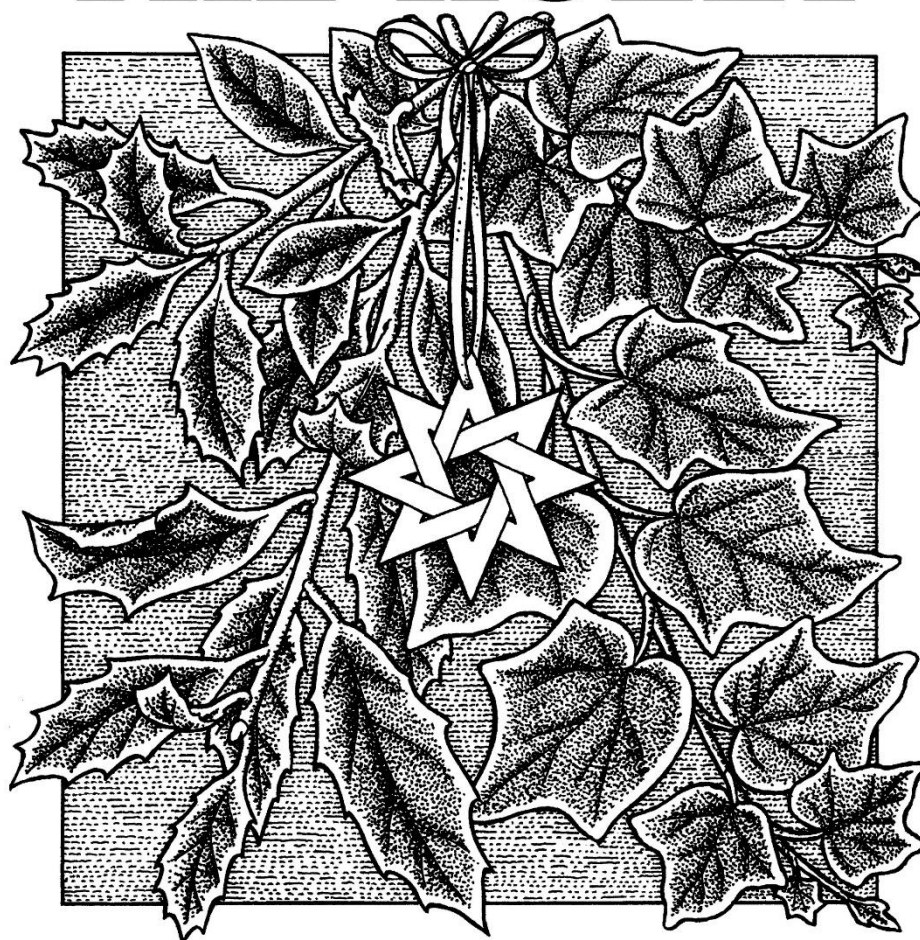


Parish Magazine

Dec 2024 / Jan 2025

30p

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY

St. John's Parish Church

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

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Church Contacts:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
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| Treasurer: | Mrs Louise James |
| PCC Secretary: | Mrs Chrissy Gregory |
| Rainbows: | Mrs Nicola Macdonald Tel: 233580 |
| Brownies: | Mrs Lynn Harrison Tel: 07595 423734 |
| Guides: | Mrs Tracy Boden Tel: 228189 |
| Mumford Room Bookings: | Mr Andrew Boden Tel: 228189 |

Service times:

Sunday (10am)

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Holy Communion | 1 st Dec (Toy Service), 15 th Dec, 22 nd Dec, 29 th Dec, 5 th Jan |
| Morning Prayer | 8 th Dec, |
| Evening Prayer | 1 st Dec (5:30pm) |

Wednesday (10am)

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Holy Communion | 11 th Dec, 8 th Jan |
| Morning Prayer | 4 th Dec, 18 th Dec, 25 th Dec, 15 th Jan |

For later dates, please check the website: www.stjohncrossens.co.uk

A letter from Rev Rebecca Clarke.....

Dear Friends

I love Christmas and I especially enjoy sending our Christmas cards to family and friends. But somehow it feels a bit old fashioned sending cards in this world of technology, but I still enjoy doing it! Every year I try to find cards which depict the Christmas story, the birth of Jesus. But finding religious cards isn't always as easy as it sounds. These days there are so many different cards to choose from with a vast array of different themes, words and scenes. The religious ones are usually hidden away somewhere or are found way down on the bottom shelf in the shop. They take some finding that's for sure!

