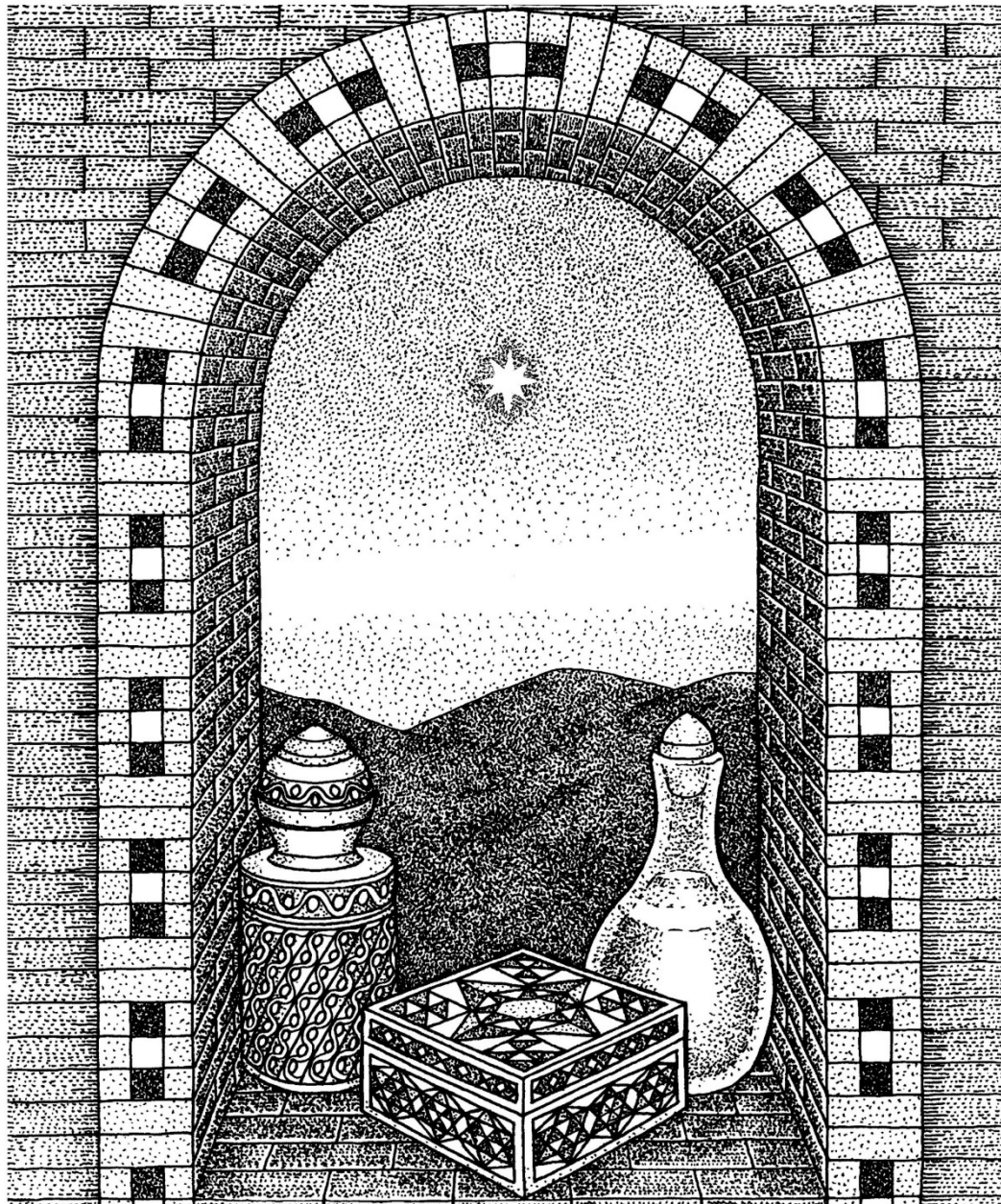


Parish Magazine

Dec 2021 / Jan 2022

30p



St John's Parish Church

Rufford Road, Crossens
(A member of the North Meols Team Ministry)

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Mr Andrew Boden. Tel: 228189

The church will be open for regular services on Sunday and Wednesday. Service times:

Sunday: 10am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion

For the time being, these will be spoken services, with a few hymns. We are slowly returning to more normal services.

