

JANUARY 2024

Registered charity no 251394

Welcome to the beginning of the New Year! It's often a time when people think about making a new start and make promises to change something in their lives on January 1st. Even if you didn't do this yourself, it could still be a good time to think anew about how we can look with fresh eyes at the world around us. Indeed, we could use all of our senses to do this.

What are our senses? Let's begin with the **SENSE OF TOUCH**. Do you like to touch things around you to see what they feel like, leaves on the trees, or at the moment bare branches which might have knobby bits on them. These could be lichens that grow on wood, or buds getting ready for the spring.



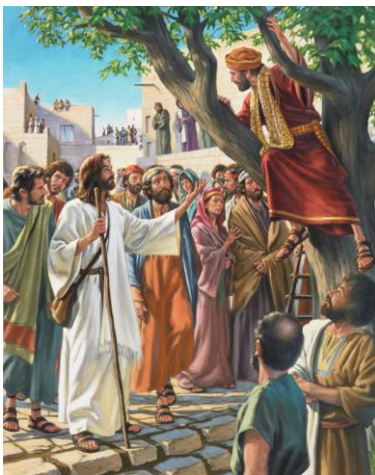
The picture shows lichen growing on a tree trunk. On seeing this you might pull back your hand thinking it could harm you if you touch it, but it isn't harmful and is an indicator of good air quality.

You know, Jesus never hesitated to touch those who came to him asking to be healed. There was a dreaded skin disease called leprosy and everyone avoided anyone who had it. But when a man came to Jesus and asked to be healed, Jesus reached out and touched him, and he was cured. *(Read Matthew ch 8 v 1-4)*

SIGHT, another of our senses. Soon it will be spring and flowers will be beginning to grow. You may be able to see the shoots of some early crocuses, or **SMELL** the scents of some winter flowering shrubs as you walk about. Also **LISTEN** out for the birds. Soon they will be getting very noisy at dawn when spring arrives. Jesus would have seen many wild flowers growing in the hills around Galilee, and heard birdsong, as he travelled around talking to the crowds. He even told people to look at how God cares for the flowers and the birds when pointing out that God cares for each one of us. *(Matthew ch 6:28-30)*

That is three more of our five senses.

Just some of the wildflowers that grow in Palestine.

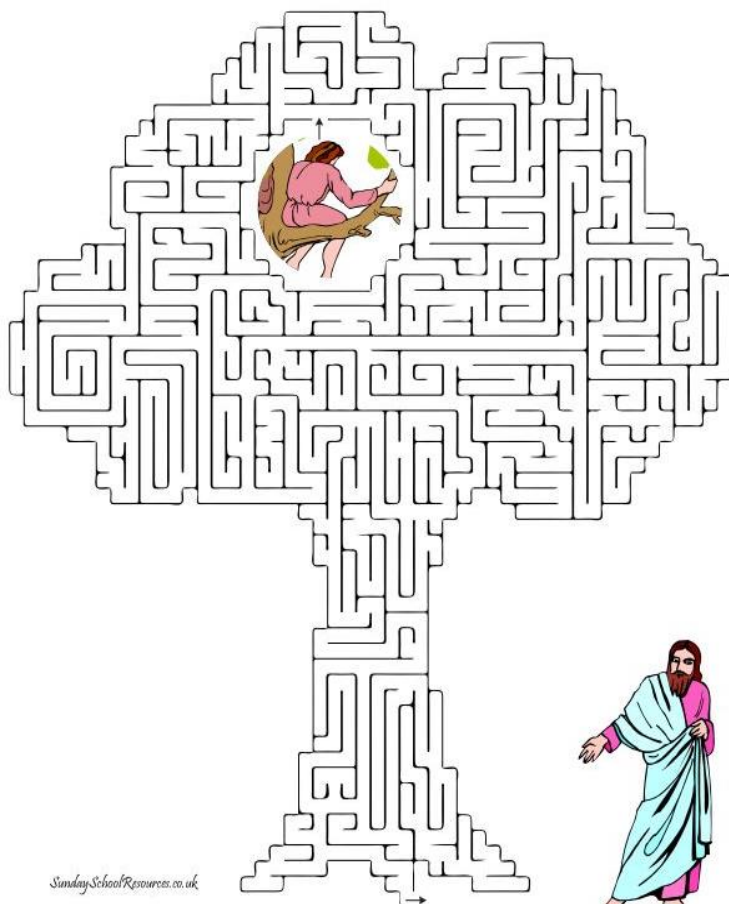


The last of the five senses that we are thinking about is **TASTE**. There is so much good food for us to eat. And we are lucky to have wide choices all through the year because of food that comes to us from different countries.

We read quite often of Jesus sharing meals with people, even some notorious ones such as Zacchaeus, the little man who had to climb a tree to see Jesus because the people hated him and blocked his view. But Jesus saw him in the tree and said he would go to his house for a meal. This changed Zacchaeus' life. *Read about him in Luke ch 19 v 1-8. I wonder what they ate?*

As we think about our senses, can we remember the actions of Jesus and use our senses to be aware of things around us and ways we might help others? Here are some activities based on the full story of Zacchaeus that you will find in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 19 verses 1-10 (NIV). He was a man changed by his meeting with Jesus.

Below, starting at the picture of Zacchaeus in the tree, help him find his way down to Jesus.



SundaySchoolResources.co.uk

Then you could find all the words from the story in this WORDSEARCH.

J	L	P	O	S	M	S	I	N	N	E	R	E	C	T
E	M	W	R	S	O	Z	F	J	W	H	M	M	A	A
R	Z	E	E	M	C	H	I	E	F	O	S	I	X	
I	L	Z	N	A	N	E	Y	P	C	W	H	T	U	O
C	O	M	A	E	L	H	L	L	D	C	O	R	R	L
H	S	Z	M	C	L	T	E	X	O	D	R	E	B	H
O	T	O	L	R	C	W	H	H	W	J	T	E	I	G
Z	C	S	H	Y	B	H	P	Y	N	T	N	C	N	U
S	W	B	R	O	E	R	A	T	M	G	F	R	D	E
T	A	P	A	G	U	V	M	E	M	Z	N	O	R	S
D	K	V	J	A	S	S	D	A	U	W	D	W	F	T
Y	B	X	E	A	K	D	E	O	P	S	S	D	R	P
C	O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R	Q	O	N	L	P	P
T	Q	X	J	N	E	C	L	I	M	B	O	Y	T	I
H	E	G	I	S	E	E	K	C	X	H	E	R	A	W

CLIMB LOST SAVE SEEK JERICHO
 CHIEF WELCOME HOUSE WEALTHY DOWN
 TAX CROWD TREE ZACCHAEUS SHORT
 COME POOR SINNER GUEST COLLECTOR

A CRAFT ACTIVITY

If you would like to make a puppet of Zacchaeus climbing the tree you will need some card, pens, scissors, wool and a craft stick.

