

# Welcome!



**This box of activities is a gift to you to help you enjoy Advent together as a family. It is an invitation to COME and SEE the events of the first Christmas through the eyes of different eye-witnesses.**

In the box along with this book you will find:

- Directions to make your Advent Viewer with templates
- An Advent Calendar Spiral to make (directions inside this book!)
- Coloured craft paper – to help make the Spiral
- Stickers numbered 1 to 25 to use on the Spiral
- Silver and gold star stickers – to use in some of the crafts
- Four coloured square envelopes – one to open each week through Advent to find a story and ideas for things to think about, ways to pray, things to do and explore together. Also inside each is a stained glass window to colour and an acetate slide for the viewer.

This book is crammed full with more ideas including recipes, challenges, craft projects, games and stories from the Bible. Some pages have things you will need to cut out and use.



**Why not start by making the Spiral so you can count down the days to Christmas!**



**Then you could make the Viewer so you are ready for each week's new scene.**



**Don't open the square envelopes until the date on it!! Then enjoy the story and the activities together.**

You might like to find some glue, scissors, sticky tape, wool or string, glitter, colouring pens or pencils, cereal packets and kitchen rolls so you are ready to join in the fun.

Even more ideas for younger children are available every Monday online here:

**[www.urc.org.uk/families-on-faith-adventures](http://www.urc.org.uk/families-on-faith-adventures)**



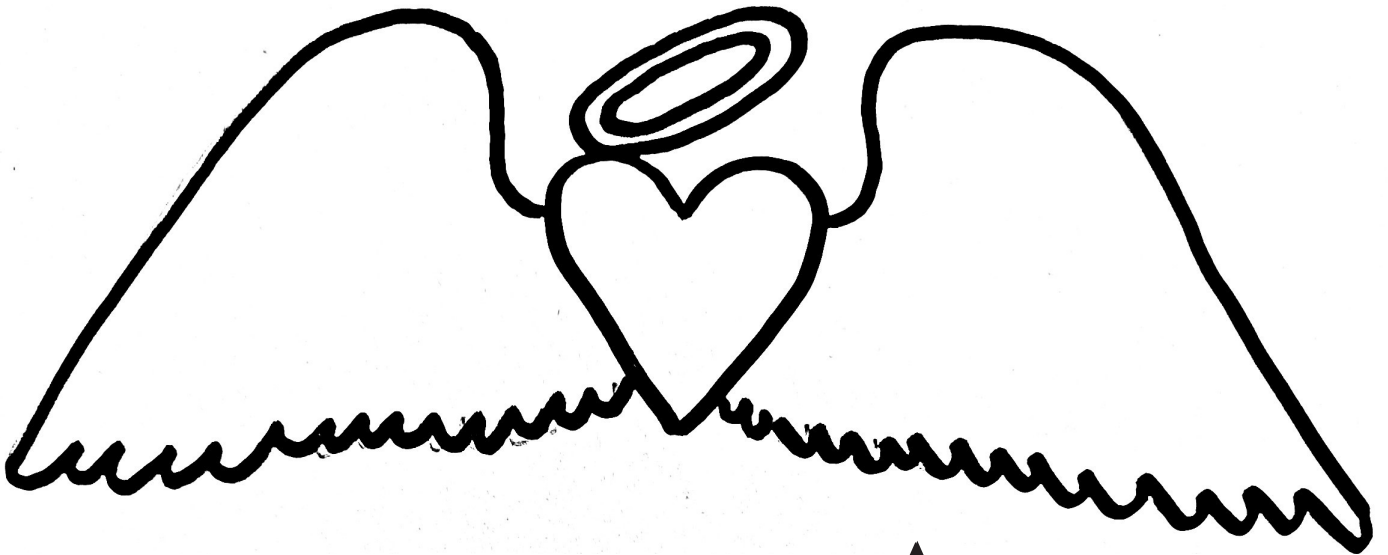
Watch out for #AdventCome&See and feel free to post your own thoughts, reflections and creations on social media.

Have a wonder-filled Advent. We hope this helps you to have some special family times together, in person or via technology, as you get ready for Christmas.

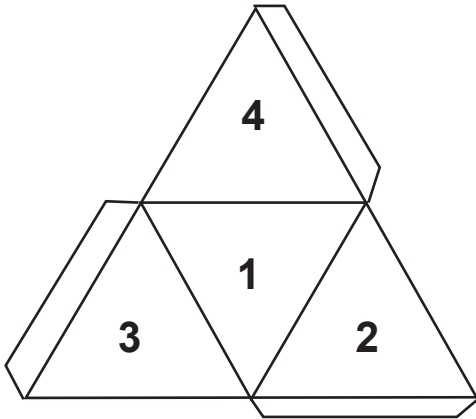


**Come and See is a gift from your local church, specially created by the United Reformed Church [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk). It was written by URC Children's and Youth Work Team and designed by URC Communications Team. Where possible recycled, re-useable and recyclable materials have been used.**