Letter from Rev Rebecca Clarke

Dear Friends,

As I write this Christmas message, I am aware it has been another difficult and challenging year for everyone. The coronavirus has continued to take its toll on each one of lives. So, the true meaning of Christmas of a baby born in a stable, who is the saviour of the world, is a message we need to hear this year probably more than any other.

For the birth of Jesus brings to us a sense of hope, it brings us light and most importantly love. Jesus offers to each one of us the gift of unconditional love. 'Love' is at the very heart of Christmas. It is about a God who chooses to meet with us in a tiny, vulnerable baby and as that baby grows into a man God's unconditional love is revealed to the whole of humanity.

A poem by Christina Rossetti sums this up quite well, it is one of my favourites and I would like to share it with you this Christmas:

Love came down at Christmas by Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, all divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all people,
Love for plea and gift and sign.



May the love of God abide with you and all those you love this Christmas and throughout the New Year,
A very Merry Christmas to all,
Rev Rebecca (Rev Rebecca Clarke, Team Rector North Meols)

TOY, GIFT & CHOCOLATE SERVICE SUNDAY

Sunday 5th December

HELP MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS

**Please bring a new toy and a small bar of chocolate
to Church on Sunday 5th December**

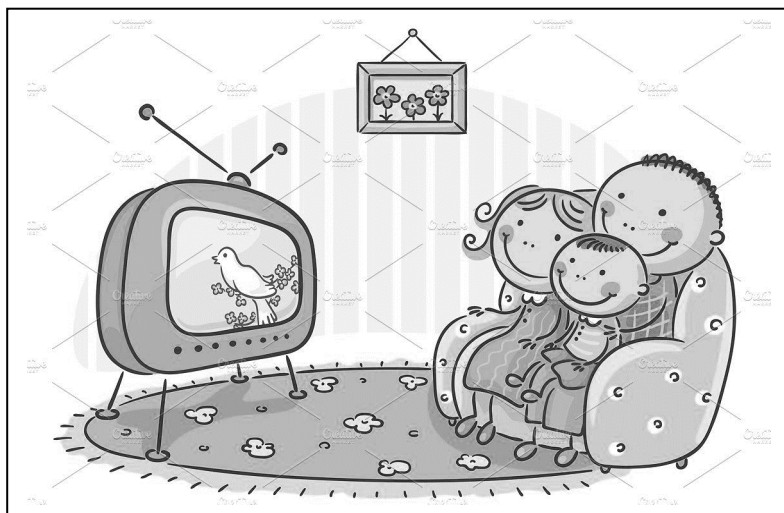
All the toys donated will be distributed to families in need.



New ... New ... New

Coming to a
TV near you!

Our Team Ministry's
On-Line
Monthly Magazine



Begins this coming January
on our YouTube Channel
& the St. Cuthbert's Web Site

Church events...Local history...Interviews
Christian reflections
and Christian Action...Diocesan News...
Topical and Local Interest Items
and much more



YouTube Channel:
"North Meols Team Ministry Southport"

ROTAS

SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA

5 th December	JANE & KATH
12 th December	NICOLA & CHRISSY
19 th December	CHRIS D & EILEEN BALL
9 th January 2022	HEATHER & JENNY
16 th January	EILEEN BALL
23 rd January	JANE & KATH
30 th January	NICOLA & CHRISSY



WEDNESDAY COFFEE ROTA

24 th November	CHRIS
1 st December	BRENDA & JUNE
8 th December	JEAN & MAVIS
15 th December	CHRIS
22 nd December	BRENDA & JUNE
5 th January 2022	JEAN & MAVIS
12 th January	CHRIS & JANET
19 th January	BRENDA & JUNE
26 th January	JEAN & MAVIS
2 nd February	CHRIS & JANET

