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Foodbank Calendar

Page 4 & 5



Puzzles

**Day 7:
Complete?**



Page 7

Packed full of FUN, PUZZLES and lots to think about!

Parents' Paper Inside



Foodbank Calendar

For the rest of advent why don't you create a Foodbank Calendar?

What's that?

Simple...

It's just a box or a bag - but unlike an advent calendar - you put something into it. So think of something that would be useful to those in need - whether it is a tin of beans or a bag of pasta.

It could make a huge difference to someone's Christmas.

When you get closer to Christmas you can take it to a foodbank to be given to those that need it.

To find your nearest foodbank go to:

www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank



Ginger Bread Decorations



Ingredients

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
125g/4½oz butter
175g/6oz light soft brown sugar
1 free-range egg
4 tbsp golden syrup
350g/12oz plain flour, plus extra for rolling out

To decorate

writing icing (optional)
cake decorations (optional)

What to do

Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and cinnamon and pour into the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and blend until the mix looks like breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar.

Lightly beat the egg and golden syrup together, add to the food processor and pulse until the mixture clumps together. Tip the dough out, knead briefly until smooth, wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper.

Roll the dough out to a 0.5cm thickness on a lightly floured surface. You could put a clean pencil either side of the mix to get the right thickness. Using cutters, cut out the gingerbread men shapes and place on the baking tray, leaving a gap between them.

Bake for 12–15 minutes, or until lightly golden-brown. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling. When cooled decorate with the writing icing and cake decorations, if using.

Christmas

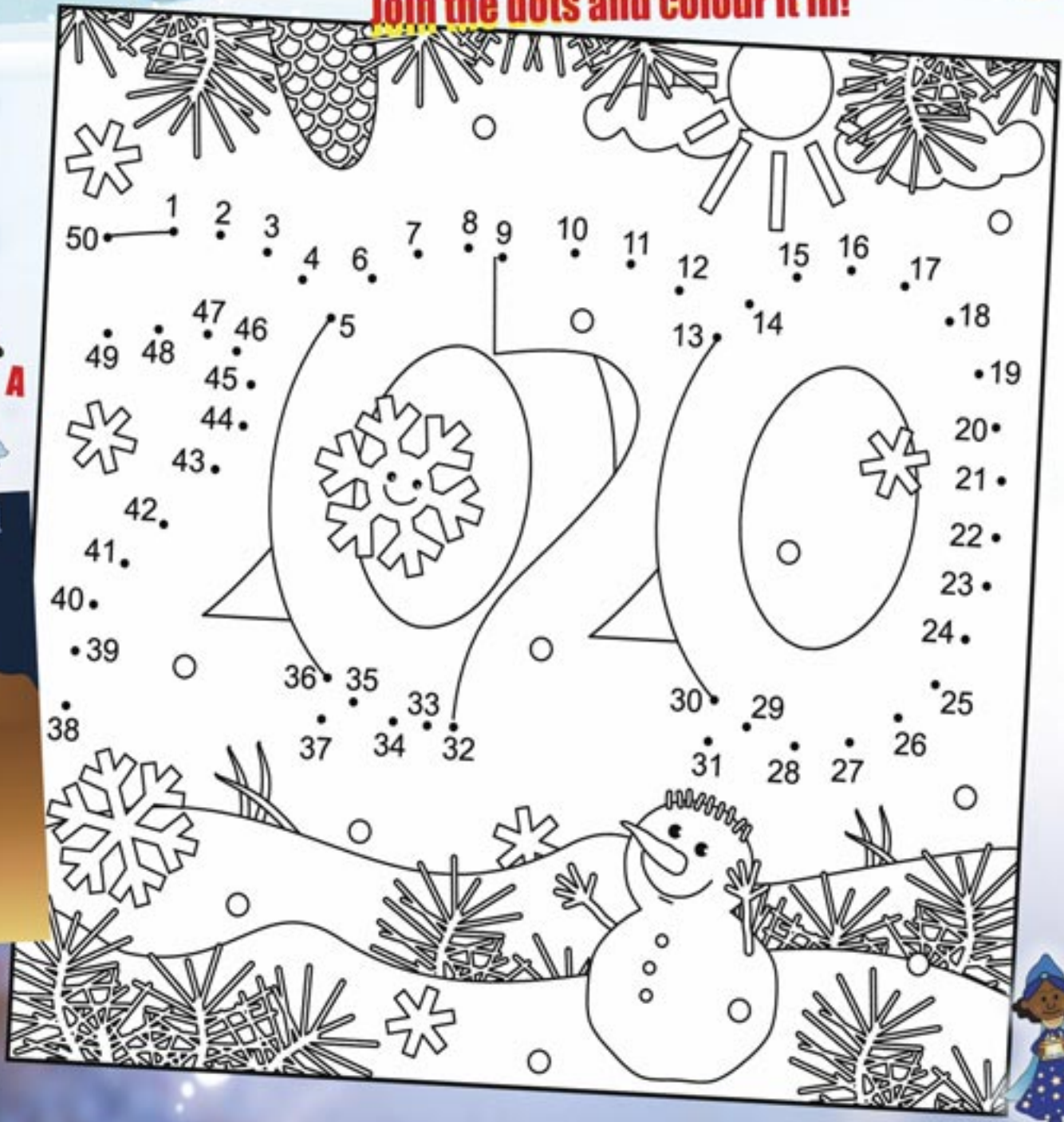
Help the Snowman find the present



Find 9 Differences!



Join the dots and colour it in!



Guess the Place

Use the pictures to help you guess the words that go from left to right. When you have finished you will see a word in the yellow squares going from top to bottom.



