**Preparation**

THE TREE IS NOT YET BUILT!!! It will be built in the service.

People will arrive to 3 or 4 activity tables where they will be encouraged to make tree decorations.

We used Baker Ross decorations which can be coloured in or painted. These were nativity characters, stars

Also easy to use hooks for hanging decorations on the tree.

This was advertised as a really relaxed “service”, especially for people with loud, run around children who don’t really like sitting still!!!

We knew we had a few of these locally.

The vibe was that children and their activities were central to making the tree. Older children we asked to give out items such as the stars for lost loved ones, and to help with moving smaller children to bring decorations to the tree.

There was tea, coffee and mulled wine, as well as snacks, mince pies etc available throughout.

We didn’t/don’t mind if there is a lot of noise when leaders are talking.

As a team we are usually like this, so it wasn’t a big leap to invite families to our Wild Church. A number of these families returned, and they continue to be part of our Wild church family.

**Carols around the tree- The service**

People will arrive to 3 or 4 activity tables where they will be encouraged to make tree decorations. People will get a drink and a mince pie. The start of the service is the socialising for some minutes. We were careful not to start singing and talking from the front at 4pm, to give people time to chat.

1. **TREES**

We will then have a pause in the making and gather around the central circular empty table. We will talk about why we have trees.....

The Christmas tree base is a cross, like the cross of Jesus

Christmas trees are made of wood, like Jesus Cross.

Helpers can build the tree with leaders while we sing.

**Carols Oh little town of Bethlehem no 1, Once in Royal no 19**

1. **LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

We will then continue to make the decorations starting with some candle shapes for light.

We will then come together and put the lights on the tree followed by taking a bauble to represent the earth. We will talk about Jesus the light of the world We think about the environment and our world.

**Carol Joy to the world 11, While Shepherds Watch 7**

1. **GIFTSFOR US, Jesus and gifts at home.**

We will then continue with our making.....a Mary/Joseph and baby decoration. We will talk about the gift of Jesus to his family and to us. Then we will talk about our gifts at Christmas. We will then pause and come together to put our Mary Joseph and Jesus decorations on the tree.

**Carols Away in a Manger 6 & Silent Night 13**

1. STARS, people we have loved and lost

We will then make our star decorations (for those we shall miss this Christmas), People who have passed away, as well as people who are far away from us.

We will come together and decorate the tree with the stars and any other decorations we have and put the star on the top of the tree.

**Carol Oh come all ye faithful, 12**

Final prayer and blessing.

May the joy of the angels,

The eagerness of the shepherds,

The perseverance of the wise men,

The obedience of the Joseph and Mary,

And the peace of the Christ child,

Be yours this Christmas.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Be among you and remain with you always,

Amen.

**More Refreshments**

Tea and coffee and hot chocolate and biscuits and mince pies.

Children take home chocolate tree decorations.