Help is urgently needed to maintain a weekly rota. If you are willing to volunteer, please see me. Chris Jowett

Sanctuary Flowers

No flowers in December during Advent

January 9 th	Epiphany ————
January 16 th	In memory of Mrs Dorothy Jackson
January 23 rd	In memory of Mrs Sheila Harding.
January 30 th	—————



Thank you to all who have supported the Flower Fund during the past year.ECB.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

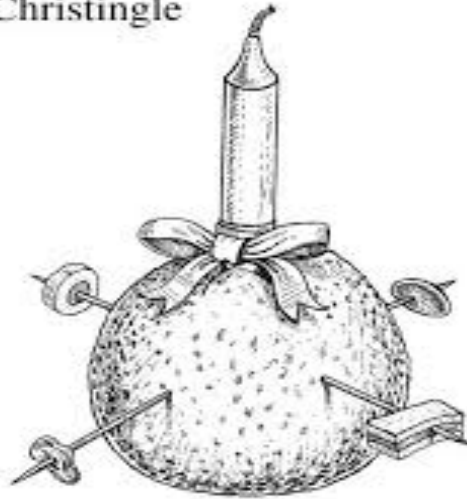


SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER 10.00am
FAMILY EUCHARIST SERVICE
AND OUR TOY, GIFT AND CHOCOLATE SERVICE



SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER 10.00am
PARISH EUCHARIST AND SUNDAY CLUB
6.30pm NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christingle



CHRISTMAS EVE

FRIDAY 24th DECEMBER 10.00am
PARISH EUCHARIST

CHRISTINGLE 6.30pm

**It will be so good to be able to have a Christingle Service again,
all are very welcome**

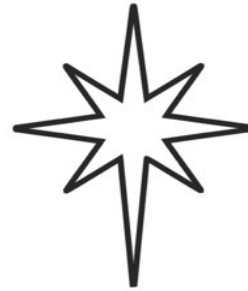
MIDNIGHT MASS 11.00pm



CHRISTMAS DAY
SATURDAY 25th DECEMBER
FAMILY EUCHARIST 10.00am

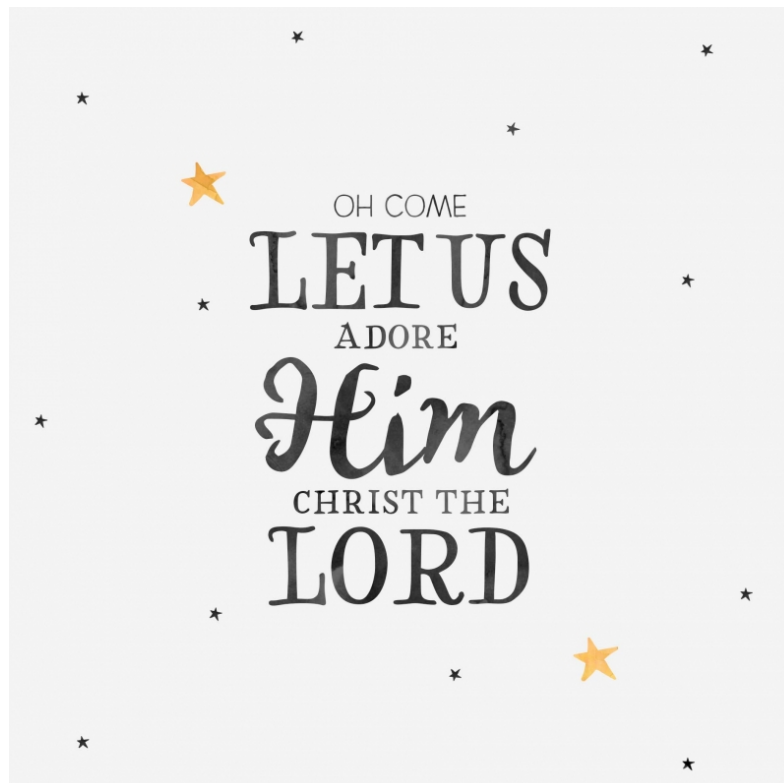


For unto us,



a child is born

2022
JANUARY 2nd 10.00am
EPIPHANY EUCHARIST 10.00am



HOLY DAYS

25 December

Christmas throughout the Christian world

For nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas Christians recognise a period called Advent. It means 'coming'. It is a time of spiritual preparation. 'Coming' refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace.

Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

Christmas Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Jesus' birth, although the actual date is not known. Most Christians celebrate it on 25th December. However, the Orthodox Church (the ancient churches in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia) follows a different calendar and celebrates on 7th January. Christians make a point of taking communion on Christmas Day. Many make it the first thing they do as the clock strikes midnight.

On 6th January the Christmas festival continues with a celebration of Epiphany, which means 'the appearance'. Christians remember the visit of wise men (magi) to Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts originally honoured these men, who were the first non-Jews (Gentiles) to worship Jesus. It forms a reminder that in Jesus God was giving Himself for the benefit of the entire world.

Orthodox Christians use this day to recall the baptism of Jesus as a grown man. The significance of Jesus being baptised was that He identified Himself with human beings in all their need. They mark the day by praying for God's blessing on rivers, wells and water sources.

Christmas has never been just an escapist festival for Christians. Those who treat it seriously recognise that not all the world is able to face the days with frivolity or joy. The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was historically marked as the feast of St Stephen. He was the first man to be put to death rather than give up his belief that Jesus was God. And two days later a day remembering the Massacre of the Innocents recalls Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus by killing all male babies in Bethlehem. Although not so widely marked as Christmas Day, it gives Christians the opportunity to pray for children in today's world who suffer as a result of the actions of adults.

This is from: https://christianity.org.uk/christmas-throughout-the-christian-world/#.W9LI_xNKhsM

PUZZLES - SUDOKU

2		1		8		7		
8	4	7	2			6		
				7	5	2		
7	3			2	6	4	5	
			5		8			
	6	4	1	3			2	9
		6	7	5				
		2			1	5	3	6
		5		6		1		2

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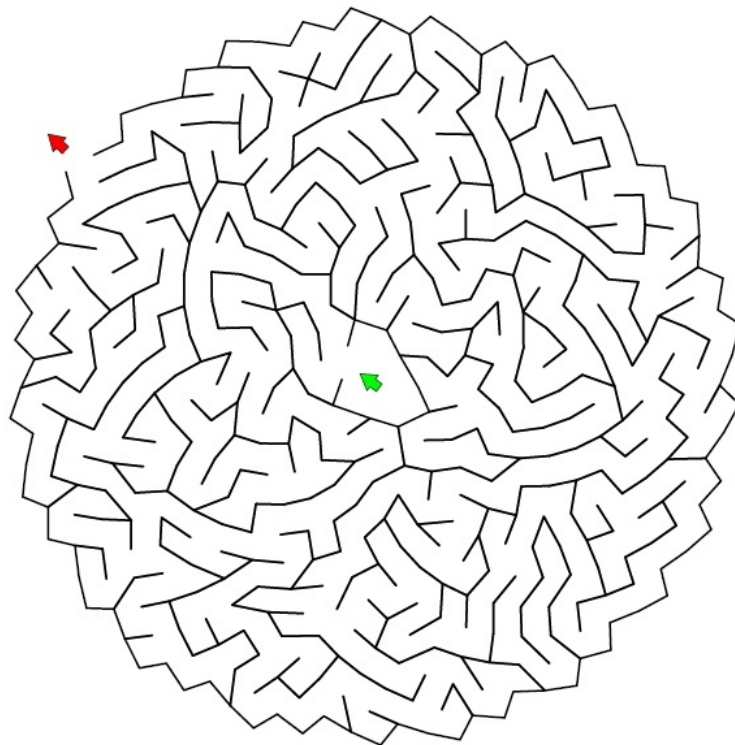
Easy

			8	2				
						3		7
	4				3	8	5	
		6	3	5		7		2
5				1				3
1		3		7	9	5		
	2	9	5				6	
6		5						
				9	2			

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Medium

Find your way through the maze...