Crossword

8 =

9 =

4 =

What does each King stand for?



Bethlehem

The right answer



Find the Kings

Help the Shepherds find Jesus. The correct path is Path C



here

Reach

READ IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT

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This Christmas:
Do you have room ...

... for Jesus?

Dear Reader

I won't take up too much of your time, because I'm sure that, like me, you will probably have 101 jobs that you need to do before Christmas Day... well, an awful lot anyway!

Speaking of which, our point for reflection in this edition looks at whether we are able to spend time with Jesus this Christmas – or whether, like the inn keepers of over two thousand years ago, our lives are completely full, so that there is 'no room at the inn' for him?

We have also included some fun Christmas recipes, some interesting facts about Christmas which you may not have been aware of and also our book reviews, along with lots more for both you and the children to read, see, think about and do.

So maybe get cooking... test your friends and family on our Christmas facts... and treat yourself to a new book! Better still; ask for one of our recommended books as a Christmas present! So, all in all, enjoy!

With every good wish and blessing for the season of Christmas

Julia
Editor



**T'was the night before Christmas,
God glanced over the earth.
He looked to and fro,
all over its girth.**

**They missed it again He said with a sigh,
a heavy heart and a tear in his eye.
I gave them my Son,
so they could be free.**

**My greatest gift,
to them from me.
They traded me in,
for a man in red.**

**A little tree
and horse-drawn sled.
How do I save them
and make them see
my love is complete,
my grace is free.**

**How do I help them,
when all they know
is a talking snowman
and a box with a bow.**

**Maybe next year
they will stop and see...
The biggest gift of Christmas
is the little child from me.**

Contact us

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Point for reflection...

This Christmas: Do you have room for Jesus?

And so it's that frantic, frenetic time of the year again when each of us tells anyone who is prepared to listen that we are soooo busy! We all know what the 'season to be jolly' entails – writing Christmas cards, present shopping and wrapping, meals and parties to go to and provisions to buy for our own Christmas feast. And there's probably even more that could be mentioned...

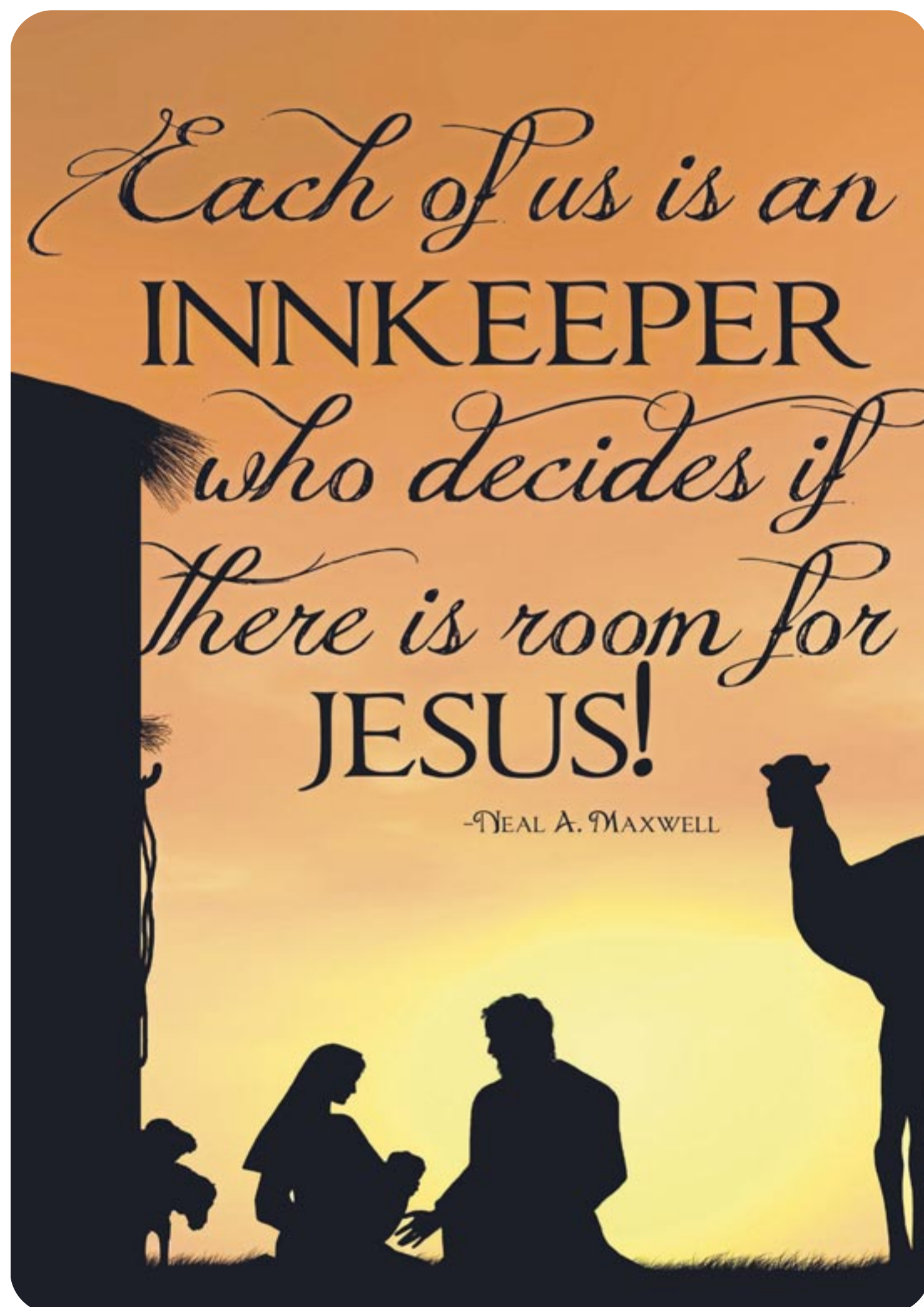
Over 2000 years ago a virgin arrived approximately ten kilometres south of the city of Jerusalem, in the fertile limestone hill country of Bethlehem, with her carpenter husband. In today's modern world of hospital care, doctors and midwives, it's probably quite difficult for us to comprehend how this very young girl would have felt as, wracked by labour pains, she had nowhere to lay her head while struggling to give birth to her baby son. Every hostelry was full due to the Roman census of the time and enquiry after enquiry produced only a negative result. Eventually, as her time drew near, she was forced to give birth in a stable or, as is more probably the case, a cave. There was literally 'no room at the inn' for Mary the mother of God and Jesus the holy child. She truly must have felt frantic...

