

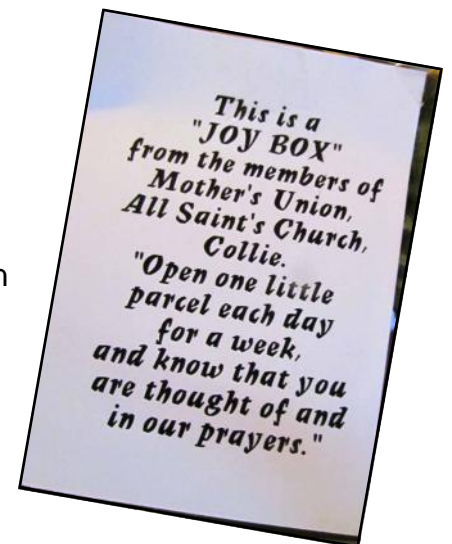


Instructions for making a Joy Box (or bag)



Materials:

- Seven small personal gifts: (See note at the bottom).
- A box or container big enough to hold them all.
- An encourager – a bible quotation; famous quotation or just a nice verse or poem. (See the prepared cards available for downloading).
- Wrapping paper/ foil.
- Tissue or soft filler to cushion gifts within the box.
- A pretty ribbon to go around the box.
- Instructions for the recipient, to be attached by ribbon to the outside.



Note on Gifts:

Gifts do not need to be large or expensive. Usually we choose small things that can be practical, although creative members may let themselves go here! The idea is to give something that will brighten and give pleasure to the recipient.

Examples, taken from the “Shoebox Gifts” are:

- **Something to see;** e.g. bookmark, fridge magnet
- **Something to smell;** e.g. soap, pot pouri sachet, scented candle
- **Something to write with;** e.g. pen, decorated pencil, notebook
- **Something to hold;** e.g. handkerchief, small tissue holder
- **Something to read;** e.g. little book, booklet, fridge magnet with poem or Bible verse
- **Something to use;** e.g. pincushion
- **Something to do;** e.g. puzzle book
- **Something to love;** e.g. decorative heart, heart broach, handmade brooch

Try to avoid “something to eat”, as if the box is being stored, the gift may not keep.

Also, if it is given to someone in hospital, it may not be appropriate.

If being made with a particular recipient in mind, try to match the gifts to the personality.

Method:

Wrap each gift separately, using the coloured paper / foil. Attach an encouraging quote or verse to each one.

Place them in the container and close.

Tie the ribbon around it, ensuring that the following instructions to the recipient are attached.

Dear
This little gift is to brighten your week,
a gift for every day.
Choose just one to open now.
and leave the rest for another day.