Easy

Some colouring - for all ages...



WORDSEARCH

Wordsearch for December

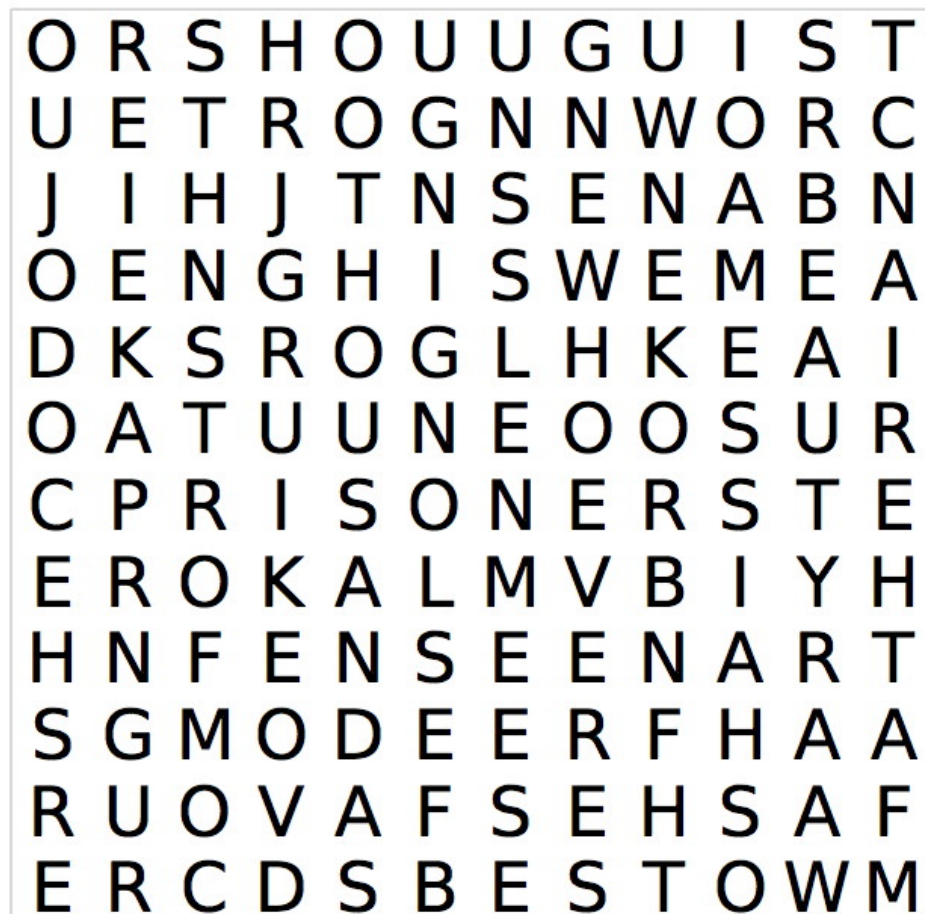
Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all - His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Messiah
Broken
Heart
Freedom
Darkness

Favour
Prisoners
Comfort
Mourn
Bestow

Crown
Beauty
Ashes
Son
God
Jesus

Seen
Father
Whoever
longing
thousand



Editor: We are happy to offer a second poem from our newest 'resident poet', Sam Doubtfire. After serving as a vicar in Knottingley, Ripponden, Keswick, Barrow-in-Furness, and Reddish this retired priest says he is "re-learning the meaning of the baptismal promise and commission on which the priesthood of all believers has to be established".

Your Gift of Life – at Christmas

Creaking on the staircase –
Noise outside my door –
A rustle in the chimney –
It's 'Santa-time' once more.
St Nicholas is on his way
With all his Christ-life gifts
To fire every child-light with
The loving Christ-mass kiss.