After over two millenia there is a school of thought which implies that this story is no longer relevant in today's world. Yet nonetheless we still continue to celebrate Christmas each year and Christian believers put forward a case for 'putting the Christ back in Christmas'. It can sometimes be a struggle to remember the origins of our annual celebration, when we are hastily trying to prepare for the great day on 25th December, and Mary's own frantic search for shelter is likely to be far from the forefront of our minds. Yet the truth of the matter is that our pre-Christmas angst is actually mere trivia compared to what Our Lady would have felt at the time of the very first Christmas. However, whether we believe in the story of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ or not and whether we celebrate his birthday in Christian tradition, we can actually reassure ourselves that we have indeed made room for the Lord – we have made space and time in our lives. And the reason for this is quite simple. Most parents have a natural desire to make their children's Christmas a happy one. And the reason for this is obvious – because they love their offspring.

And where love is present, then so is the Lord. So whether we consciously invite the Lord to be with us at Christmas and

welcome him into our homes and lives, or whether we are caught up in our celebrations and perhaps don't give much thought

to his first coming, we can be assured that Jesus shares our Christmas anyway. For where there is love... there is God.



Pope Francis on... The meaning of Christmas for *you*



Pope Francis has said many things about Christmas. We have selected a few quotes for you to ponder:

'If Christmas ends up as just a beautiful traditional holiday where everything revolves around us and not him, it will be a lost opportunity.'

'Christmas will not be authentic if people get caught up in a frenzy of shopping, presents and meals, all while ignoring the poor and forgetting who the celebration is really all about.'

'God's Christmas wish isn't buying-frenzy and feast, but gift of self'

'Jesus is good, Jesus is tender, Jesus is humble. This is the real Christmas!'

'May you feel wonder when you gather in your homes in prayer before the Nativity, gazing at Baby Jesus.'

'Just as Mary was called to welcome and bring the Christ-child into the world, people today are also called to welcome the Gospel and so that it can "become flesh" and come into the world in people's actual lives.'

'Christmas is preferring the silent voice of God to the noisiness of consumerism. If we can be silent in front of the crib, Christmas will be a surprise even for us, not something seen before.'

'We will celebrate Christmas well, if, like Joseph, we will give space to silence; if, like Mary, we say 'here I am' to God; if, like Jesus, we will be close to those who are alone; if, like the shepherds, we will leave our enclosures to be with Jesus.'

'Christmas is the payback of humility over arrogance, of simplicity over abundance, of silence over hubbub, of prayer over 'my time,' of God over my ego.'

'Every one of us has, hidden in our heart, the capacity to be surprised. May we be surprised by Jesus this Christmas.'

Saint Stephen's Day

**St. Stephen's Day –
Thursday 26th
December 2019**

Boxing Day is a holiday traditionally celebrated the day following Christmas Day, when servants and tradesmen received gifts, known as a 'Christmas box' from their employers, in the United Kingdom, Barbados, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, Bermuda, New Zealand, Kenya, South Africa, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and other former British colonies.

In the Roman Catholic Church's liturgical calendar, the day is dedicated to St. Stephen and so is known as St. Stephen's Day to Catholics.

Therefore in Western Churches around the world, St. Stephen's Day is celebrated on December 26th, the day after Christmas. St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr who died around the year 34 A.D.

Early Life of Stephen

St. Stephen's early life is virtually unknown. Many theories or guesses are recorded but true facts are not available. The most reliable documentation of St. Stephen's life appears in the Bible within The Acts of the Apostles around the year of 34 A.D. Documented by St. Luke, The Acts of the Apostles describes the happenings of the early church after the Ascension of Jesus Christ, beginning around the year 33 A.D. through to the year 63 A.D.

'St. Stephen was one of the many disciples of Jesus Christ and was a man looked upon by many people as having much grace, a strong mind, strong faith and full of the Holy Spirit. He wandered among the people and worked many wonders and signs.' It is however, still unclear how or when Stephen became a disciple. After Jesus died, more and more people became Christians. Many of these Christians and indeed other people, especially widows, turned to the twelve apostles for assistance.

Ministry, Trial and Death

St. Stephen ministered to many people and spoke with great wisdom, given by God, to all who would hear. He spoke about Jesus and how Jesus was the saviour promised by God. Many who heard him speak then became followers of Jesus. Yet there were also those who were opposed to the teachings of St. Stephen. They found people to lie about St. Stephen, claiming that he used false words against God and Moses and some began to believe this and became angered. Eventually, a crowd of people brought St. Stephen before a council called the Sanhedrin, and false witnesses testified against him. Yet even with lies and false witness, St. Stephen was said not to be angered himself.