The reason I send religious Christmas Cards is to express something of my Christian faith.

A faith which has its foundation in the birth of a tiny baby called Jesus who was born on the very margins of society. The story is full of characters; there are shepherds, the Magi (also called The Wise Men), Mary the mother of Jesus and her faithful husband Joseph. There are angels singing praises to God on high and King Herod, vengeful, the insecure King of Judea. It is a story rich with meaning on every level and it is a story which is as relevant for us today as it has always been. For Jesus came to us as an ordinary human baby but a baby with an extraordinary secret, for this human baby was also fully God. As well as being fully man. A deep mystery indeed. And so Christians around the world will be celebrating this wonderful event in history.

Here too across the North Meols Team, church services will be held to rejoice in the birth of this unique child, the saviour of the world. But this celebration is not just for Christians but for everyone.

Christmas gives all of us the opportunity to go to church and to join in with such celebrations. The villages in which we all live very often have at their centre the church building. Such buildings have stood the test of time and been places of gathering for generations, so this Christmas why not take time out from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparation and come along to one of our Christmas services?

For Christmas remains a special time of year and gives all of us the opportunity to ponder afresh all that God offers to us in this tiny vulnerable baby, Jesus. His extraordinary story brings us hope and stability in a world in great turmoil and unrest. For Jesus was born into a world just like ours.

By the time you are reading this letter I will hopefully have found those elusive religious Christmas cards and family and friends will have received them.

Thankfully God is not elusive or difficult to find for God is with us always and everywhere. God's love seen in the birth of a baby, seen throughout the life of this baby as he grew into a man, seen in his death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, the love of God is there for each one of us.

Finally, here is a prayer for Christmas and for 2025 which you might like to say over the Christmas period;

God of love, open our hearts and minds to the good and saving news of Jesus Christ; that those whose lives are insecure, empty, or aimless, may find in Jesus born in Bethlehem all that they need today and throughout 2025. Amen.

So may God bless you and your families this Christmastide and throughout the coming year with love, joy and peace.

Rebecca

(Rev Rebecca Clarke Team Rector North Meols Team)



This Quarter's online Team Ministry Magazine is now available to view on our
Team's Youtube Channel
NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY SOUTHPORT

The Programme includes the following items:
The Eagle Comic and Churchtown.....Our New Lay Reader.....Thinking of
others at Harvest Festival.....
The Meaning of Christmas - our Rector's Reflection.....Services through
Advent and Christmas

Sanctuary Flowers

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| December 1 st | Advent. No flowers. |
| December 22 nd | Christmas Flowers. |
| December 29 th | _____. |
| January 3 rd | In memory of Dorothy Jackson. |
| January 12 th | _____ |
| January 19 th | In memory of S Harding. |
| January 26 th | _____ |

A happy New Year to all our supporters. ECB..

ROTAS

SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Dec 1 st | Chris J |
| Dec 8 th | Kath & Jane |
| Dec 15 th | Nicola & Andrew |
| Dec 22 nd | Brenda & Mavis |
| Dec 29 th | Louise J |
| Jan 5 th | Chris J |
| Jan 12 th | Kath & Jane |
| Jan 19 th | Nicola & Andrew |
| Jan 26 th | Brenda & Mavis |
| Feb 2 nd | Louise J |



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

WEDNESDAY COFFEE ROTA

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Dec 4 th | Brenda & June |
| Dec 11 th | Jean & Mavis |
| Dec 18 th | Chris & Janet |
| Dec 25 th | Christmas Day – no coffee |
| Jan 1 st | No service |
| Jan 8 th | Eileen & Trish |
| Jan 15 th | Brenda & June |
| Jan 22 nd | Jean & Mavis |
| Jan 29 th | Chris & Janet |
| Feb 5 th | Eileen & Trish |

Readings rota

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dec 1 st | Eileen | 1 st of Advent | 1 Thessalonians 3:9-end |
| Dec 8 th | Maggie | 2 nd of Advent | Philippians 1:3-11 |
| Dec 15 th | Jan | 3 rd of Advent | Philippians 4:4-7 |
| Dec 22 nd | Chris J | 4 th of Advent | Hebrews 10:5-10 |
| Dec 25 th | Andrew | Christmas Day | Titus 2:11-14 |
| Dec 29 th | Nicola | 1 st of Christmas | Colossians 3:12-17 |