Draw out the shape of the top of a tree, like the one in the picture, on card. Stick that to the top of a craft stick (or draw the whole tree on card). Then draw a figure of a man to be Zacchaeus. Cut a piece of wool long enough to make the figure sit in the tree, and then be lowered to the ground. Stick one end of the wool to the back of Zacchaeus, and then thread the other end onto a needle. Now make a hole in the tree top and use the needle to thread the wool through. Then with the wool through the hole, make a loop at the end for your finger. Now you can make Zacchaeus climb the tree and then lower him down again.





Charity No 251394

PANCAKES PRAYERS and HEARTS

Family Faith Fun

February 2024

There are several special days this month, and the first one involves a tasty treat. Tuesday 13th February this year is Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day! It is the traditional feast day before the start of the Lenten Fast (see next page). It was the last opportunity to use up luxury foods, such as eggs and milk (luxuries in medieval times) and pancakes are the perfect way to do this.



It's become popular to hold Pancake Races, on the streets or even inside Cathedrals (the Ely Choristers hold one). The contestants race while tossing (flipping) their pancakes.

Complete the Pancake Day word search to remind you of when it happens and the ingredients needed to make delicious pancakes.



PANCAKE DAY WORDSEARCH

Find all the words in the column at the side.

FLIP FLOUR MILK
FRYING PAN EGGS
ASH WEDNESDAY
PANCAKE SYRUP
CHRISTIAN LENT
BATTER TOPPINGS
LEMON SUGAR
SHROVE TUESDAY

U	C	K	P	B	M	J	H	Q	M	J	L	M	C	O	S	N
A	I	Z	J	R	W	B	A	T	T	E	R	E	R	T	F	A
S	P	U	B	O	A	G	B	P	M	N	Y	Z	Q	R	L	K
H	T	N	S	H	R	O	V	E	T	U	E	S	D	A	Y	A
W	R	V	L	U	U	W	V	T	D	S	L	T	D	M	V	P
E	I	C	Q	W	K	N	X	F	B	O	P	O	P	V	E	C
D	I	X	B	J	J	T	K	L	M	G	W	P	S	F	U	S
N	P	E	H	W	S	A	A	D	T	T	F	P	H	L	T	V
E	S	D	F	R	Y	I	N	G	P	A	N	I	W	I	P	P
S	X	T	F	H	R	N	R	G	A	V	W	N	H	P	E	V
D	S	L	Y	S	U	G	A	R	N	U	B	G	D	M	U	E
A	V	J	Z	K	P	Y	O	E	C	O	T	S	W	D	S	X
Y	W	V	K	U	T	S	W	J	A	X	S	C	H	E	J	E
I	O	B	X	O	T	J	Z	R	K	Z	A	T	E	G	G	S
B	T	V	U	P	U	E	O	B	E	T	D	L	J	T	N	J
T	U	N	L	G	F	O	I	E	G	H	H	F	M	P	R	X
F	T	B	E	K	W	U	I	C	T	E	K	V	I	S	W	U
M	U	J	M	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	L	S	B	H
R	Z	K	O	C	Y	L	Z	I	V	W	T	H	K	T	G	E
B	W	A	N	B	R	Z	W	R	X	X	X	G	E	K	P	C
C	C	W	A	L	V	Y	S	F	L	O	U	R	C	O	J	E
O	N	L	D	H	P	K	U	X	N	L	N	L	E	A	J	P

What is LENT?

This is the 6 weeks before Easter, when Christians remember the time Jesus spent in the desert to prepare himself to begin his ministry for God. It was a time when he would have had very little food and only water to drink. This year Lent begins on February 14th.

To remember this, many people decide to give up luxuries for this period, perhaps cake, chocolate, any luxury food or drink. They might decide to read sections of the Bible, or devote more time to prayer, just as Jesus did. One of our crafts this month will help to give direction to prayers we could offer at this time in particular.

A Craft for Lent Make a prayer Jar.

Use a small empty jam jar, a tin can, or a cardboard tube. Cover the jar, can or tube with colourful paper or fabric (remember to cover the bottom of the tube). You could wind ribbon round it and stick on some sparkly jewels or use glitter glue. You could add a symbol such as those shown in the picture, cut out of card and coloured if you wish.

Use craft sticks for the prayer thoughts. Write a thought on each one, such as 'Pray for a family

member', or 'for those suffering in wars or famine' etc. Make as many as you can and put them in the jar, can or tube. Then take one each day, or several on Sunday, and pray for the things mentioned.



Hearts for Valentine's Day

Long ago in the third century a Roman priest used to conduct weddings in secret for Roman soldiers. It was forbidden for soldiers in Rome's army to be married. *At the time married men were not expected to serve as soldiers, and if they did, were considered poor recruits because it was believed they were too concerned for the well-being of their wives to commit whole-heartedly to warfare.* The priest, named Valentine, attracted the attention of Emperor Claudius II and was arrested and eventually beheaded on February 14th, 269AD. Because of these weddings, Valentine became connected to romance and is now commemorated on February 14th and lots of cards are bought and sent to loved ones, originally in secret remembering the secret weddings.

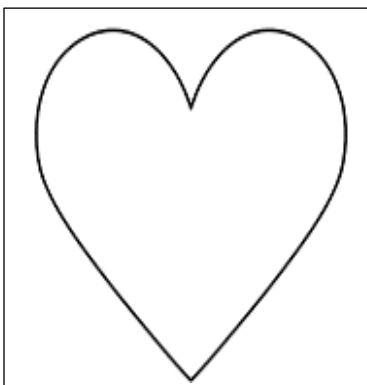
A Valentine Craft Make a wreath of hearts that will remind you of all the ways you can show love to others.

Begin by drawing round a plate on some card, coloured if you can. Draw a heart shape in the middle or cut one out of contrasting paper, and write on it **LOVE IS.....**

Copy or trace out this heart shape at least 6 times, in different colours if you can, and write one of the words below in the centre of each one .

**KIND GENEROUS POLITE HELPFUL RESPECTFUL
NOT PROUD NOT ENVIOUS NOT BOASTFUL**

and any others you can think of. Then stick them round the wreath and hang it up to remind you of what real love is like.





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From Daffodils To Easter Eggs



March 2024

There are signs of spring all around now. Snowdrops have been putting on a good show, now being followed by daffodils, bringing a splash of sunshine colour. March really tells us that we are on the way to summer.

And March takes us through the last half of the period of LENT, all the way to Easter Day.

The church prepares us for Easter with Lent – a time to think about what happened to Jesus, which many people use to give up luxuries such as chocolate, cake, or going out to dinner or the cinema.

But in the middle of this time of going without we have a special day when we remember and give thanks for mothers and all those who love and care for children. This year Mothering Sunday, as it is called, falls on 10th March.