St. Stephen defended himself before the council with a speech, (Acts 7:1-53, The Holy Bible). He ended his



speech by saying, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God." After hearing these words, the crowd became so enraged that they ran at him and dragged him out of the city where they stoned him to death. Right before he drew his last breath, Stephen said "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." With his death, he became the first Christian martyr to die in the name of Jesus.

Celebrations and Traditions

Countries around the world list St.

Stephen's Day as an official public holiday including Austria, Slovakia, Germany, Canada, Finland, Poland, Italy, Ireland, England, Australia, Czech Republic, Croatia, the region of Catalonia and many others. People of these countries often celebrate the holiday by spending time with close family and friends, sometimes having meals together. St. Stephen is the patron saint of stonemasons, casket makers, sufferers of headaches, horses and deacons.

**So whether you refer to
December 26th as
St. Stephen's Day or
Boxing Day...
HAVE A GOOD CELEBRATION!**

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A Christmas flap!

By Julia Beacroft

THE TRADITIONAL TURKEY roast dinner seems to be synonymous with Christmas and I've certainly had my fair share of cooking them.

Yet strangely many of us seem to be overwhelmed, worried or downright stressed at the prospect of tackling the festive big bird each year. Questions over whether we have the right sized roasting tin, the correct width baking foil and even more importantly, how long the bird will take to cook in the oven, causes many cooks to scratch their heads and ponder each year. And problems so easily arise as well... A friend of mine invited some elderly guests who had no families of their own for the Christmas meal, but nearly had a heart attack himself when he dropped the roasting tin, complete with half-cooked turkey on to his kitchen floor!

FOOL PROOF PLAN

On another occasion, my kitchen came close to resembling an abattoir, when I tried to implement what I believed to be a fool proof plan to make sure that the turkey was cooked to perfection. Or

so I thought... As a family of six we were in possession of a large slow cooker. Therefore the perfect solution to the timing debacle was to put the turkey in to slow cook overnight on a low setting. Ideal! Unfortunately however, the slow cooker was large – but clearly not large enough. Denuded of first it's wings and then its legs in a desperate bid to fit it in, my late father was heard to murmur sympathetically, "Poor little so-and-so! What have they done to you?!"

SHARING OUR LIVES

Of course, turkey dinners for Christmas are rooted in history, originally being introduced into this country circa 1500's and with King Henry VIII being the first British monarch to enjoy the bird at Christmas. Yet this year I am planning a change of menu. On Christmas Day when my large and extended family gather together, we are having 'shared plate' buffet style Christmas fayre. Why? Well, obviously if you're a roast turkey and vegetable fan this wouldn't necessarily appeal to you, but there are definitely some advantages. The idea of coming together, bringing and

sharing, is fundamentally rooted in Christianity. Hospitality and sharing our food, which has been produced by man in co-operation with God, means that we are also sharing our lives. And it seems to me that sharing our lives with each other and with the Lord is the very essence of the season of Christmas.

THE ESSENTIAL HEART

The 'bring and share' initiative is not necessarily synonymous with Christmas dinner, but it is certainly synonymous with Christianity as we share the food and the workload! And this unique and novel way of having the Christmas meal means that all those involved can go to Mass on Christmas morning without having to worry or get in a flap about over or under cooking the seasonal turkey.

Christmas Day is the celebration of the Lord's birth. This is the essential heart of the celebration of Christmas. Without the Lord, there would be no Christmas. Without turkey... we could manage perfectly.

Reach Recipes...

Sticking together at Christmas! Enjoy our selection of Christmas treats – all on sticks...

Basic cake pops recipe

Ingredients

- 400g/14oz Christmas cake
- 100g/3½oz dark chocolate
- 100g/3½oz white chocolate
- Colourful Christmassy sprinkles

Method

1. Turn the Christmas cake into crumbs by either blending in a food processor or crumbling with your hands.
2. Shape the crumbs into 12 little balls and refrigerate for a few hours until they are firm
3. Melt the chocolates in separate bowls, over pans of simmering water (make sure the bowl doesn't touch the water) or in a microwave.
4. Attach the stick to the ball by making a hole in each one and dipping the end of the stick in the melted chocolate. Then place the now chocolaty stick back into the hole and leave to set for about half an hour.
5. Using a teaspoon, pour the chocolate over a cake



pop (you might need to melt the chocolate again if it has solidified). Tap the cake pop on the side of the bowl to get rid of any chocolaty drips, then stick into a piece of polystyrene or upturned colander while you coat the rest of

the pops.

6. Once the chocolate has set slightly, but is still sticky, coat in sprinkles or decorate then, leave to set completely.



Divine Brownie Christmas Trees

Make chocolate brownies using any brownie recipe which you may have and then cut them into a triangular shape. The decoration can be done by using red coloured sweets and coloured icing. Some sprinkles also look good. Christmas tree shaped chocolate brownies look and taste awesome! Add some nuts like cashews and almonds to your brownie recipe for that extra crunchiness too. Add a candy cane to the bottom of your Christmas tree.

Christmas dinner on a stick!

All of your favourite parts of a Christmas dinner in one delicious mouthful! A great canape or party treat.

Makes approx. 12. You'll need 12 good quality cocktail sticks

Ingredients

- 1 large potato or enough to make 1.5cm slices
- 200g turkey breast
- 1 large chipolata sausage or enough to make 12 pieces
- 100g stuffing
- Cranberry sauce
- 12 sage leaves
- Gravy to serve

Method

1. Cut the turkey breast in half length-ways and roll each piece tightly in cling film, refrigerate for 2-3 hours.
2. Remove from film and season. Brown the outside in a



pan then cook in the oven until cooked through and the juices run clear. Leave to cool and cut into 12 equal sized pieces.