St John's Church

TOY & GIFT SERVICE

**CAN YOU HELP MAKE A CHILD'S
CHRISTMAS DAY?**



**So please bring a NEW TOY or a
BAR of CHOCOLATE to
Church on Sunday 1st December
(9 to 11.30am)**

**All donated Gifts will be distributed
to families in need.**



St John's Church Crossens

christmas Fayre



7th December

Starts 10 am

St. John's Church

Rufford Road



*Games

*Stalls

*Grand Draw

*Refreshments



**everyone welcome
- free entrance !**



PUZZLES - SUDOKU

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

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EASY

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | | 7 | | | | 3 |
| | | | 8 | | | | 7 | |
| | | 5 | | | | 6 | | |
| 1 | | | | 4 | | | 3 | |
| 9 | | | 7 | | 6 | | | 5 |
| | 8 | | | 3 | | | | 1 |
| | | 6 | | | | 5 | | |
| | 9 | | | | 4 | | | |
| 4 | | | | 8 | | 7 | | |

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MEDIUM

"SCHOOL - RESCUE ME!"

As part of their work to support charities, school are supporting an animal rescue centre called "Rescue Me". The children have been asked to collect postage stamps from envelopes, unwanted foreign currency and any pre-decimal or pre-euro currency people may have hidden in old socks!!!

If you have any such items, please can you pass them to Karen Corbett and she will take them into school.

Nexus
Churches
Together

(in North Meols)

Tuesday 17th December

***No meeting this month, but
please join us at St Cuthbert's
Church at 7pm for Carol
singing!***

**Everyone is very
welcome!**

***"Be completely united, with only one thought and one purpose."
[1 Corinthians 1: 106]***

WORDSEARCH

Father Christmas is based on St Nicholas, who was born in the 3rd century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop, he suffered in prison with other bishops under the emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians.

One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery. The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

Father
Christmas
Nicholas
Born
Third

Century
Greek
Village
Devout
Wealthy

Needy
Sick
Suffering
Prison
Emperor

Poor
Family
Three
Daughters
Stockings

money
Stockings

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | G | S | D | C | M | F | A | M | I | L | Y |
| K | M | G | Y | H | T | L | A | E | W | I | M |
| P | C | N | N | R | O | R | E | P | M | E | E |
| O | F | I | O | I | S | T | M | D | L | H | G |
| O | N | K | S | S | R | E | H | T | A | F | R |
| R | T | C | I | T | E | E | N | R | T | K | E |
| A | U | O | R | M | T | G | F | E | E | M | E |
| I | O | T | P | A | H | R | A | F | E | E | K |
| G | V | S | T | S | G | E | R | L | U | D | C |
| C | E | N | T | R | U | R | Y | M | L | S | Y |
| O | D | G | D | S | A | L | O | H | C | I | N |
| T | T | H | I | R | D | B | O | R | N | T | V |

One for your Diary!
Christmas Concert

**from
Banks Brass**



Band



FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER 7.30pm
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,
RUFFORD ROAD, CROSSENS

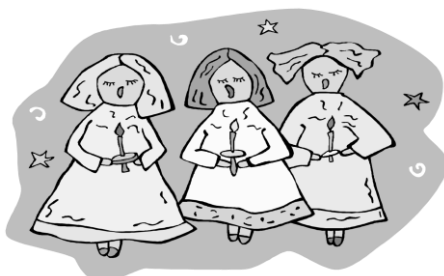
Only £6 everyone welcome

(pay on the door)