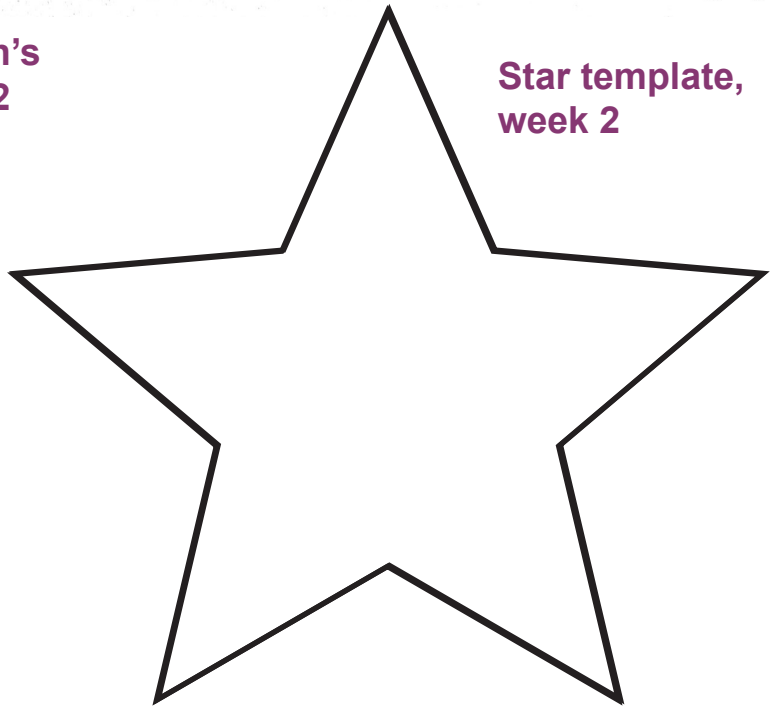
Angel suncatcher craft, week 1



Pyramid dice for the Wise Men's Journey board game, week 2



Star template, week 2



Counters for the Wise Men's Journey board game, week 2



Angel cutouts for Exploding box craft, week 4



## Advent calendar spiral

Create your own Advent Spiral – and use this to count down the days to Christmas. In the box is a green piece of card with a spiral marked out on it and numbers 1 to 25 for all the days of December leading up to and including Christmas day. Use this to make a hanging decoration which you can add to each day and each week as you get nearer to Christmas.

### You will need:

- A4 sheet of card with multicoloured spiral marked on it
- Scissors
- Pencil/pen to make small holes
- Wool or string
- Sheet of stickers, numbered 1 to 25.



### What you do:

1. Carefully cut out the spiral (saving the circles for the lantern people).
2. Make small holes where marked 'X' for threading through string or wool. Thread a piece of wool or string through the central hole (the others are for adding the lantern people each week) and tie a secure knot.
3. Find somewhere to suspend the Advent calendar spiral that everyone can reach. Each day add a sticker over the date to show how close you are getting to Christmas.
4. Make a lantern person each week and attach them to the spiral using the small holes:
  - Week one – come and see with the angels – silver person
  - Week two – come and see with the wise men – purple person
  - Week three – come and see with the animals – blue person
  - Week four – come and see with the shepherds – green person.

## Lantern people

### You will need:

- A5 sheets of silver, purple, blue and green craft paper
- Sheet of silver star stickers
- 24cm piece of wool for each person
- Darning or cross stitch needle
- Glue.



### What you do:

1. Draw eight 5cm circles (large template from Spiral sheet) and eight 2.5cm circles (small template from Spiral sheet) on each sheet of A5 coloured paper – draw them as close together as possible, so you can fit them all in! Then (using one colour at a time) cut them out.
2. Using the eight larger circles first, fold each circle in half. Spread glue on the back of half of the first circle and then stick it onto the back of half of the next. When all eight folded circles are joined together in a chain, open it out to form a sphere and glue the first and last circles together. This sphere will form the body of your lantern person. Do the same for the small circles. This creates the head. Purple, blue and green people – you might add silver stars to the bodies.
3. Thread the wool onto the needle and carefully thread it through the large circles and then the small circles. Leave a loop at the top and then double back. Tie a knot at each end of your lantern person to secure it all in place.
4. Carefully put the loop through the hole in the spiral so that the person hangs underneath. Knot the loop or stick it down with sticky tape to secure the person in place.



# Week 1

## Come and see with the angels

### Bible story



#### Luke 1 v 26 – 38 An Angel tells Mary (International Children's Bible)

During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. ***The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you."*** But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?" The angel said to her, ***"Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end."***

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am a virgin!" The angel said to Mary, "The ***Holy Spirit will come upon you***, and the power of the Most High will cover you. ***The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God.*** Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. ***God can do everything!***" Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

#### Matthew 1 v 18 – 24 An Angel tells Joseph in a dream (International Children's Bible)

The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

While Joseph thought about this, ***an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream.*** The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, ***don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife.*** The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins." All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel." This name means "God is with us." ***When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do.*** Joseph married Mary.

# Justice challenge



## Messengers of hope

Angels in the Christmas story are God's messengers. They surprise everyone with good news!

This week, create a board that people can see. On the board, write 'What gives you hope?' and leave chalk or sticky notes and pens that people can use. You could add a few things of your own to start with. Think carefully about where you can put the board so lots of people can find it.



Hope is an important part of being a Christian. Even when things are difficult or seem hopeless, we can surprise others with our hope, and by asking how we can help. And that is good news!

## Craft activity



### Angel sun catchers

#### You will need:

- Angel wing template (inside front cover)
- PVA glue and a small paint brush
- Plastic food wrap
- Glitter and sequins
- Ribbon or thread
- Scissors.

#### What you do:

1. Cut out the Angel wing template. Get a piece of clear plastic food wrap two to three times bigger than the angel wings and lay this **on top** of the angel wings.
2. On the plastic food wrap, outline the shape of the angel wings in PVA glue.
3. Fill in the shape with PVA glue. On the wings, sprinkle glitter and place sequins on to the layer of glue. Use a different colour glitter on the heart and the halo.
4. Allow it to dry. Then fold over the plastic food wrap to strengthen it.
5. Carefully lift this off the template. Cut around the outline carefully, and create a small hole in the halo so you can thread through the ribbon or thread. Hang it from your window to catch the sun.



Maybe Mary caught her first glimpse of the angel as the light caught on its wings.



# Recipe



## Pineapple upside down cake

### You will need:

For the topping:

- 50g softened butter
- 50g light soft brown sugar
- Pineapple rings in syrup, drained (keep the syrup for later)
- Glacé cherries.

For the cake:

- 100g softened butter
- 100g golden caster sugar
- 100g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 eggs.