3. Cut the potato into discs approx. 4-5 cm in diameter, season and roast in the oven until golden brown.

4. Whilst the potatoes are roasting, cook the sausage(s) and then cut into 12 equal pieces, set aside.

5. Fry the sage leaves in a little oil for 1-2 minutes.

6. For each stick, first start with the potato disc followed by the turkey, sausage and stuffing, top with a little cranberry sauce and finish with the sage leaf. Hold it all together with a good quality cocktail stick.

7. Serve with gravy.

What does GDPR mean??

General Data Protection Regulations in Schools

Implemented on 25 May 2018, the GDPR was a complete data protection game changer for every organisation.

The new regulations are intended to strengthen and unify the safety and security of all data held within an organisation. It has brought new demands and challenges that can impact school resources and ultimately finances. The GDPR increases the responsibility schools have to inform parents and learners about how their data is being used and by whom.

The key things you need to be aware of are outlined below

- It is now mandatory to report a data breach within 72 hours
- As the data controller, it is the schools responsibility to ensure 3rd

party suppliers that process data also comply with GDPR

- In the event of a serious data breach, the Information Commissioner's office has the power to fine an organisation.
- GDPR demands a formal contract with all suppliers, including how data is stored and processed
- The GDPR gives more control to individuals, including the right to edit data
- As a public authority, it is mandatory for schools to appoint a data protection officer
- Schools must be able to demonstrate compliance
- Schools must get it right - the key focus of the GDPR is accountability



For more information visit
<https://www.gdpr.school/free-resources/>

www.catholicdirectory.org

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Schools Religious Orders Charities Adoration Confessions Prayers

Book Reviews

Adult, child, fiction and non-fiction – chosen especially for you!



Christmas Cracker by Jacqueline Wilson

Celebrate another Jacqueline Wilson phenomenon with this Christmas Cracker edition packed with festive recipes, seasonal puzzles and present hints and tips!



God With Us

A short booklet for Catholic parents – particularly those whose children have recently received the Sacrament of Baptism.

This book explores God's presence through seven stories carefully selected from the Scriptures, including Abraham & Sarah, Mary, Moses, Ruth and Naomi.

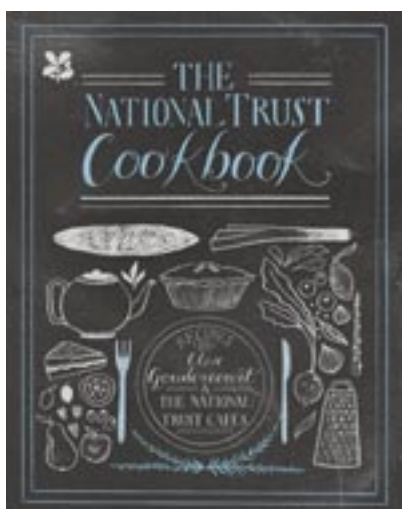
This accessible booklet includes overviews of each of these stories as well as reflections, questions and prayers, and it draws connections from the liturgy. Also included are beautiful tear-out bookmarks to mark the place of the stories in your Bible and to help you pray as you read the Scriptures.

Discover how these well-known characters overcame the challenges they faced, and share their stories with your children as they grow up to know and love the Bible too.



Christmas Days by Jeanette Winterson

A beautiful book that won't even need gift wrapping; this carefully illustrated read by prize-winning author Jeannette Winterson takes the reader through 12 festive stories and provides 12 festive recipes to match them. One for true lovers of Christmas, this collection is packed with love and mistletoe, frost and magic, holly and roaring fires. Perfect for curling up with while snow falls outside, or for reading aloud with some mulled wine in hand.



The National Trust Cookbook

The National Trust has nearly 200 cafes, and in 2014 they served 3.2 million cups of tea, 2.68 million home-made cakes and more than 600,000 soups. In this cookbook, the National Trust share their hugely popular, tried-and-tested dishes so you can cook your favourites at home. There are over 100 recipes for British seasonal dishes, ranging from classics like Steak and Ale Pie to newer favourites like Pumpkin Pearl Barley Risotto and Vegetable Tagine. Desserts range from scones (of which the NT sell millions and particularly pride themselves) to Ginger and Satsuma cake and Orange and Poppyseed cake. Many of the recipes use ingredients sourced from the NT's kitchen gardens and farms and so make the most of the fresh summer peas or autumnal squashes. The book also features recipes that are linked to NT places, such as the hearty beef stew enjoyed by Churchill at Chartwell, Agatha Christie's favourite Lobster Bisque which she ate at Greenway, or the Plum Cake recipe handed down to Beatrix Potter from her mother.



The work of... The Union of Catholic Mothers

The Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) are a national organisation of Catholic women which is open to all women of all ages who support the organisation's aims and objectives of ...'prayer, love and active witness to marriage, family and Christian life in the world.'

Throughout their 100 year history they have been involved in current affairs, particularly those that impact on family life, lobbying MPs and MEPs to protect the marginalised and vulnerable in society both home and abroad. They are affiliated to other like-minded organisations and are active in parishes.

History

At the end of the 19th century there were many women's societies across Europe. In Tiverton, North Devon, a woman named Mrs Chichester decided to create a similar society to the Mothers' Union but with a Catholic emphasis. With the help of her sister, she drew up a scheme for the Union of Catholic Mothers. The UCM officially began in 1913, when the Catholic Women's League received a mandate to form and organise a Union of Catholic Mothers.

The UCM began fairly slowly during and immediately after WWI, but by the late 1920s had grown enough to expand and a constitution was

drawn up. At this point the UCM was still a part of the Catholic Women's League, but by 1930 it was a large enough organisation to push for an independent existence.