Light Refreshments available



ens



St John's, Crossens



Christmas Services

Wed 18th December, at 7pm

Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December, at 10am

Holy Communion

Wed 25th December, at 10am

Christmas Day Morning Prayer

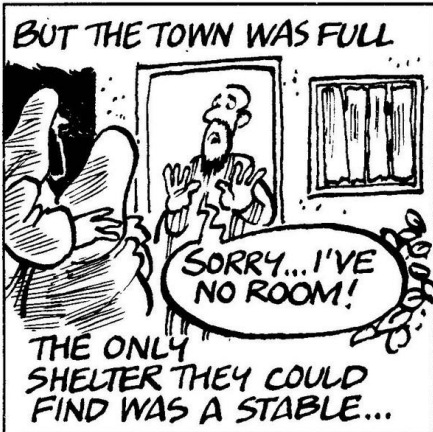
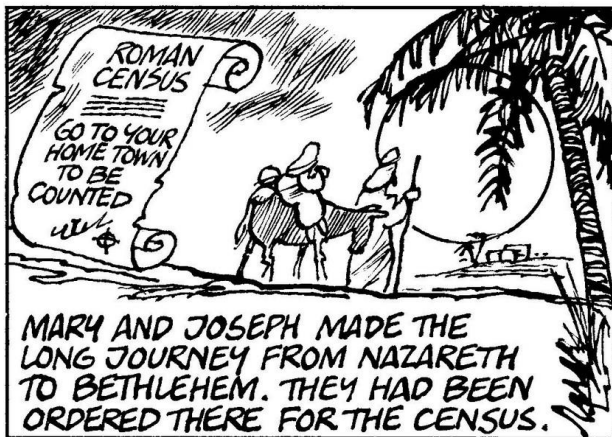
Everyone Welcome

A Very Special Baby

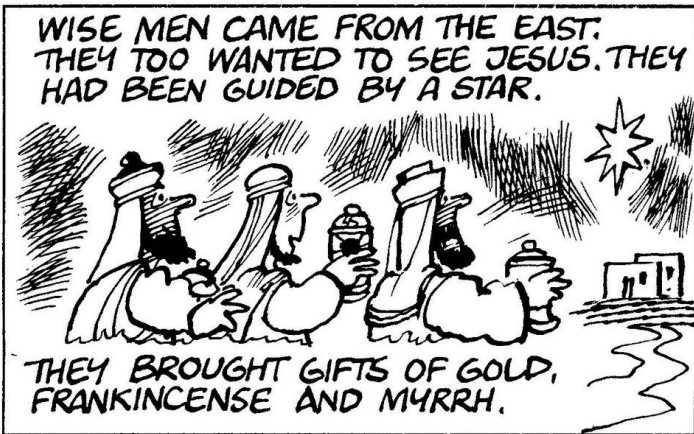
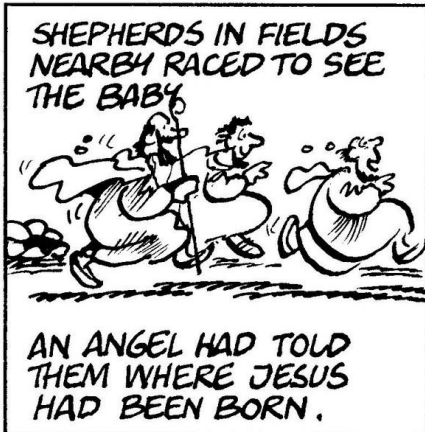
JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.

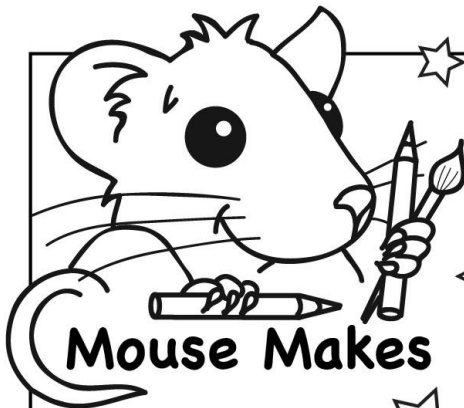


AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.





Mouse Makes

★ "Jesus said,
I am the ___ Y
and the ___ U ___
and the ___ I ___ .
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

"The child to be born
will be called
H _____ , the
_____ of _____"
Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born
this day a
S _____
who is
_____ R _____
the _____ R _____"
Luke 2:11

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the

and the life."
John 11:25

B L I G H T L O
R A Y W O J J R
E M M A N U E L
A B Y J E S O
D S A V I O U R
S A V R J S D

O H O L Y O R C R T U
S O N O F M A N H A R T
N L S H E P H E R D U
O Y A E P E R G I F T G
C H R I S T M A S T H S
R E S U R R E C T I O N