Presents and cards are often given to Mums or carers by children on this day, to show how much they appreciate what is done for them. The tradition goes back to when everyone went to church, and in the middle of the Lent period, the priests would call on everyone to worship in their 'Mother Church', the one in the place where they grew up. Many people worked away from home and were only allowed this one day off to go home. Children, some as young as eight or nine who worked in a big house, would try to



take a gift for their mother, but as they had no money, they would pick wild flowers from the fields and hedges. They would also take some to decorate their church. You can see some Victorian children in the picture taking their flowers to the church.

You can buy cards for 'Mother's Day', as it seems to be called now, but a homemade one specially for your own Mum, or someone who cares for you, is much nicer, and here are two ideas you might like. The top one is made from cup cake cases. Choose three of any colour. Trim the two inside ones down a little if you wish. Firmly stick them inside each other and then onto a piece of card. Add some buttons in the centre.



Draw on a stem and a leaf in green, and write your message – 'Happy Mother's Day' or perhaps, 'Mum I love you because....' (add your own words). Or you could copy the shape of the drinking mug, draw and cut out a heart shape, glue round the sides not the top. Then stick it on the mug with 'to Mum' written on it, and tuck a teabag into the top of the heart. Then add the following words on the other side of the card:-

'A cup of tea to say thank you
For all the things you have done.
Enjoy, relax and have a day
Of happiness and fun.'

After two more weeks of Lent, we have **PALM SUNDAY**, when we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people welcoming him by waving palm branches like flags.

At the Palm Sunday service in church people often receive a cross made out of actual dried palm leaves. **You can make one out of paper.**

Cut a strip of paper approx. 3cm wide by 21 cm long, and make a crease in the centre of its length by folding it over.

Unfold it, then take one end and fold it towards the centre and stick it down.

Do the same with the other end, overlapping them slightly. Now take a second strip of paper, same size, and again find the centre by folding it.

Unfold it, bend one end towards the centre and stick it down.

Now stick the piece with the two folded ends over the top of this one over the join.

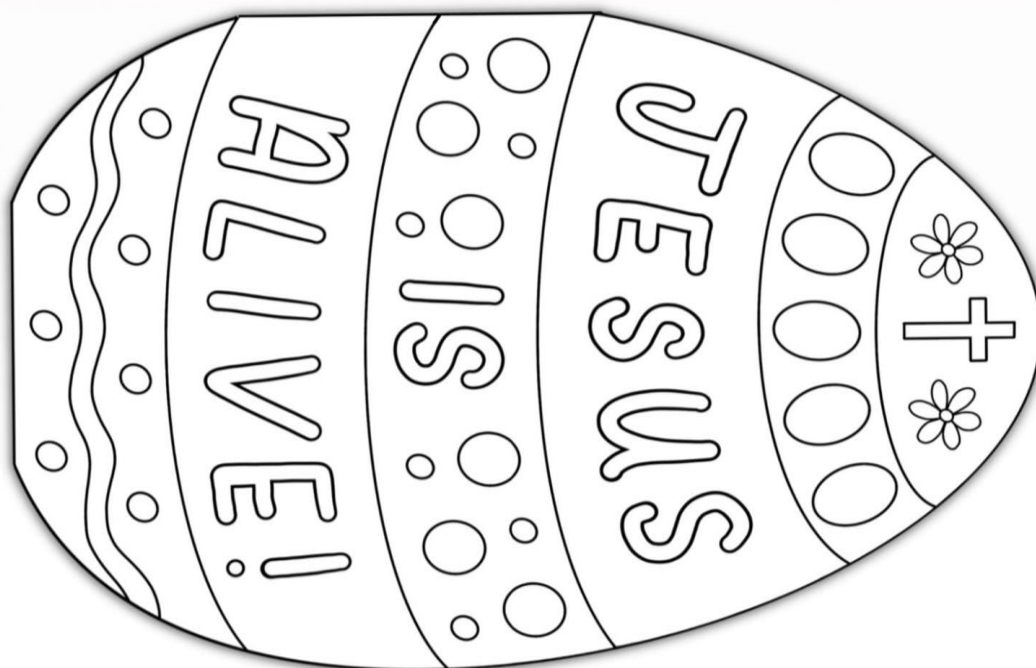


On the Thursday of this week Jesus shared a meal with his friends, and predicted his death. On that night Jesus was arrested and taken as a prisoner before Pilate, the Roman ruler. Pilate tried to make the Jewish King Herod condemn Jesus to death as someone who was trying to make himself king. Herod said that only Pilate could do this, so sent him back to Pilate, and the next day, Jesus was crucified. Pilate was afraid his followers might try to raise an army to fight the Romans. By the end of that day, which we call Good Friday, Jesus was dead, and some friends asked to be able to take his body and bury it. Which they did. A stone was rolled over the entrance of the tomb and the friends retreated to the room in the city where they had met the day before. Here they waited in fear. What would happen now?

Imagine their joy when, on the Sunday morning they make the discovery that Jesus has risen from the dead, the tomb was empty. Over the next few days they meet with him and talked to him.

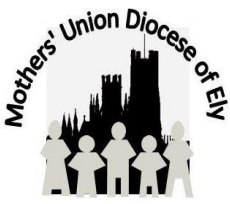


We celebrate Easter Day by giving each other eggs, usually chocolate ones. This is because eggs are a symbol of new life (i.e. baby birds are born from eggs) and we are celebrating the new life of Jesus in heaven with his father, but also with each one of us. A hollow egg can also represent the empty tomb.



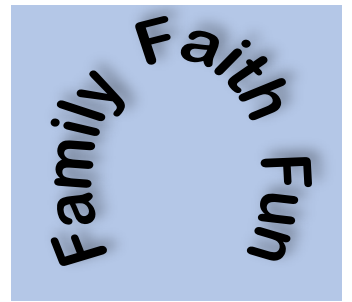
Colour in this Easter Egg picture, cut it out and keep as a reminder of what happened on that first Easter Day.





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April 2024



Have you recently had a chocolate Easter Egg – or perhaps more than one? We celebrate Easter Day by giving each other eggs, usually chocolate ones these days. This is because eggs are a symbol of new life (i.e. baby birds are born from eggs) and we are celebrating the new life of Jesus in heaven with his father, but also with each one of us. A hollow egg can also represent the empty tomb.

So for Christians, Easter Day is a celebration that though Jesus died on the cross on the Friday, three days later, on the Sunday, he had risen to life again. But it wasn't to be a life like the old one. On that evening, when the disciples were gathered in the room in Jerusalem, Jesus was suddenly with them, eating and drinking – not a ghost.