### What you do:

1. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
2. For the topping – beat 50g softened butter and 50g light soft brown sugar together until creamy. Spread over the base and a quarter of the way up the sides of a 20cm square or round cake tin.
3. Arrange pineapple rings on top (saving the syrup for later) and place glacé cherries in the centres of the rings.
4. For the cake – Place 100g softened butter, 100g golden caster sugar, 100g self-raising flour, 1 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp vanilla extract and 2 eggs in a bowl along with 2 tbsp of the reserved pineapple syrup. Using an electric whisk, beat until soft and smooth.
5. Spoon into the tin on top of the pineapple and smooth it out so it is level. Bake for 35 minutes. Leave to stand for five minutes, then turn out onto a plate. Serve warm.



As you're making it, remember the angels looking down from heaven and then, as you serve it, remember Mary and Joseph and all others who heard the good news, looking up to see the angels coming down to share God's message. Hopefully your cake will taste heavenly, too!

# Week 2



**Come and see with the wise men**

## Bible story



### Matthew 2 v 1 – 12 – Wise men visit Jesus (International Children's Bible)

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, **some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east.** We came to worship him." When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures:

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are important among the rulers of Judah. A ruler will come from you. He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.' Micah 5:2

Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. **Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem.** He said to them, "Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too."

The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. **When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy.** They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. **They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.** But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.



# Justice challenge



## The message of our planet

The wise men looked up to the stars and noticed that the natural world was pointing the way to Jesus. When you look around our world, what messages are you seeing? Creation is a wonderful gift from God and worthy of our care, but that's not always how humans treat our world.

This week, what one thing could you do to care better for the planet? What about a litter pick with friends in your local area, or emailing your local council or authority to ask what they currently recycle, and encouraging them to do more?

Showing that you care about creation is a way of pointing to Jesus. The Bible explains that Jesus is the creator and sustainer of all things. When people look at the environment near you, do they see the splendour of God in all things?



## Craft activity



### Telescope

#### You will need:

- Two kitchen towel inner cores
- Old clear plastic food container
- Split pin
- Paint or tissue paper
- Gold stars or gold pen for decoration.



#### What you do:

1. Make one tube smaller than the other by cutting it open along its length and then taping it back together with a 1cm overlap. Check it fits neatly inside the other tube.
2. Cover both the tubes with tissue paper, or you could paint them and leave them to dry. Once they are completely dry, decorate with star constellations or stars and dots. You could use stickers or sequins, cut shapes out of card or shiny paper to stick on, or use gold pen.
3. Mark a 5mm x 10cm lengthways slit on smaller the inner tube, 2cm from the bottom. Carefully cut it out – this may need adult help or supervision.
4. Make a small hole in the outer tube, 2cm from the end. Place the smaller tube inside, line up the cut out strip with the hole and push a split pin through to join the two cylinders.
5. Draw around the larger end of the tube onto a piece of clear plastic from a food container. Decorate the circle by drawing and colouring a crown or a star pattern. You could make more than one to give you different views.
6. Place the plastic circle on the end of your telescope and tape in place. I wonder where your star will lead you?







## Gingerbread stained glass biscuits

### You will need:

- 175g dark soft brown sugar
- 85g golden syrup
- 100g unsalted butter
- 2-3 tsp ground ginger
- 350g plain flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- Crushed clear fruit-flavoured boiled sweets (don't use anything with a soft centre)
- White icing, to decorate
- Star cutters.