**JESUS
—
THE
GREATEST
GIFT
OF ALL!**

P R O P H E T I
R E D E E M E R
I E M I L I G
E M E S S I A H
S R M E G F T
T E A C H E R E

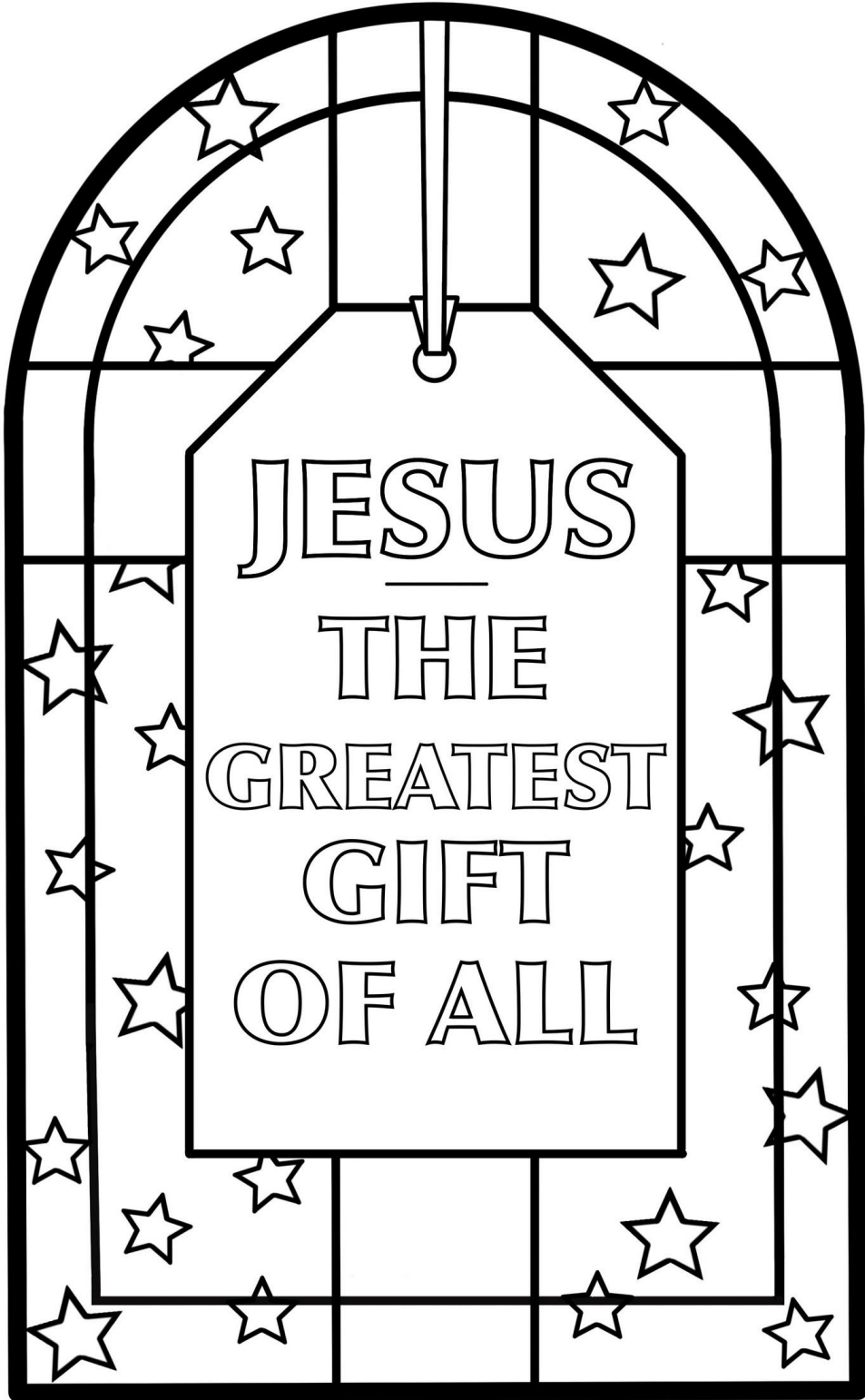
E V E R L A S T I N G
K I N G O F K I N G S
I N K I G W F D O U
S E S O N O F G O D D
S E W O C O U W O R D
C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

Find the words from the Bible verses too!

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Some colouring for all ages....



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