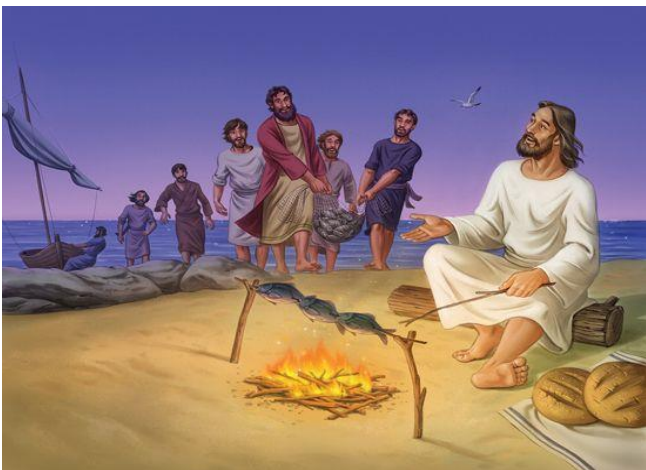
The next day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the nearby town of Emmaus. As they walked, they talked about the amazing thing they heard about Jesus being alive again. But they hadn't seen him. They were joined by Jesus but didn't recognise him. When they reached their house all three went in and sat down to share a meal. Then Jesus picked up the loaf of bread and blessed it. In that instant the other two realised who he was, but Jesus disappeared from their sight. You can read about it in Luke 24v13-35.

Find the words below in the grid.
WALKED JESUS SUFFER CRUCIFIED
THANKS BREAD BELIEVE VISITOR
VILLAGE CLEOPAS FOOLISH PROPHET
EYES EMMAUS OPENED VILLAGE



Did you know that once Jesus made a picnic for his special friends? After He appeared to them in the upper room where they were hiding, he had then gone away again. The friends were feeling lost without him and not sure what to do so they decided to take a boat out onto Lake Gallilee and go fishing. It was very early in the morning as they came back to shore and they could see that on the beach a fire had been lit and there was someone nearby.

As they landed on the beach Peter shouted, "It's Jesus!" They all rushed up to him and saw that Jesus already had some fish cooking over the fire. As they shared this breakfast Jesus talked to the friends about his mission for them to take his teachings out to all the world.



Jesus gave the task of carrying His message of LOVE & MERCY to everyone to his disciples, and they did that, teaching about Jesus wherever they could. And for all the centuries following, others have carried on that work. Some became well known and were declared “saints” of the church. One of these is remembered on April 23rd. He is St George. He may have been a knight and legend says that he fought a dragon. This dragon was terrorising the whole country and its breath could poison you. It demanded a daily diet of two sheep, and when the sheep ran out human victims were offered to it. One day the lot fell on the King’s daughter. As she went to meet the dragon, St George appeared and wounded it with his sword. He then made a lead from the princess’s girdle and led the dragon through the town. He said he would kill the dragon if all the people were baptised. Fifteen thousand people were baptised and the dragon was slain. The story has become a symbol of GOOD – St George, defeating EVIL-the dragon. St George was adopted as the patron saint of England.

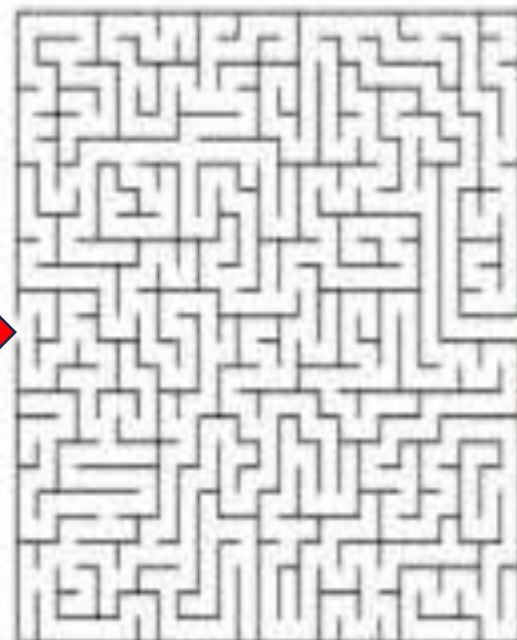
St George Crafts

You could make a DRAGON MASK by copying the picture onto card big enough to cover your face – and green if you can. Cut out the eyes so you can see through them. Cut out the pointed ears and wing shapes to stick on. Draw on the nostrils, then if you have some orange or red paper cut out some flames to stick onto the nostrils. Punch holes in the side of the head shape to thread elastic through to hold the mask on you face.

Or you could make a FIRE BREATHING dragon from a cardboard tube. Paint or colour the tube green. Cut out two circles for the eyes as shown, and two more for the nostrils. Stick them onto the tube. Use some red and orange tissue or crepe paper cut into strips and stick them just inside the end of the tube. When it is dry you can blow down the tube to make the flames look as if they are alive.



Help St George find his way through the maze to fight the dragon. I wonder what sort of “dragons” might be making us worried today – pollution, poverty, homelessness?



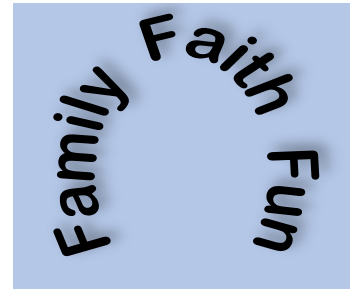


Charity No 251394

May 2024



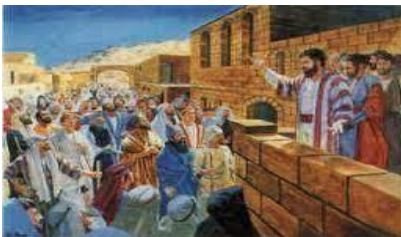
WIND AND FIRE FROM HEAVEN



The Christian church is about to celebrate a birthday, on May 19th. Not a birthday of the buildings we call churches, but the birth of the groups of followers of Jesus, the people themselves. This is the festival of PENTECOST.

The momentous events of the time we call Easter were behind them for the followers of Jesus. Picture yourself in Jerusalem at that time. Forty days have passed. The atmosphere is tense. The Jewish authorities are known to still be keen to wipe out all memory of Jesus and the things he had done. The disciples had met with the risen Christ on a number of occasions. Some had been there to witness his last moments on earth before going back to his Father in Heaven (remembered in the church as Ascension Day). He had told them to return to Jerusalem and wait for a gift which would be sent to them. So they returned to the upper room of the house in the city where they were staying. They were gathered together to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost.

Suddenly, there was a sound like the roaring of a mighty wind that filled the house. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and were no longer afraid. This was Jesus' promised gift. They all felt a need to speak out about Jesus and his wonderful promise of salvation for all.



Outside the streets were filled with visitors to the city from many of the surrounding countries, there to celebrate Pentecost. Seizing the moment Peter stood and spoke to the crowds about Jesus. Each person could hear what he was saying in their own language! (Read all about it in Acts 2:1-4)

Below is a very interesting picture of the artist Rebecca Brogan's depiction of the meaning of Pentecost. Look at it carefully, can you see the hands of Christ at the top, showing the marks of the nails? He seems to be releasing a dove (a symbol of the Holy Spirit) while at the same time rivers of fire are pouring down on the people below, people who are dressed in the costumes of many nations.