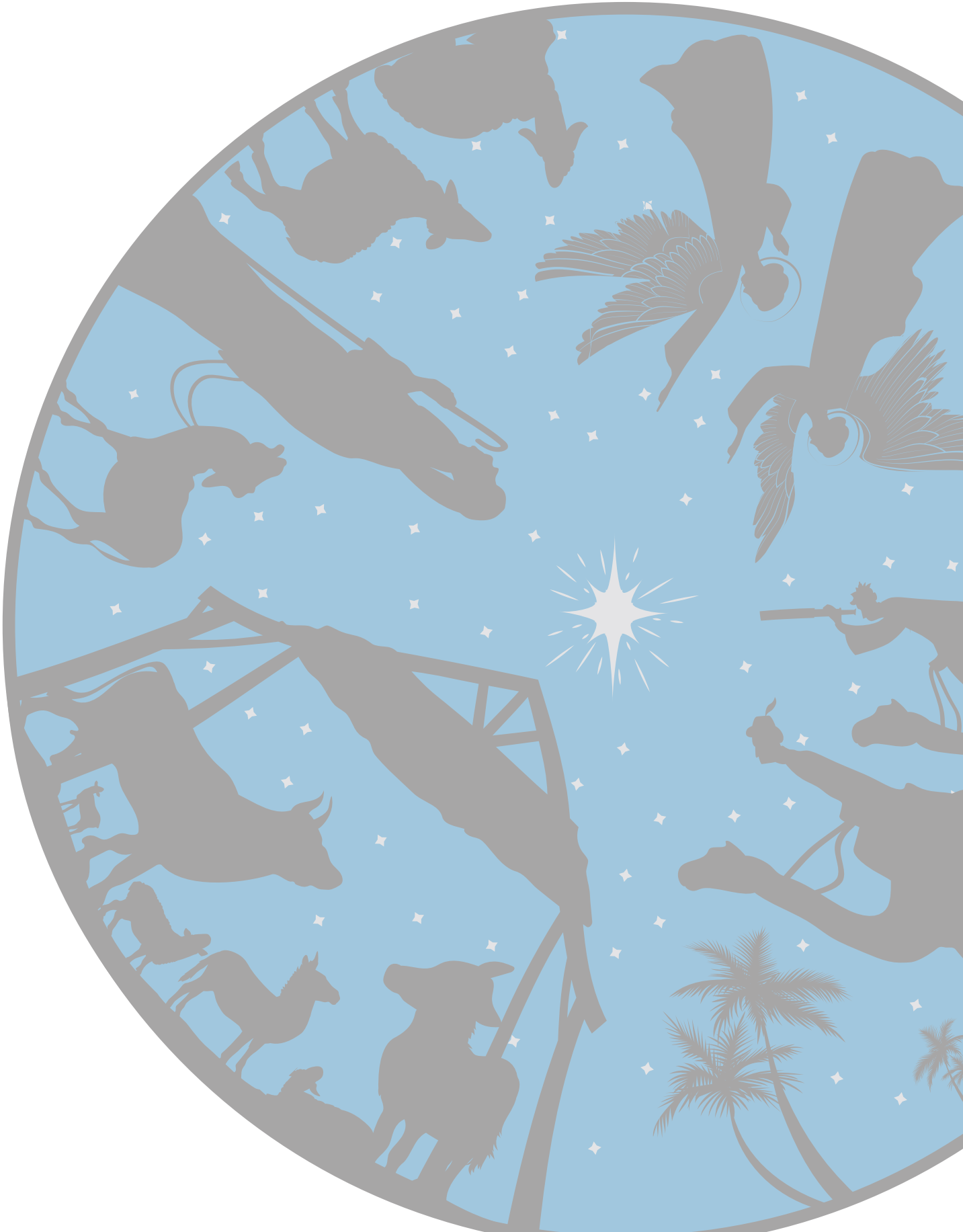


### What you do:

1. Crush the sweets by placing them in a bag, covering with a tea towel and carefully hitting with a rolling pin or hammer. Keep the colours separate, as this will make different coloured windows.
2. Mix the ginger and flour in a large bowl and make a well in the centre.
3. Heat the sugar, golden syrup and butter in a pan until melted. Add the bicarbonate of soda to the melted mixture and stir – it will fizz a little – then pour into the flour mixture with the egg.
4. Stir to combine. The mix will be soft but will firm up as it cools. Put the mixture into a box or fridge bag and chill for at least one hour until firm enough to roll out. (The dough can be kept in the fridge for up to a week or frozen for three months.)
5. Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5.
6. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and briefly knead it. Then roll it on a lightly floured surface to 2mm thick.
7. Cut into shapes with large star cutter, then transfer to lined baking sheets, leaving a little room for them to spread.
8. Cut a window in the centre of each biscuit using another smaller cutter (a star, or any shape that fits) then sprinkle your crushed sweets into the centre. Don't be tempted to add too much or it will spill over the edge.
9. If you plan to hang the biscuits as a decoration, make a small hole in the top of each one (the hole will close up a little so make sure it's big enough).
10. Bake in batches for 5-6 minutes or until they darken slightly and the sweets have melted. If the holes have closed up, remake them while the biscuits are warm.
11. Leave to cool and harden up completely before moving them. Then decorate them with icing. Don't forget to bake the parts you've cut out, too!