During WWII the activities of the UCM were limited to local foundation level, but members were very involved in the war effort, for example in clothing drives for bombed out families and refugees.

The Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham began in 1946 as a thank you to Our Lady for Peace, and continues to the present day on the first Tuesday in July.

In 1960, in a response to a call from the Holy Father to help the world's starving, the UCM helped the National Board of Catholic Women to organise a 'Family Fast Day' to be held on Ember Friday in Lent. Families would reduce what they ate for a day and give the money saved to a Third World project. Within a few years a Commission for Overseas Development was set up by the Bishops to administer the funds raised by Family Fast Days - the beginnings of CAFOD. Post war, the organisation continued to grow and by 1963 there were approximately 28,000 members.

In the twenty first century, members continue to live out the aims and objectives. In 2013 the UCM celebrated its hundredth year with a Mass in Westminster Cathedral, attended by over 1000 members

from dioceses around the country. It was particularly appropriate that our centenary coincided with Pope Benedict XVI Year of Faith, 'a time of particular reflection and rediscovery of the faith'. The members of the UCM have been called to serve and share responsibility for the Church's mission and the need for the work of the UCM remains vitally important.

Aims and objectives

1 To help Catholic women to appreciate the Sacramental character, responsibilities and permanence of marriage and to live in unselfish love observing the laws of God and His Church.

2 To assist them to bring up their children as practising Catholics and public-spirited citizens.

3 To teach and defend Christian values in family life and to ensure Catholic education for future generations.

4 To offer love, sympathy and practical help to families in difficulty.

5 To foster vocations in life especially in Christian marriage and family life and in the priesthood and religious life

For further information on The Union of Catholic Mothers contact:

The National Secretary, Mrs Irene Mitchell, at
ucmnatsec@yahoo.co.uk

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Monsieur Claude's Great French Adventure
By Julia Beacroft

Monsieur Claude, the 'Beanie Baby' crab, is upset and worried. His family lives in France and he would dearly love to visit them because his mum hasn't been well. His owner, Jamie, is going on holiday to Paris but only two of Jamie's 'Beanie Babies' can go with him. And Monsieur Claude isn't chosen to be one of them... However, the rest of his 'Beanie Baby' friends devise a cunning plan to smuggle Monsieur Claude into Jamie's backpack! But disaster strikes at the airport when Monsieur Claude falls from the bag! Will he be rescued? Will he ever see his owner again? The little crab has a thrilling series of adventures along the way, but will he ever be re-united with his mum?

Age 6-8 years

20 Interesting Facts about Christmas!



1 The original Rudolph did not have a red nose. In that day and age, red noses were seen as an indicator of chronic alcoholism and the retailer, Montgomery Ward, didn't want him to look like a drunkard. To complete the original picture, he was almost named Reginald or Rollo.

2 Clement Moore's poem introduced eight more reindeer for Santa's sleigh and their names were Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Duner and Blixem (the German words for thunder and lightning). These later evolved into Donner and Blitzen.

3 Want to know a useful way to recycle your Christmas tree? Some zoos take donated Christmas trees and use them as food for the animals.

4 The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is donated to the people of London every year by the people of Oslo, Norway in thanks for their assistance during World War II.

5 The Christmas wreath was originally hung as a symbol of Jesus. The holly represents his crown



of thorns and the red berries the blood he shed.

6 The three traditional colours of most Christmas decorations are red, green and gold. Red symbolizes the blood of Christ, green symbolized life and rebirth, and gold represents light, royalty and wealth.

7 Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany and was once made of real silver.

8 The tradition of hanging stockings comes from a Dutch legend. A poor man had three daughters for whom he could not afford to provide a dowry. St. Nicholas dropped a bag of gold down his chimney and gold coins fell out and into the stockings drying by the fireplace. The daughters now



had dowries and could be married, avoiding a life on the streets.

9 The old English custom ofwassailing was to toast to someone's long life at Christmastide and was the forerunner for the tradition of Christmas carolling. In the 13th century St. Francis of Assisi began the custom of singing carols in church.

10 If you gave all the gifts listed in the Twelve Days of Christmas, it would equal 364 gifts.

11 Almost 28 sets of LEGO are sold every second during the Christmas season.

12 The Statue of Liberty was gifted to the US by the French on Christmas day in 1886. It weighs 225 tons and thus you could consider it as the biggest Christmas gift in the world!

13 Did you know that the first Christmas was celebrated on December 25, AD 336 in Rome?

14 Hallmark introduced their first Christmas cards in 1915

15 In the world, there are two islands that are named 'Christmas' – one is in the Pacific Ocean and the other in the Indian Ocean.

16 'White Christmas' by Bing Crosby is the best-selling Christmas song ever. It has sold more than 50 million copies around the world.

17 December 25 – January 5 is referred to as 'Christmastide'

18 Different names of SANTA CLAUS around the world include: Kriss Kringle in Germany, Le Befana in Italy, Pere Noel in France and Deushka Moroz (Grandfather Frost) in Russia.

19 In the U.K. alone, 2.4 billion Pounds is spent on uneaten, discarded food and unwanted gifts as per a survey by The Money Advice Service. Just imagine what good that amount of money could do!