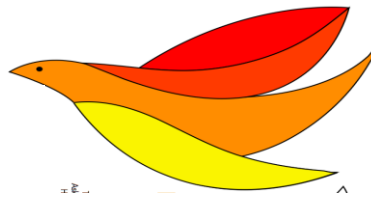
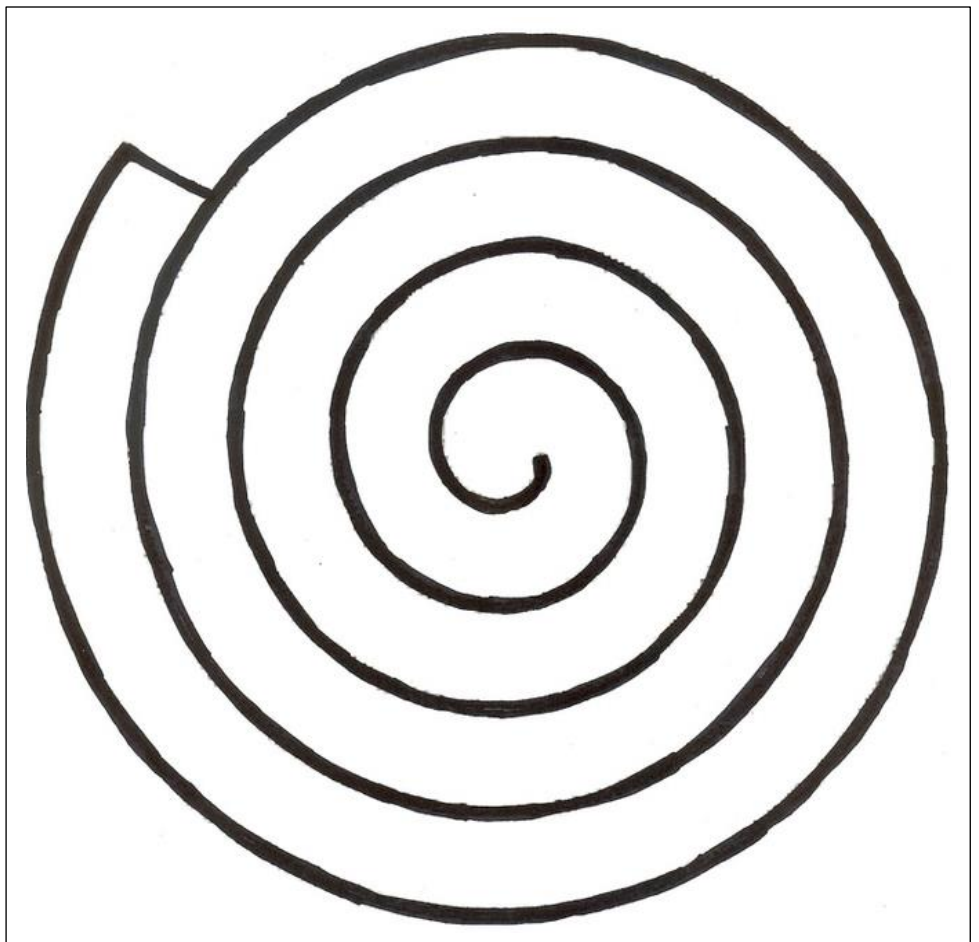
The love of Jesus is freely given to all who wish to know and follow him, wherever they come from.



Pentecost Wind Twirls



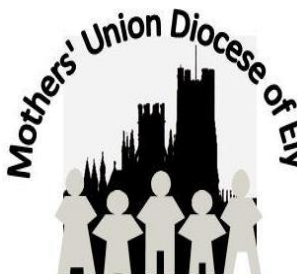
Either cut out a round piece of card then cut around in a spiral until you get to the middle of the circle. Or copy the pattern on the right and cut along the black lines. Decorate the spiral with flames and doves, then hang it up with a piece of yarn, to remind you that the Holy Spirit is present even though we can't see it.



A Pentecost Dove Copy each section of the dove above – the body and the wings. Cut them out or colour in, in shades of yellow, red and orange. Assemble them like the picture and attach a cord to the end of the beak. Then attach the cord to a straw so that you can make the dove appear to fly.

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

**JERUSALEM HOLY-SPIRIT FIRE WIND
TOGETHER BELIEVERS REPENT
BAPTISED LANGUAGE GOSPEL**



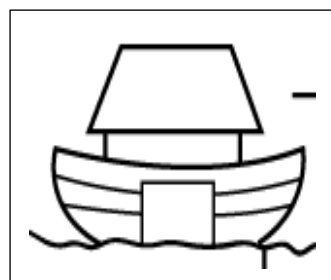
Registered charity no 251394

Summer's coming, well we hope it is! It's still not very warm. But as your school summer holiday approaches we hope for better weather. Perhaps you will be able to spend time swimming, in a swimming pool or at the seaside. Some of you might even get a ride on a boat, either a big one taking you on holiday, or smaller ones on a lake or along a river. If you are on a boat on a river, you will probably be able to see some of the wildlife if it is a very quiet boat. However you travel on the water, it is very different to being in a car and can be quite an adventure.

There's a story of a watery adventure in the Bible.

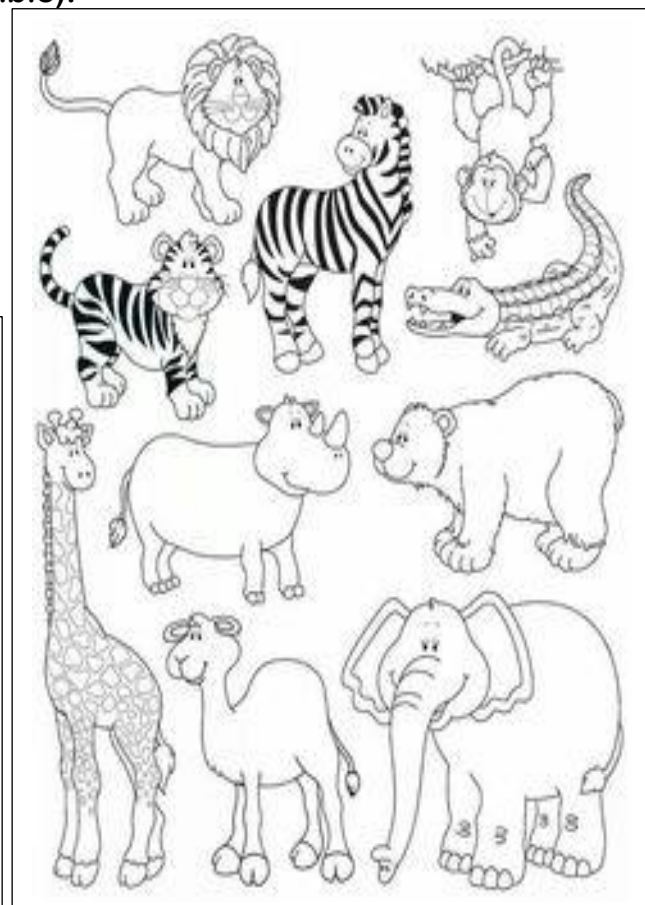
It involves a big boat, a family and lots of animals. It's about a man who listened to God and followed his instructions. God was not happy with the way people were behaving and he was going to punish them. Noah and his family were good and God wanted Noah to be saved. He gave him instructions on how to build the biggest boat ever seen, and then to gather together two of every kind of animal and bird and get them into this boat, called The Ark, with his family. When Noah had done all that God had instructed, God caused it to begin to rain.