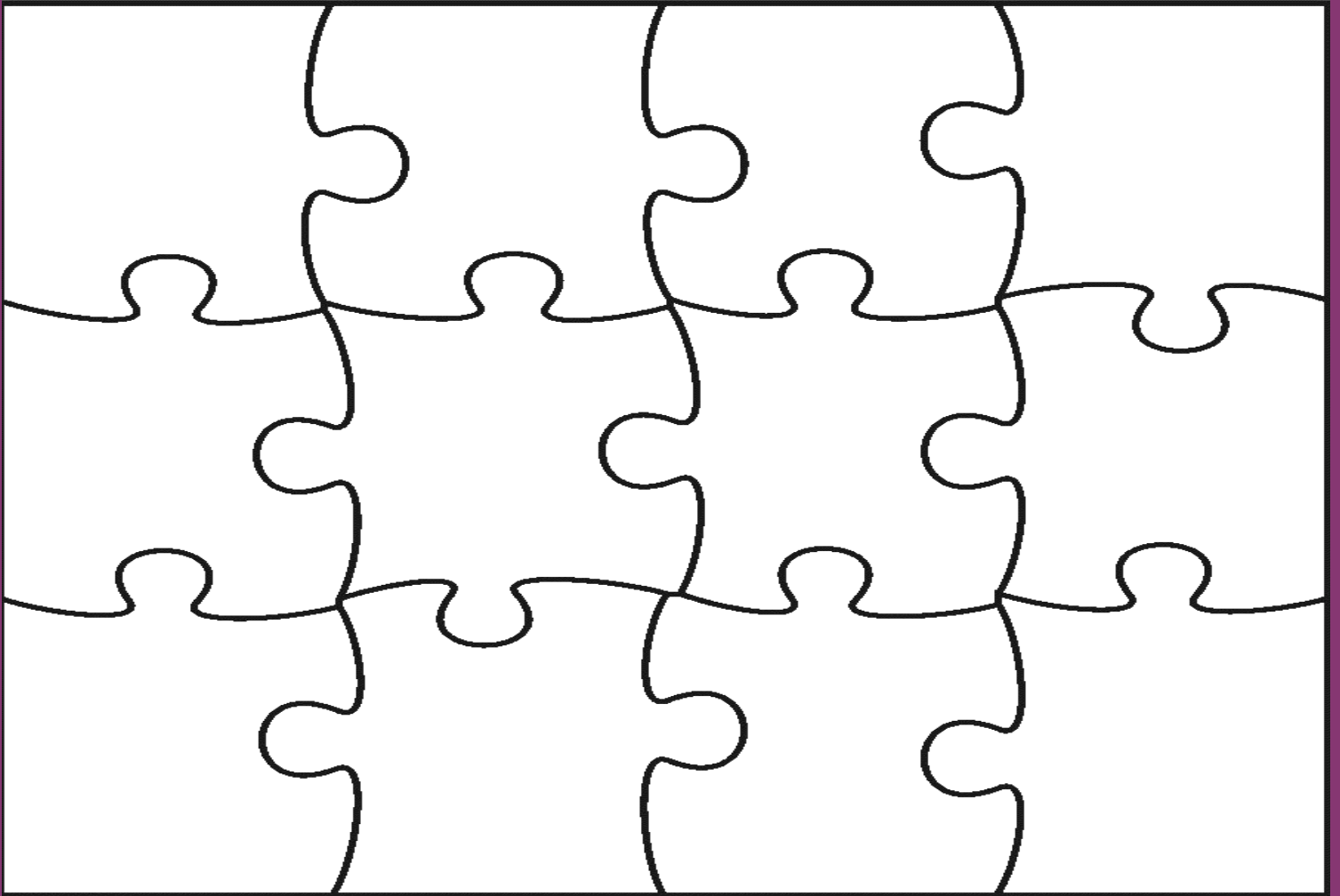




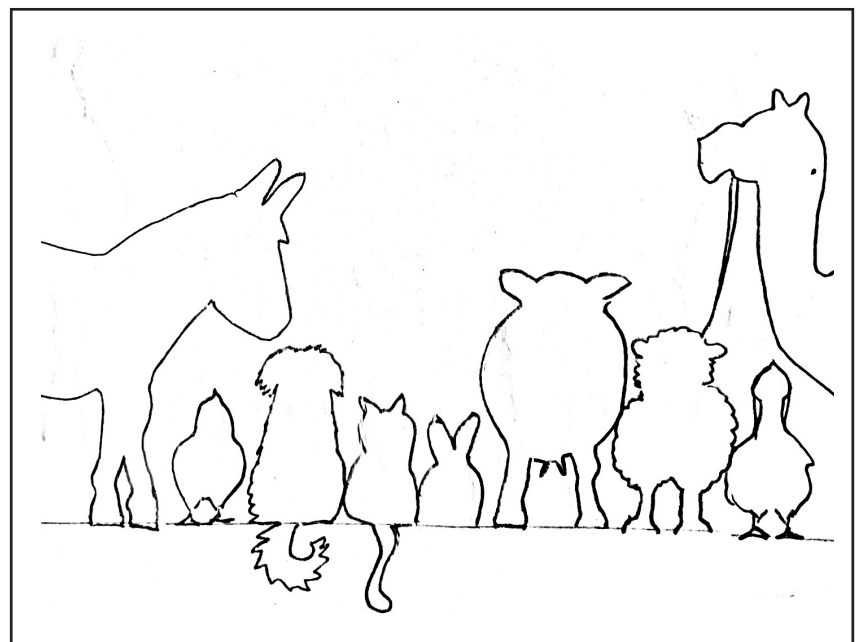
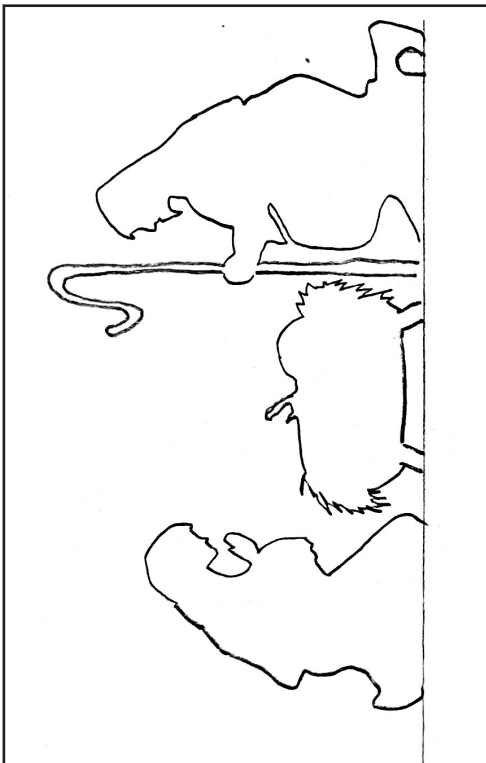


## Wise Men prayers for week 2 prayer

Stick the template to some strong card eg a cereal packet. Decorate the different sections and then cut out into individual pieces.



## Manger and animals light box image templates for week 3 craft



## Animal dice template for week 3 prayer

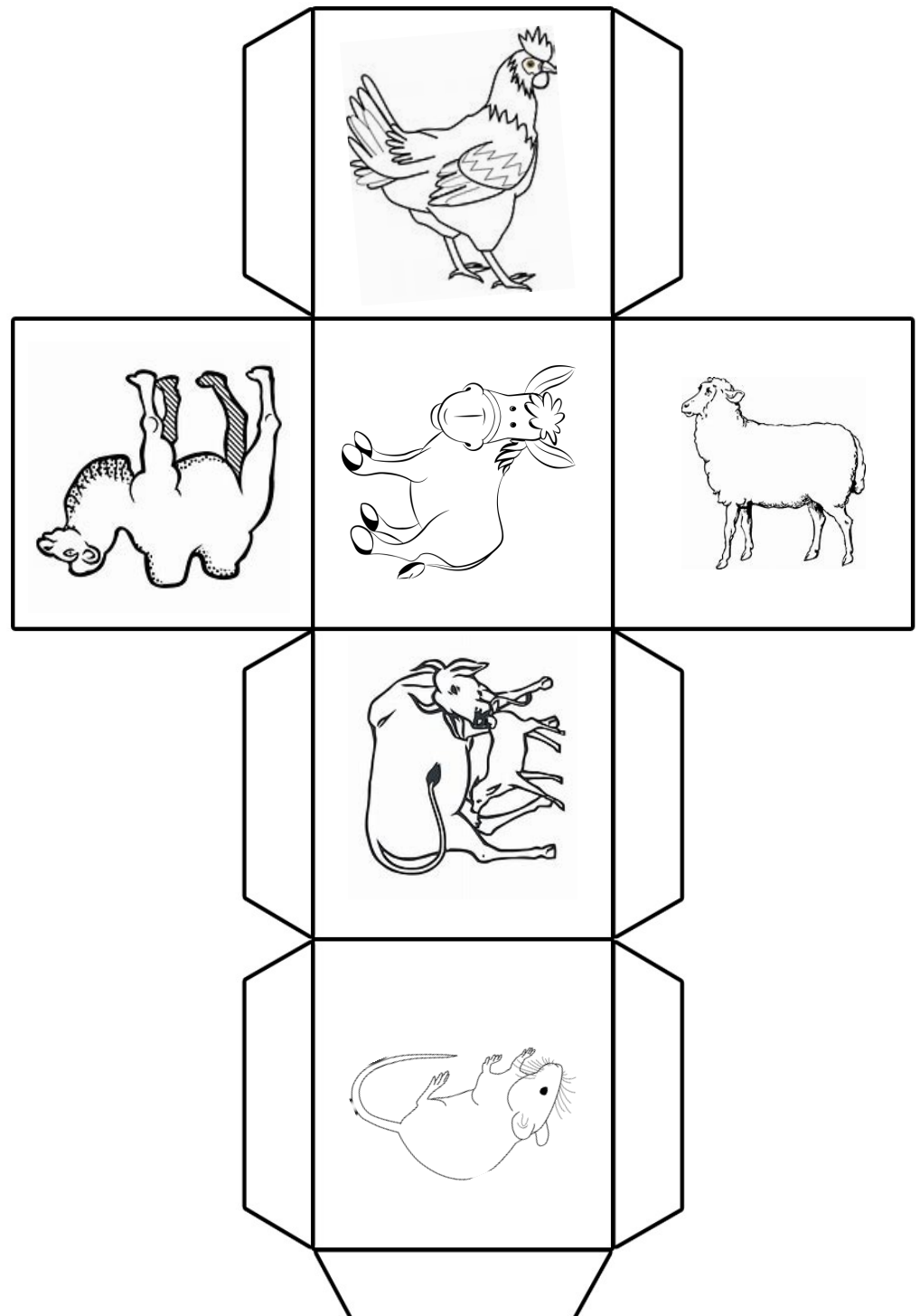
You may want to glue this to some thin card, eg the back of a cereal packet.