20 Visa cards are used 5-6 thousand times every minute during the Christmas season!

Reach



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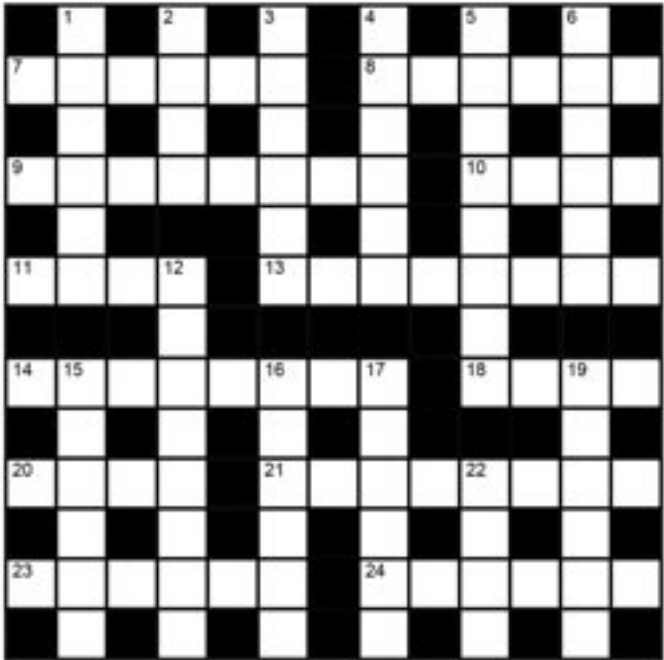
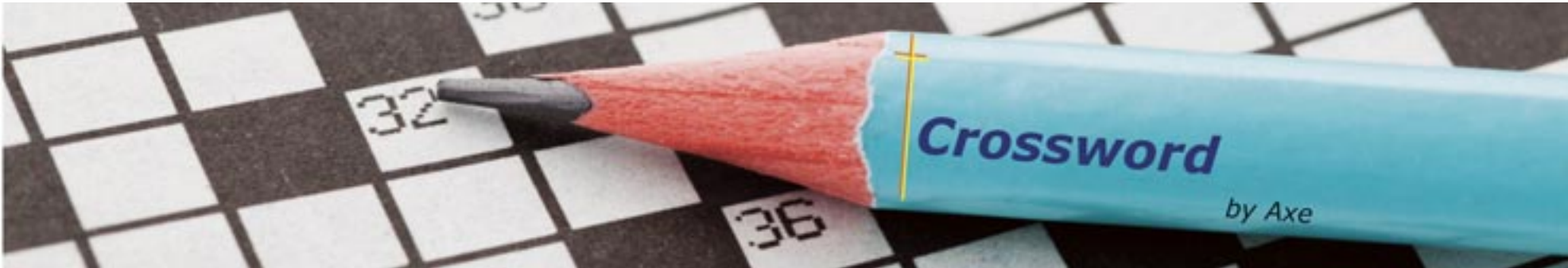


When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



Seasons greetings from
all at Reach!



Across

7 Descendant of Cain, husband of Adah and Zillah (6)
8 Cardinal John -----: Archbishop of Westminster (1963-1975) (6)
9 ----- Caesar, first Roman Emperor (27 BC-14 AD) (8)
10 Edible scombroid fish (4)
11 Son of Noah, ancestor of both Jews and Arabs, and the language group still spoken (4)
13 One of the conservative aristocratic Jewish priesthood named possibly after Zadok (8)
14 London N6? (8)
18 Icelandic books of epic mythological tales and poetry (4)
20 Extended family, especially in Scotland (4)
21 OT book consisting of adages from various Israelite sages (8)
23 Imaginary belt illustrating the progress of heavenly bodies (6)
24 Print-type used for emphasis, literary titles, etc (6)

Down

1 Apocryphal book named after Jeremiah's secretary (6)
2 Crazy driver, named after the charioteering king of Israel in 2 Kings (4)
3 One of the 50 Nereids in Greek myth (6)
4 Hounded (6)
5 Hamlet's mother (8)
6 Great battle of the 2nd Punic War (216 BC), the scene of Rome's greatest defeat (6)
12 Where in Gilead Jacob saw God's angels before reuniting with Esau (8)
15 Homes with domes? (6)
16 Andean beast of burden (6)
17 One of the principal names by which God is designated in the Hebrew Scriptures (6)
19 One of the five who wrote down the visions of Esdras (6)
22 Valley where David fought Goliath (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 7 Lamech, 8 Heenan, 9 Augustus, 10 Tuna, 11 Shem, 13 Sadducee, 14 Highgate, 18 Edda, 20 Clan, 21 Proverbs, 23 Zodiac, 24 Italic.

Down: 1 Baruch, 2 Jehu, 3 Thetis, 4 Chased, 5 Gertrude, 6 Canaan, 12 Mahanaim, 15 Igloos, 16 Alpaca, 17 Elohim, 19 Dabria, 22 Elah.

Christmas Puzzles



Find the Three Kings



There are lots of Kings on the page.
Look at the 3 Kings above.
For each one, find which one is an
EXACT match - A, B, C or D

Help the shepherd visit Jesus

Which is the right way into the maze - A, B, C or D?



$$8 - \text{King} = 4$$

$$\text{King} = \square$$

$$\text{King} + \text{King} = 10$$

$$\text{King} = \square$$

$$\text{King} + \text{King} + \text{King} = 18$$

$$\text{King} = \square$$

Use Maths to see if you can
work out which number each
King represents.

What do the 3 Kings
represent???

Find this out and more
on page 8



ANGEL
BIBLE
CAMEL
CHRISTMAS
COMET
DONKEY
GOD
HUT
JESUS
JOSEPH
KINGS
MARY
NATIVITY
OX
PALM
SHEEP
SHEPHERD
STAR

MYSTERIOUS WORD

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

Find all the words in the Word Search

When you have finished - you will be left with 9 letters.
What word can you make out of the 9 letters?

Make Your Own Crib

The first crib was created by St Francis of Assisi to remind people what is important at Christmas!



