

Pew packs

Pew packs are ideal for churches who may have children visit their services infrequently, or are unwilling to leave their parents/grandparents to go out to a children's group. They give the message that the children are welcome and are invited to engage with the service through the pack.

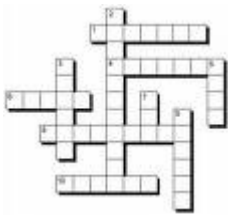
Ideas for pew packs:

- Aimed at four years – eleven years.
- You could have a younger and an older box ie 4-7 years and 8-11 years
- Store in plastic boxes with lids (available from Woollies, Lakeland, Trago etc) about large shoe box size (particularly if your church is damp). Covered shoe boxes could be used but not as durable.



Suggested range of contents could include:

- An illustrated children's Bible – Usbourne do a small one, but there are many on the market.



- Individual illustrated Bible story books—again many on the market, small paperback size ideal for pew areas
- Children's prayer books – ie Little Fish books
- Bible puzzle books – Palm Tree series or search out at local Christian Book shop – usually for less than £2 each, word searches, crossword puzzles, quizzes, dot to dots, etc.



- Puzzle sheets related to the Lectionary (needs updating each week) – ie Footprints by Katie Thompson.
- During a Eucharist service, the photocopied sheets from Come and Join the Celebration by John Muir and Betty Pedley may be useful
- 'Take This' monthly pew sheets may be an option—available from Hexham Abbey
- For the younger end of the age group: a suitable small puppet or soft toy related to one of the story books ie a lion hand puppet to go with Daniel and the Lion's Den

- For this age group: Children's service books – available for Communion services, Common Worship and Baptism services, also available Communion, Lord's Prayer and Baptism cubes. Cubes are also available with Bible stories too – but not suitable for under threes.



- Felt tip pens, colouring pencils, writing pencils (rubbers and pencil sharpeners are also useful but not essential). (Be prepared to restock on these items!) Avoid activities using scissors or glue for pew packs—children may be attending in new or best clothes—these items may be a source of stress for the parents!

Please do check the contents of the packs on a regular basis. Replace broken or torn items.

How about devising a pew pack or pew sack specifically to be used at Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals?

Baptism sack:



Include a small doll,
A puzzle sheet with
Pictures to tick when
They have seen the
Object ie font, water,
Candle etc

Funeral pack:

A story book such as
Badger's Parting gift,
Suggestions for a memory
box, pretty paper, pencils
suitable prayer for the
bereaved family

Wedding pack:

Puzzle sheet, pens
Things to look out for
in church ie candles,
Bible, rings. Copy of
the reading, a prayer
for the wedding couple