1. Colour, cut out and secure the tabs to make a dice and take it in turn to roll.
2. The donkey reminds us of those people who feel weighed down by heavy burdens. Maybe there are things that worry them or make them anxious. Maybe they are unwell. Ask God to bring them comfort and relief.
3. The cow reminds us of all those who provide for our needs. Parents or carers who take care of us and the people who work to bring food and drink to our table – the farmers, the manufacturers and the shopkeepers. Thank God for these people and for all the good things you have.
4. The mouse reminds us of the small people – children and babies and young people – and people who are vulnerable. Ask God to bless them.

5. Camels are known to be grumpy creatures but they work hard and carry heavy loads. Especially during Advent, people get stressed and busy and tired preparing for Christmas. Ask God to bring them peace and rest and help them focus on what's really important.

6. The sheep were left behind by the shepherds and remind us of those who are left out. Maybe because of their appearance, their abilities, their age, their character, their preferences, whatever reason. Thank God for diversity and pray to become more welcoming, kind and friendly to all.

7. The cockerel likes to stand on a high place and make a big noise to welcome the day. Christmas is a time of celebration. Pray for all those who are excited or have something to celebrate and thank God for the gift of JOY.





# COME and see

***Advent is all about the invitation to come and see baby Jesus.***

**What invitations could you give to people this advent?**

Come to play  
Come to tea  
Come to a party  
Come to see the Christmas lights or decorations  
Come to church  
Come to Christmas dinner  
Come for coffee and mince pies  
Come to the park  
Come for a sleepover

**After Christmas perhaps you could invite someone to come and share one of your presents:**

Help you eat or drink it  
Play with it with you  
Watch or listen to it with you  
Make it with you  
Try new things with you  
Hold a 'fashion show' trying things on  
Or even – share or show off one of their presents

**Who can you invite?**

**How can you send them an invitation – make a card, send a message, speak to them?**

***Advent is the season for invitations – challenge yourself to invite someone or more than one person!***





# Week 3

## Come and see with the animals

### Bible story



#### Luke 2 v 1 – 7 – Jesus is born (International Children's Bible)

At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.

So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.)

***While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.***

### Justice challenge



#### The message of mooooooo

When Jesus was born, his tiny body was wrapped in cloth and laid in a manger – an animal feeding trough.

Farming is very different these days around the world, with lots of animals, animal feed and chemicals needed to keep up with the demand for human food.

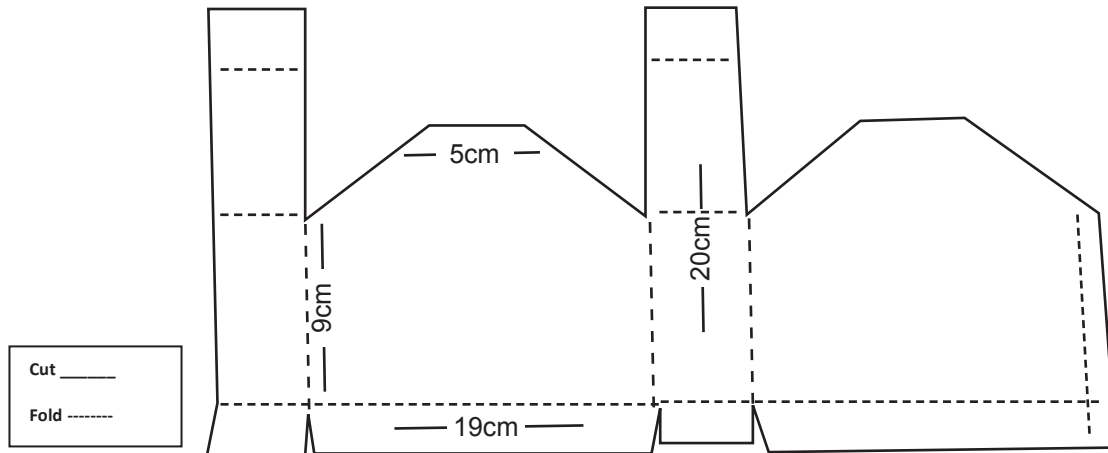
This week, could you eat less meat or drink less cow's milk? (If unsure, check with a qualified dietician or doctor.) Experts agree that we will need to reduce our consumption of meat and animal products in order to help the climate.<sup>1</sup>



Animals are an important part of how our planet works. We need to care for them like we care for all creation. The animals made room for the baby Jesus when he slept where the animals normally ate. Will changing our eating habits this week make more room for Jesus in our lives, and help us care for creation too?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-57580254>





## Manger and animals light box

### You will need:

- Old cereal box
- Ruler
- Pencil or pen
- Sharp scissors
- Sticky tape
- Battery operated night light.



