All age activity: Paper chains

This short activity focuses on the power of strong communities as you create some festive decorations to decorate your church space and welcome your community this Christmas.

Equipment:

- Strips of paper approx.15cm x 2.5cm. You can use any paper – recycled wrapping paper, magazine pages or even newspaper – the more colourful the better!

- Glue sticks or tape.

- Marker pens (optional).

Instructions:

Take a strip and make a loop securing in place with glue or tape. Thread another strip through the first loop and make another loop.

Get everyone involved in making a really long paper chain. You could set a time limit or target length. People might want to work in small groups and then link their shorter chains together into one long chain. You could give people the option of writing their names, and those they love or want to connect with, on the paper strips.

Reflection:

Hold up a single loop of paper….

A single loop isn't very festive – no one would hang up one loop of paper to decorate their house at Christmas.

It's only when we start to join the loops together that we create a chain that looks beautiful.

The more loops we add and the more variety of colours and patterns we use, the longer, stronger and more Christmassy the chain becomes.

This is the same with our churches and communities. The more people we include, the stronger our communities become, no one is left on their own and everyone is supported.

This Christmas let's follow Jesus example of loving our neighbours and look for ways to make our chains of friendship and community longer and stronger.

If you have more time you could ask people to reflect a bit more on the symbolism and practical uses of chains:

- Discuss how chains can symbolise unity, connection, strength, and friendship.

- Explore how chains are used in everyday life, such as for securing objects or connecting things.