PENGUINO



The heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.



"Outside everyone" Professor Pingus said.

The whole class stared at him with a look of surprise mixed with a bit of "what did we do?"

"Don't worry" he said, "you're not in trouble. Quite the opposite. You have all passed your last exam! So I think it is time to sit back and enjoy everything you learnt."

The class looked relieved but still slightly confused. Apart from Penguino! All he heard was "Blah, blah, blah...FUNTIME!!" and he was already out of the door looking around to see what he could do next.

By the time the rest of the class had made their way to the playground, Penguino was already at the top of a block of ice next to the pond, ready to do his death-defying leap into the water below.

"STOP!" shouted Pingus.

"Uffffff! Typical!" Penguino thought as the excitement went out of him and he slid back down the ice onto the ground.

"As you will recall Penguino, I said we are here to enjoy everything you have learnt!"

"Well that won't take long!" Penguino whispered to Frostie.

"How do you mean, Sir?" asked Sparkle



"Uffffff! Typical!" Pingus thought!

"Hang on a second!!" Penguino said in a surprised and unusually interested voice. "Pass me one of those magnifying thing'mies!" Penguino had never really looked that closely at the snow before. It was all around him all the time, but he hadn't noticed what it was like when you look at it closely. Suddenly,

he could see how the snow wasn't just flat - but made of lots of snowflakes. He could see some drops of water, and he remembered how he had learnt that when snow melts it turns to water. As he looked carefully at one of the drops, he could see things around him reflected in it. He remembered how light can bounce back and create a reflection.



He noticed it was slightly pink, then he looked at the horizon and noticed that it was because the Sun was going. He remembered that the Sun gives off white light which is actually made up of all the colours in the rainbow. When the Sun goes down the light gets slightly bent and the different colours break apart and the sky goes pink. Then he followed a bird flying through the sky and he remembered learning about the other animals, the birds and the tree they had gone to visit.



He turned to Frostie to say that this was actually pretty interesting, but by that point everyone was off discovering new things in the same old playground they played in everyday.

"Phew!!" he thought, "No wonder God needed a rest after all of this!"



WOW!!

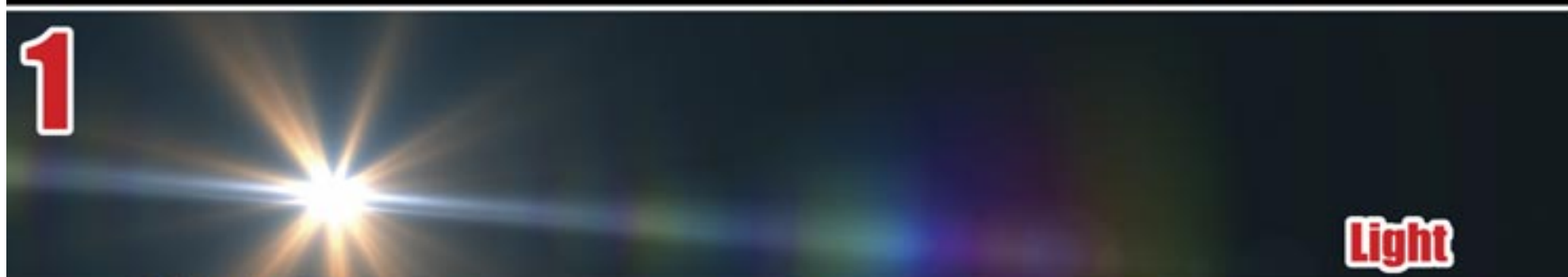


"We've been learning all about the world around us. About the sky, ice, snow, water, trees, animals and all the wonders of the world. We've learnt about how God created the stars, the planets, the Earth and everything on it. On the final day He rested from all the work he had done, and in the same way this is our time to rest from all the work we have done. Also, just like God, it is our time to rejoice in creation in all the things He has created and we have learnt about."

"But it's the same old playground we play in every day. What makes today any different?" said Penguino.

Creation in it's Fullness

1



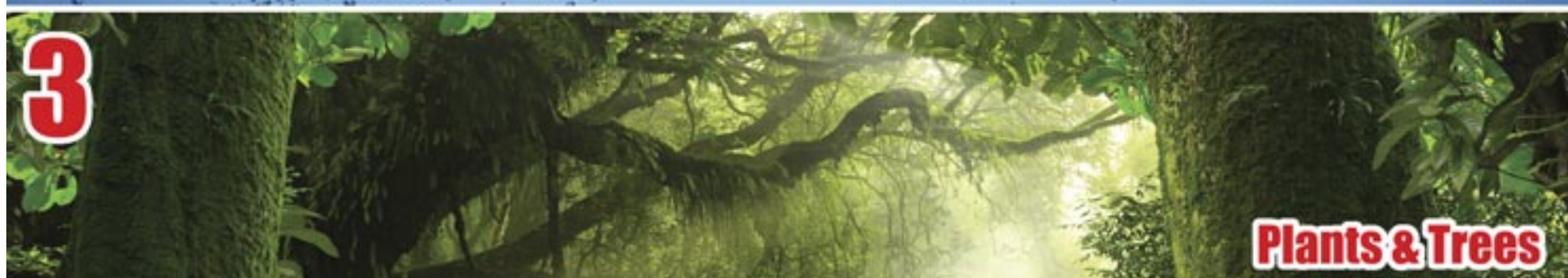
Light

2



Water & Sky

3



Plants & Trees

4



Stars & Planets

5



Sea, Birds & Fish

6



Animals & People

7 God Rests - but is He finished?...

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through Him all things were made:
without Him nothing was made that has been made.
In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

8



Creation
Completed