It rained for forty days until the whole land was flooded and all the people and animals not inside the ark were drowned. When at last it stopped raining, Noah sent a dove out from the Ark several times to see if there was any dry land yet. When at last it didn't come back he knew the water was going down. At last the Ark settled on dry land and Noah, his family and all the animals were able to come out and live on the land again. God made a rainbow in the sky as a promise not to punish the world in that way again. You will find the story of Noah and the Flood in the first book of the Bible called Genesis and it begins in chapter 5 (best read in a children's Bible).



Make a NOAH'S ARK wall hanger

Draw out the shape of the Ark, on brown paper or colour it brown. Then see if you can copy the animal shapes on the right, (two of each) or draw your own. Then cut them out and place some on the ark, or make a pathway for them to walk up to the ark. Then add the rainbow over the top.



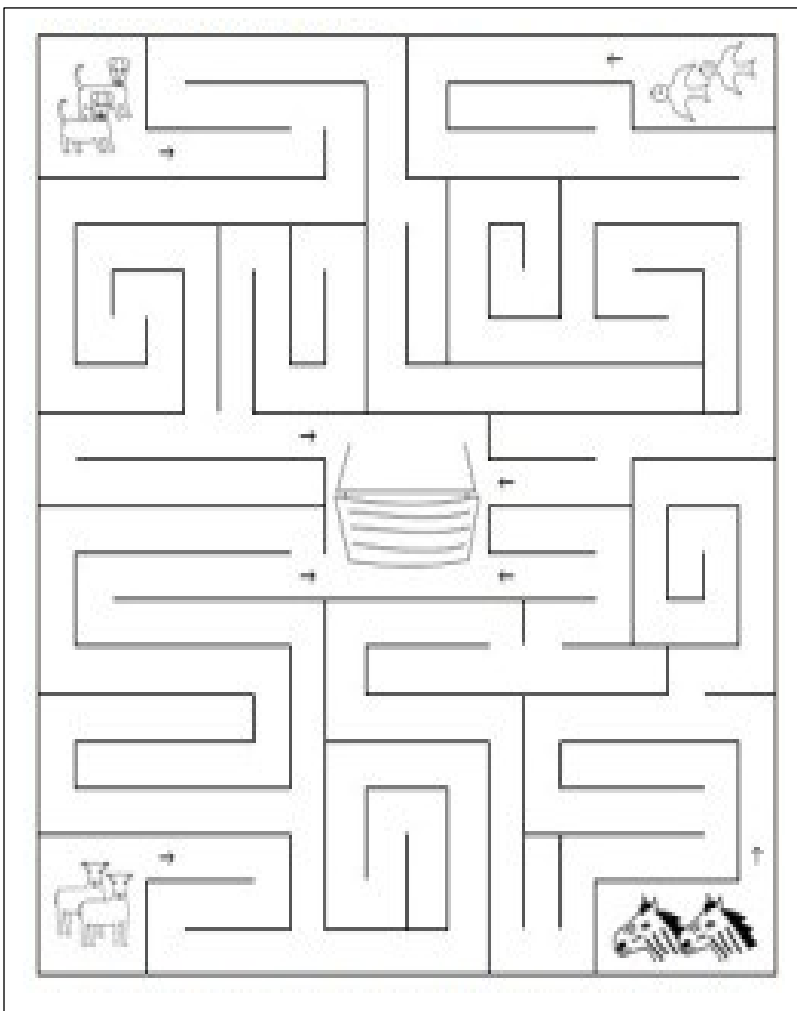
Once the friends of Jesus had a very scary day on the Sea of Galilee

One day Jesus was out in a boat with some of his close friends. He had spent the day talking to the crowds and now was tired so he lay down in the back of the boat and went to sleep. When the boat was in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, a sudden storm blew up. The wind howled and the waves became very big and rough. Jesus' friends were experienced sailors but they became very scared as the boat seemed about to sink. They woke Jesus up. "Look what is happening," they shouted above the wind. "We're afraid our boat won't last much longer. We are going to sink and we are a long way from shore."



As he woke up Jesus looked around him and saw the crashing waves and felt the howling wind and knew how scared his friends were. He stood up and commanded the wind and waves to be still – and they were! Jesus was able to calm the storm. His friends were amazed! What a miracle! *Read about this in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 4 verses 35-41*

**Two Activities, . 1. Can you find the way through the maze for all the animals to reach the Ark?
2. Decode the secret words about Jesus and the storm.**



Code key

6	1	9	20	8	A1	J 10	S 19	
2	15	1	20	B2	K 11	T 20		
19	20	15	18	13	C3	L 12	U 21	
23	1	20	5	18	D4	M 13	V 22	
4	9	19	3	9	16	12	5	19
1	19	12	5	5	16	E5	N 14	W 23
					F6	O 15	X 24	
					G7	P 16	Y 25	
					H8	Q 17	Z 26	
					I9	R 18		

When Jesus calmed the storm it showed that:-

20 8 5 23 9 14 4 19 1 14 4 20 8 5

23 1 22 5 19 15 2 5 25 10 5 19 21 19



Registered Charity No 251394

September 2024



Give thanks to the Lord

Creationtide, or the Season of Creation, is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life, a whole month of thinking about what God has made but we are destroying.

This is also the time when many churches hold their Harvest Festivals.



Whether we live in a town, a village or out in the country, harvest time is important for us all. It's a time to give thanks for everything that we have to help us to live. For instance our food (whether fresh, tinned or frozen) which may be grown on the land or fished from the sea, and also for the gas and electricity for our homes (and now cars!) and even the petrol or diesel (drilled from beneath this earth) not just for our family cars, but more importantly for essential emergency vehicles. We have so much to be thankful for even though it is not evenly shared amongst us. Take time to think about those in this country, and the world as a whole, who do not have enough to eat, a safe place to call home and the resources to make life bareable.

Colour the picture below. Do you recognise all the fruits and vegetables in it, BUT - which one cannot be grown in this country?



Think about the world God made, and how we are destroying it. **IT'S IN OUR HANDS**

This poem was entered into a competition by a 6yr old boy. It makes you think!

Hi. I'm Olly I'm only 6
 this world we live in I'd like to fix
 Please follow these rules It may be a test
 but it will make our world the best.
 Please recycle what we use
 Make things have a 2nd use.
 Plastic, paper, glass and tin
 don't throw them in the rubbish bin
 Turn the lights off, walk and bike
 please do these things I really like.
 Help me save our world, we have only one.
 If we don't we'll all be gone.