### What you do:

1. Carefully open up an old cereal box and lay it flat, keeping the flaps.
2. Follow the picture and mark out the shape using your ruler on the inside of the cereal box – the long strips on the sides (the dotted lines show where you will fold when you assemble), the stable roof shape on the front and back. Then carefully cut out the stable roof shapes remembering to keep the bottom flaps. Draw a line 1cm in all the way round inside both sides and the roof of the two stable shapes.
3. Cut out the two image template pictures as rectangles (centre pages). Place each image over one of the stable shapes so that the bottom edge is at the floor of the stable (not on the bottom flaps), hold firmly in place (or use a little sticky tape) and trace/draw firmly over the outline picture of the animals and of the manger scene with a pen or pencil – this should leave an imprint on the card when you lift the picture off. You can make the lines clearer by going over them with a pencil or pen.
4. Then carefully cut out using sharp scissors the space between the image and the stable roof – an adult may need to help with this as it can be fiddly.
5. Make up the box again with glue or tape, but with the plain side of the box on the outside. Fold down the two side strips to make the stable roof (you may need to trim them) and stick into position with tape or glue.
6. Place a battery-operated night light in it. See the image reflected on the back wall and the animals watching on.





# Recipe



## Owl rock cakes

### You will need:

- 225g/8oz self-raising flour
- 75g/2½oz caster sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 125g/4½oz unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 150g/5½oz dried fruit
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp milk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- Glacé cherries and raisins (for eyes) or other fruit
- Almond (for beak) or other fruit or nut.



### What you do:

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4 and line a baking tray with baking parchment.
2. Mix the flour, sugar and baking powder in a bowl and rub in the cubed butter until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs, then mix in the dried fruit.
3. In a clean bowl, beat the egg and milk together with the vanilla extract.
4. Add the egg mixture to the dry ingredients and stir with a spoon until the mixture just comes together as a thick, lumpy dough. Add a teaspoon more milk if you need it to make the mixture stick together.
5. Place golfball-sized spoons of the mixture onto the prepared baking tray. Leave space between them as they will flatten and spread out to double their size during baking. Use fruit and nuts to decorate the mixture to make it look like owls' faces.
6. Bake for 15–20 minutes, until golden-brown. Allow to cool for a couple of minutes, then turn them out onto a wire rack to cool.



Owls often make their nests in barns and stables. What other birds do you think might have been in the stable when Jesus was born?

# Week 4



## Come and see with the shepherds

### Bible story



Luke 2 v 8 - 20 – Shepherds, Come and see. (International Children’s Bible)

That night, **some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep.** An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. **The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news.** It will be a joy to all the people. **Today your Saviour was born** in David’s town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: **You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.”**

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: “Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.”

Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about.”

**So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box.** Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them.

**Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.**



# Justice challenge



## The message of simplicity

Lots of characters in the Bible were shepherds. The most well-known song in the Bible (Psalm 23) starts: 'The Lord is my shepherd...'. In their simple lifestyle, shepherds had time to think while they cared for their sheep and kept them safe from attack. And they were the first group to hear that Jesus had been born!



Simple living is tricky these days. Sometimes we feel we need more or the latest thing to make us happier. And at Christmas, some of us can't even think of a gift to ask for, because we already have so much.

How could you change your routine this week, to make space for some simpler living? Could you walk or cycle where you usually take the bus or car? It could be better for the environment too. Or carefully switch off all electronic devices around your home until they are really needed?

Simpler living can help us use our resources better – including our time. 'Be more shepherd' and enjoy some peace as we welcome the Prince of Peace.

## Recipe



### Cheesy and jammy crooks

#### You will need:

- Ready rolled puff pastry
- Cheese
- Jam.

#### What you do:

1. Heat oven to 220c/fan 200c/gas 7. Cut the ready rolled pastry in half.
2. Spread jam over one half and grated cheese over the other.
3. Cut each half into strips, taking two strips from one half and twisting them together before forming into the shape of a crook. You could sprinkle some extra cheese over the cheesy ones.
4. Place them on a baking tray lined with baking parchment (you can use the paper covering from the ready rolled pastry for this).
5. Cook for 12 minutes until golden brown. Place on a cooling rack until cool.



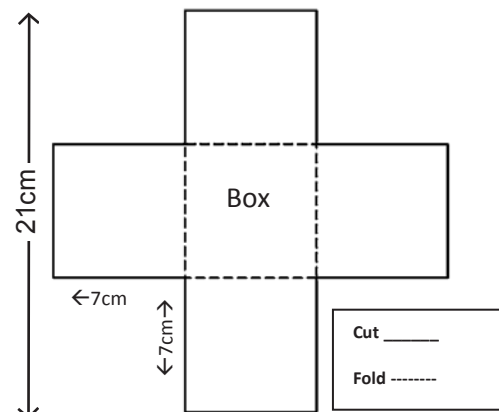
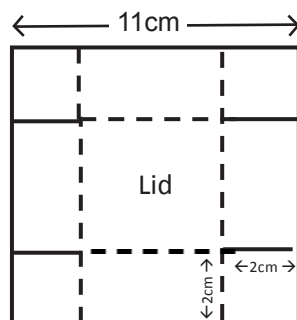
# Craft activity



## Exploding box

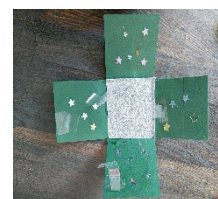
### You will need:

- Two A4 sheets of card
- Angel cut outs – inside the front cover
- Glue
- Sticky tape
- Colouring pencils or pens
- Star stickers and glitter
- Old plastic bottle.



