the item in the given location, and that will “murder” them, so they are out of the game. By the end of your residential, you will be left with just one or two people trying to “murder” each other. Be aware of additional needs in your group, and ensure you explain the rules and boundaries of the game clearly at the beginning, so that it doesn’t get out of hand!



15. Indoor Olympics

Another activity which can easily be tailored to your group’s size, ability, age, and venue. You can make your indoor olympics as competitive or creative as you want to. It works best in a large indoor space, with plenty of room for your group to move around. Here are some event ideas:

- paper plate discus
- limbo hurdles
- straw javelins
- paper planes
- newspaper ball shot put
- three legged race
- obstacle course relay
- paper flapping relay (use paper to waft an item/ball from one end to the other)
- hula hoop challenges
- bean bag throwing relay



16. Minute to win it competition

With a quick Google search, you can find hundreds of ideas for ‘minute to win it’ challenges. These can be done in teams or individually, you can score points, or just do it for fun. This could take a whole session, or be a 20 minute activity in a longer session. Some ideas could be:

- catch the most marshmallows thrown
- build the tallest tower
- make a simple jigsaw puzzle





17. Music/drama/puppet workshop

This is a great way to involve different people from your church or community, to use their skills to help teach others. You could run a one-off session, or a series of sessions, or a workshop as part of a holiday club or camp.

Let your group choose which activity most appeals to them, and teach them a song, story or sketch for them to perform at the end of the activity. You could even invite parents/carers/the wider church or community to come and watch.

You may need to find/provide extra resources such as puppets, costumes or musical instruments, to ensure everyone can join in, and you will need to adapt the teaching to suit your group. (i.e. you are unlikely to be able to teach 4 year olds to play guitar, but they could sing or play percussion!)

You will need to make sure any extra helpers or teachers are safely recruited and suitable for teaching children, young people or families in this context.

18. Onesie party

If you are planning a sleepover, residential or movie night, why not plan a 'onesie party'. Invite your group to wear their favourite onesie and host a movie night, complete with snacks, drinks and comfy seats. This activity is more suitable to a winter session as children in onesies can get warm quickly! You will need to think about the suitability of movie choice, how you will show the movie, and whether you have the correct licences/permissions to do so. You may want to source extra onesies in case anyone doesn't own one, or forgets!

19. Retro night

You could host an evening of 'retro' delights. Whether that's an 80's night for Millennials, early 2000's disco for Gen Z, or a 'no devices' night for teenagers. You can encourage your group to dress up from a different era, and provide snacks and games from the past. You will need to check what is relevant to your groups pop culture, and maybe get them to do some research into what life was like for their parents growing up, so that your jokes about dial-up internet and references to old TV shows don't go completely over their heads! This could be a great way to get different generations to have fun together and learn from each other.

Fun things to do outdoors

Outdoor activities can have the potential to be more dangerous, especially in public spaces or when transport is involved. Make sure you have the correct permissions, safeguarding policies, risk assessments and parental consent for your group to take part in the activities you are planning!

20. Park trip

If there is a park close to your normal venue, why not take your group there to play? Most younger children will find something fun to do, and you can always take extra equipment such as football, rounders or cricket with you, or plan to play a wide game or group tag/manhunt (depending on the age and abilities of your group, and suitability of the venue). If it is a large park, give your group clear boundaries of where they are allowed to go, and make sure you have enough adults to safely supervise games and use of play park equipment. You will also need to ensure your group is being considerate of other park users, and aware of members or the public and dogs who may be present. You could build in time for informal 1-1 conversations, or planned group discussions outside. Also consider taking snacks and drinks, and be aware of where the nearest toilet facilities are!



21. Crazy golf

On a summer evening or afternoon, you could take your group to a local crazy golf course. This could be a fun way to build community among groups of different ages, and a chance to spend time together. It's a relatively inexpensive activity, and could be an opportunity for group members to invite their friends. It's also a great activity for all ages to enjoy together if you want to involve whole families. If you don't have a local crazy golf course near you, you could create your own, or simply play croquet on a suitable lawn!



22. Orienteering or a flag hunt

You could find a local orienteering course (lots of public parks will have courses- a quick Google search will help you find your nearest) and split your group into teams to complete the course in a race to finish first. Alternatively, you could create your own course with flags or check points for your group to find, with directions or clues to each one.



23. Moonlight or sunrise walk

This works especially well as part of a residential, but could equally work as part of your children's or youth group, in the winter if you want it to actually be dark, or not have to get up at 5am!

Your group will need to dress appropriately as it may be cold, and it might be a good idea to ask them to bring a torch and a reusable cup so you can stop for a hot chocolate part way around your route.

Make sure leaders know where you are going, have phone signal and each others numbers in case anything happens and you get split up. Make sure you have consent forms for your group, and parent/carer numbers available in case you need to call for group members to get collected if there is an incident.

Make sure you agree drop off and pick up location and timings if it's a standalone event, and do your best to stick to them!

If you are in a suitable location (check restrictions and local laws), you could make a camp fire or take a bbq to cook sausages or toast marshmallows.

You could do a sunrise walk as part of an Easter Sunday celebration, or you could use a night walk to host a worship session or do some stargazing, to encourage a sense of awe and wonder in your group.



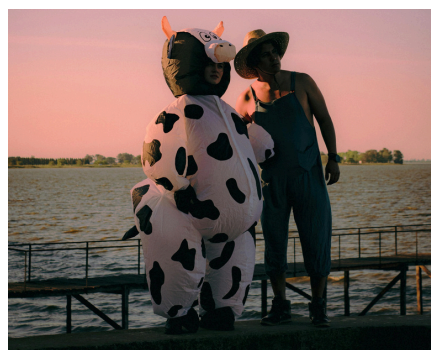
24. Scavenger or treasure hunt

Create a treasure hunt trail using photos and clues to the next location, or send groups out to find a list of things. A scavenger hunt could be anything from a toddler activity where they have to find different coloured things in nature, or tick off a list of nature things they can see (i.e. trees, feathers, insects etc), to a photo scavenger hunt for older children or young people, where they have to get a photo of their group with certain landmarks or in specific places.



25. Hunt the leader

A classic summer camp game, where leaders dress up and hide in plain sight within a town or area (a large park or pedestrianised high street are ideal locations for this) and your group members have to find each one. To ensure they have found everyone, they must collect an item, word or letter from them to answer a question or create something at the end of the hunt.



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