Below is a picture of a 'dream catcher' made by someone thinking about God's world. Perhaps you could make your own and add drawings of how we can re-cycle things or actions we can take to reduce carbon emissions (too much use of petro, electricity, cutting down forests etc).



To begin, cut the centre out of a paper plate or draw round a plate onto cardboard then cut out the centre. You could colour the outside edge in rainbow colours. Either punch 8-10 holes round the outside or use a strong needle, then thread coloured wool through the holes to create a web across the middle.



Draw a picture of the world to stick in the middle, with perhaps some stars, a sun etc to go round it. Add some long strings of wool to hang down with a few beads and a feather on each one if you have them. Leave a length of the wool below the beads and feathers to which you could attach drawings of trees, flowers, animals and your drawings of your planet saving ideas (perhaps a bicycle and a car with a cross through the car). Add a cord at the top to hang your 'dream catcher'.

HARVEST WORDSEARCH



N	W	H	B	R	H	P	R	P	
E	Q	Z	V	F	R	U	I	T	R
L	M	G	R	W	T	K	C	W	X
B	R	W	K	S	D	E	E	S	H
A	A	R	N	J	N	H	H	T	A
T	F	G	Y	G	D	P	A	Q	R
E	W	Z	R	L	L	E	P	W	V
G	T	D	E	A	H	I	K	J	E
E	K	I	N	W	I	Z	O	K	S
V	F	T	J	M	N	N	C	S	T

- FARM
- FIELD
- FRUIT
- GRAIN
- HARVEST
- PLANT
- SEEDS
- SOIL
- VEGETABLE
- WHEAT





Registered charity no 251394

October 2024

The Travelling Doctor



GOD'S WORDS are First Aid for OUR SOULS



Family Faith Fun

There are many dates in the Church calendar that celebrate special people who in the past were noted for their faith in Jesus. They have often been given the title of Saint (St). One such person was a man called Luke, whose special day is October 18th. He is believed to have been a doctor, who collected the stories of Jesus life and work from those who had known him, possible even his mother Mary when she was an old lady. He wrote down all the information he collected in the book in the Bible called the Gospel of Luke, as well as the one about the Acts of the Apostles.



A painting of Luke writing down the words of St Paul.

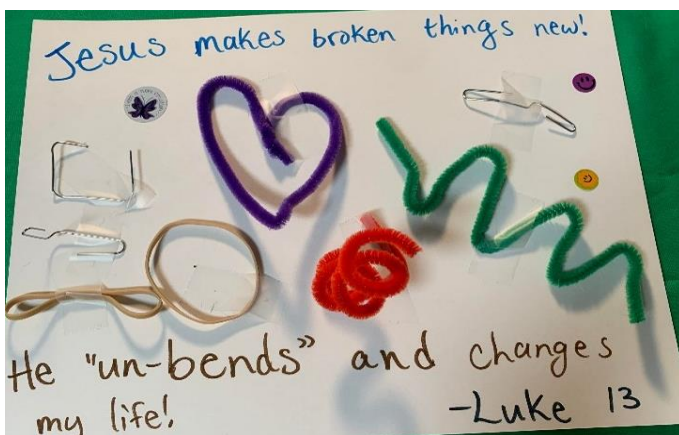
Luke seems to be particular in recording in his Gospel, the miracles of healing performed by Jesus, one such incident is in chapter 13:v10-13, when Jesus healed a crippled woman.

'He placed His hands on her, and at once she straightened herself up and praised God'
Luke travelled with Paul on many of his missionary journeys. It is thought that Luke wrote out the letters Paul sent to the early Christian groups that began to grow in the towns they had visited. It is also probable that Luke cared for Paul whenever he became ill when on his travels. In a letter from Paul to the people of Colossus, Paul refers to him as "my dear friend Luke the doctor." (*Colossians 4:14*).

For this reason Luke has been regarded as the patron saint of doctors, and many medical organisations and hospitals bear his name. His special day, October 18th, is a time to remember all those who care for the sick in our hospitals and communities today.

Remembering the verse about the crippled woman who was able to straighten herself up when Jesus healed her, write on a sheet of paper or card the caption,

Jesus "un-bends" our mistakes and makes us new.



To decorate the sheet tape on bent pieces of pipecleaners, rubber bands, string, and paper clips, or anything else that's bent (see picture) to the top half of the sheet.

Then perhaps add some "unbent" items, such as paper clips that have been straightened out, below them and add the second text:

He "un-bends" and changes my life!

Hang the poster up to remind you of how Jesus can make our lives right again.

Write out some prayers for those who are sick, in body or mind, to ask God to comfort and heal them.



St. Luke is also the patron saint of painter and sculptors. Not much is really known about him, but some believe that Luke was the first icon painter. Icons were paintings that symbolized important people in the faith - apostles, saints, prophets. They are not actual portraits, nobody made pictures while the subjects were alive. He is said to have painted this picture of the Virgin Mary and Child. We don't know if that is true. Icon paintings often had quite a lot of gold and rich colours to make them especially beautiful for God.



Colour in this icon type picture of St Luke with your best colours. Can you see what he is holding? And do you see the angel looking over his shoulder, and the bull by his head which is a symbol of St Luke.

October 31st is traditionally "HALLOWEEN"- or All Hallows Eve (Hallow means Holy). 1st November is All Hallows Day (or All Saint's Day) when we celebrate the lives of the Saints. A Halloween tradition used to be to hollow out turnips to make lanterns but now we have adopted the American idea of carving pumpkins. The faces in them were said to frighten away witches and other unwelcome visitors. But instead of trying to scare people away, why not carve your pumpkin with a friendly face. If you don't have a pumpkin, you could make a **Pumpkin Windsock** -see below.

Draw round a plate onto orange card, twice, or draw your own pumpkin shape twice. Cut those out then on some yellow or white paper cut out 2 crosses for eyes, a nose, and mouth, and stick them to one of the circles. Cut out a brown stem and green leaf. Add several pieces of streamer, made from crepe or tissue paper, or ribbons, to the bottom of one of the circles and then staple or glue the two together. Add a hanging loop to the top.



Copy out this text to stick to the back of your windsock as a reminder of how we all should be

Let me shine with the Light of Jesus,
Let my eyes see the beauty all around,
Never let me turn up my nose to others,
And let my mouth share the Good News I
have found!



Registered Charity No 251394

November 2024



It's November and the nights are drawing in – which means that it is getting dark earlier and earlier each day. If we need to go out in the evening we are mostly lucky to have street lights to help us to see where we are going. Even if we live in the country away from the street lights, we have torches to use to light the way.

Back in the time of Jesus, there were no such things. Most of the time they would have enough light from the stars and moon, but if they wanted extra light they had to use lamps, a bit like the one in the picture.