In some he'll place the gift of gold –
In others frankincense –
While others will be given myrrh –
All signs of God's presence.

For in each earthly crib or bed
In squalor, comfort, splendour –
The Christ child has been placed again
To call the world to wonder.

So come you kings, come one, come all,
Come shepherds to the cradle stall
And hear the angels sing a-new
The heavenly song they sing for you.

Your God is in your gift of life –
The life He gives with love –
So take the gift and use it,
Use it wisely, don't abuse it,
Let the Christ-life fire your spirit
That God in you may LIVE.

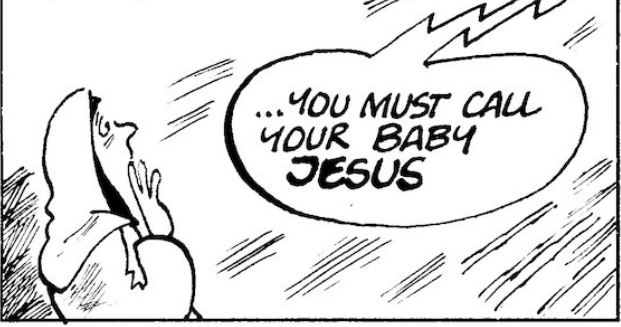
By Sam Doubtfire

A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.

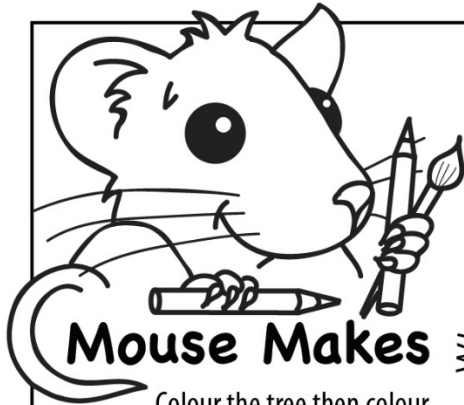


THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!



Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?

Presents at Christmas under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking waiting for me,
But what really is Christmas,
What is it about?
Just look and the Bible and you will find out!
It's about **JESUS**
- the best present of all,
JESUS our **Saviour**,
God's gift to us all!

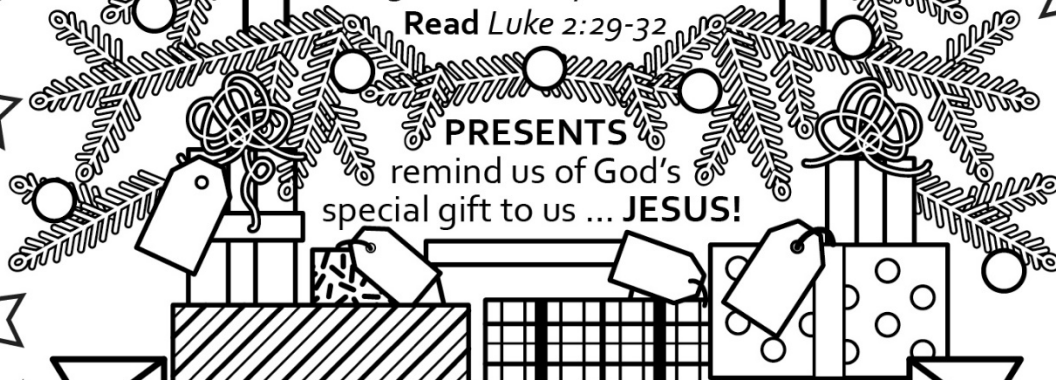
A STAR
shows the way to Jesus
Read *Matthew 2:1-12*



ANGELS
bring messages from God
Read about Gabriel's message in *Luke 1:26-38*
Read the shepherd's story in *Luke 1:26-38*

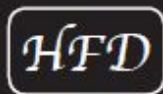


LIGHTS AND CANDLES
remind us that Jesus lights our way to God
Read *Luke 2:29-32*



PRESENTS
remind us of God's special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." *John 3:16*



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