The lamps most commonly used at that time were small, about the size of a hand. They were made from clay, like shallow, covered dishes with two holes in the top. Olive oil was poured through the larger of the holes, and a wick was placed in the smaller. Special care was taken to keep the wick trimmed. If it burned down too low, it would smoke and finally go out.



A story about lights and being prepared.

In the bible, we read about a time when Jesus was teaching people to be ready for when He comes back. He told a parable (a story) to help them understand.

Once there was a big wedding. The wedding was so big that there were ten bridesmaids who helped the bride get ready for the wedding. Weddings back then started at night. Everyone knew that sometime, during the night, the groom would come to the bride's house and call out for her. The bridesmaids would hold up their oil lamps so the bride and groom could see each other. The groom would be so happy to see his beautiful bride! Everyone would keep holding up their lamps so they could walk down the streets to the groom's house. Then there would be dancing, eating, and lots of fun celebrations at the wedding.

Five of the bridesmaids brought extra oil for their lamps. They wanted to be ready even if the groom came very late in the night, but the others were foolish and didn't think about bringing extra oil. As they waited, the bride and all the bridesmaids got sleepy and fell asleep.

Then someone shouted, "Here's the bridegroom, come outside and meet him!" They all woke up and began to fix their lamps to make them nice and bright. The five foolish girls noticed that their lamps had run out of oil and had burned out. They asked the wise girls for oil, but they didn't have extra, only enough to keep their own lamps burning.

The foolish girls had to go and try to find more oil for the lamps. They did not get to go out with the bride to meet the bridegroom. They did not get to walk down the streets to the wedding feast with all of their friends. They were too busy trying to find oil.

When the wise bridesmaids and everyone else arrived at the groom's house, they went inside and began the celebrations. The groom shut the door and locked it so no strangers could get inside. The foolish bridesmaids were not allowed in when they came to the door. The groom didn't even know who they were!

This parable helps us understand what it will be like when Jesus comes again. We do not know the day or the time. We should always love God and obey Him so we will be ready whenever He comes.

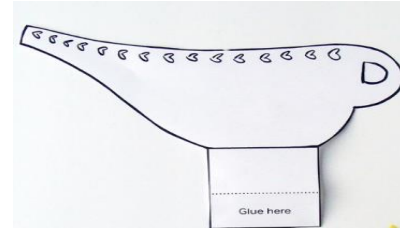
Read the story in Matthew chapter 25 verses 1-13

ACTIVITY The Bridesmaids Lamp

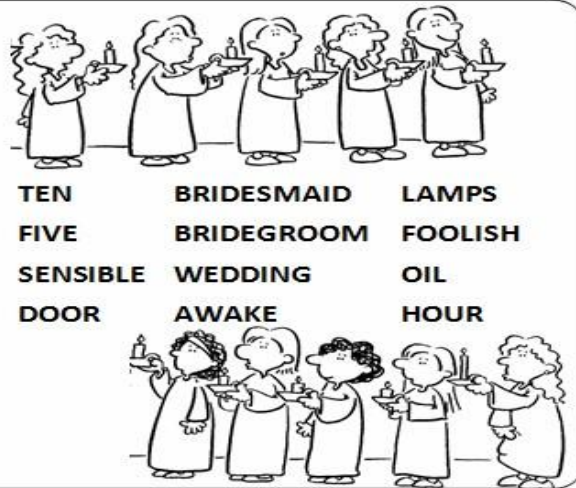


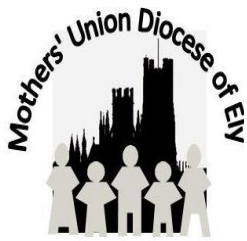
If you have some clay take a piece a bit smaller than a tennis ball. Mould it into the sort of shape in the picture, with a hollow centre. Pinch out a bit at one end for the handle, and at the other end with a groove in it for the wick. The wick could be a piece of string. If you don't have clay you could use play dough. Alternatively you could use card.

Cut out two oil lamp shapes for the front and back. See the flap on the bottom of one piece. This will be folded and glued onto the front shape, forming a base so that the lamp can stand upright. Glue the handles together and about half way down the front under the spout. Cut out a few flame shapes from the tissue paper and



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





Registered charity no 251394



December 2024

It's nearly Christmas! But what does that mean to you?

Presents Good Food Holiday Family Games

Or singing carols, hearing the story of the first Christmas, sharing?

Or perhaps all of the above. There are so many layers to Christmas. A big part is the giving and receiving of presents, but why is that such a big thing at this time?

Here is one reason:- It's all tied up in the history of Father Christmas.



There are many legends of someone who distributes gifts at Christmas time. Here we call him Father Christmas which comes from a long time ago when there was a tradition of having a Father Winter character. Then he was dressed in a whole range of different colours - blue, green, brown or red.

Then, Christians heard about St Nicholas. Long ago he was a Bishop in the country of Turkey.

His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the poor and sick as he travelled the country on horseback.

He was made a Bishop, and on his travels learnt about a poor family with daughters who couldn't get married because there was no money. Bishop Nicholas secretly dropped bags of gold through their window (or down the chimney into stockings or shoes by the fire, there are many versions of the story). The father of the girls eventually found out and he told everyone of the generosity of Bishop Nicholas, and the legend of leaving secret gifts was born.

After his death Bishop Nicholas was made a saint and his legend spread through Europe. The Dutch particularly adopted him and their name for him was 'Sinter Claes', which soon became 'Santa Claus'. Paintings of him turned his bishop's robe into a long, red, winter coat, and his mitre became a fur cap. Bishop Nicholas had given gifts to many poor children in his country and 'Santa Claus' / 'Father Christmas' became the Christmas gift giver.



The brightest decoration in many homes is a Christmas tree, topped with a Christmas angel, a star (or a fairy?).

The first Christmas trees were hung in Eastern Europe – upside down! They were often not decorated at all, just there as a reminder that the shape of the tree, triangular, represented the three persons of God - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

The fairy has some connection to the Good Fairy in pantomimes, but angels and stars remind us of the true Christmas story,

A St Nicholas Craft Activity - Make yourself a Christmas tree decoration.



Cut a strip of card, red if possible, to about 3cm wide & 7cm long. Colour in in red if needed. Cut a small circle for the face, in pink, or colour a white piece. Stick that to one end for the face. Next take a little cotton wool and tease it out so that it isn't too thick and stick around the face for his beard. Draw on his eyes. Make his Bishop's mitre – see the illustration, and draw on a gold colour cross, or use gold paper. Make his Bishop's crook from a gold pipe cleaner. Add a little parcel to look as if he is holding it. Put a hole in the top of his mitre and thread cotton or wool to hang him on the tree.

Using the patterns below, make a pretty "Heart Angel" to remind you of the kind heart of St Nicholas, and all the people who love and care for you. Make it sparkly if you can and perhaps give it to someone to hang on their tree as a thank you for their kindness.