### What you do:

1. Cut a 21cm x 21cm square of card for the box.
2. Mark 7cm from the corners to create a cross shape. Cut it out and fold along the dotted lines.
3. Create a box lid by cutting out an 11cm x 11cm square. Mark 2cm x 2cm from the corners as in the illustration and cut along the solid lines. Fold and make a crease along the fold lines and secure the flaps to make a lid.
4. Cut around the six angel cut outs (inside front cover) and colour them in.
5. Decorate the inside of the box with glitter and stars.
6. Cut up a plastic bottle and create six strips. Attach to the inside of the box with tape. Then tape an angel to the end of each strip. Tape a short plastic strip to the centre of the lid and tape the angel and star to it.
7. Carefully fold up the sides of the box and put the lid on. This is tricky as you may need to bend the plastic strips to get everything inside. The lid will hold everything together.



It looks an ordinary box but, when you take to lid off, out pop the angels announcing the Good News of Jesus' birth just like they did to the shepherds.





# Come and See MORE!

Christmas Day is marked by the final sticker for your Advent Spiral. But really it is just the beginning, not the end, of the story of Jesus.

Jesus himself says 'Come and see' (John 1:39) to people who want to know more about him. We pray that this Christmas you are able to encounter Jesus as Immanuel, God with us.

Your local church would love you to join them as they celebrate Christmas, and at any point in the rest of the year. You can find your nearest URC here: [www.urcdirectory.org.uk](http://www.urcdirectory.org.uk)

Families on Faith Adventures at Home explores a Bible story each week throughout the year with lots of activities to enjoy together:  
[www.urc.org.uk/families-on-faith-adventures](http://www.urc.org.uk/families-on-faith-adventures)



Daily Devotions sends a daily Bible reading, reflection and prayer, and an audio service every Sunday, by email or social media: [www.devotions.urg.org.uk](http://www.devotions.urg.org.uk).

For daily prayer prompts on justice issues see:  
[www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/stay-and-pray-blog/](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/stay-and-pray-blog/)

You can find a range of other resources here: [www.urcshop.co.uk](http://www.urcshop.co.uk)

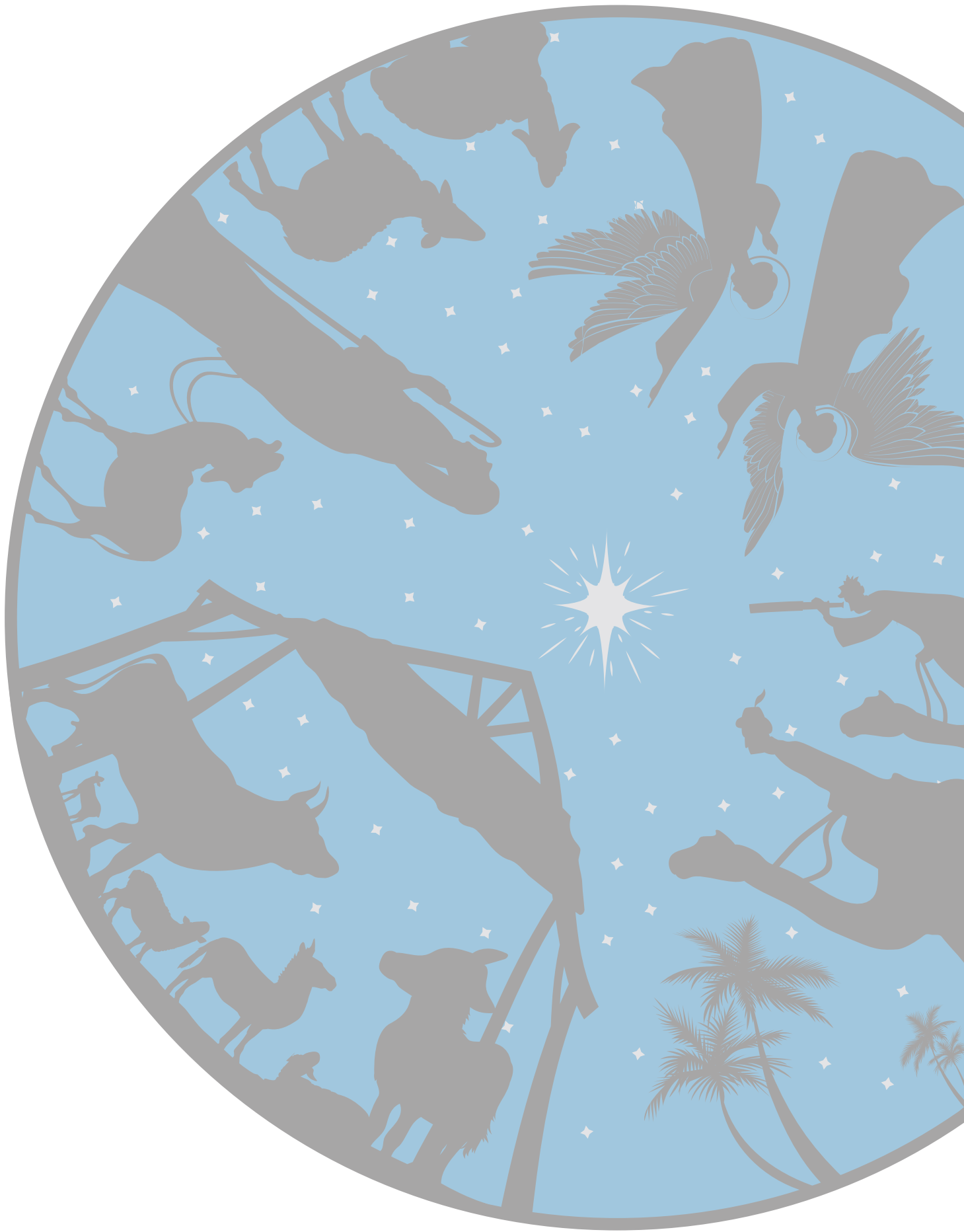
The United Reformed Church is committed to walking the way, living the life of Jesus today. We invite you to share that journey through daily life with us. Come and see more: [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk).



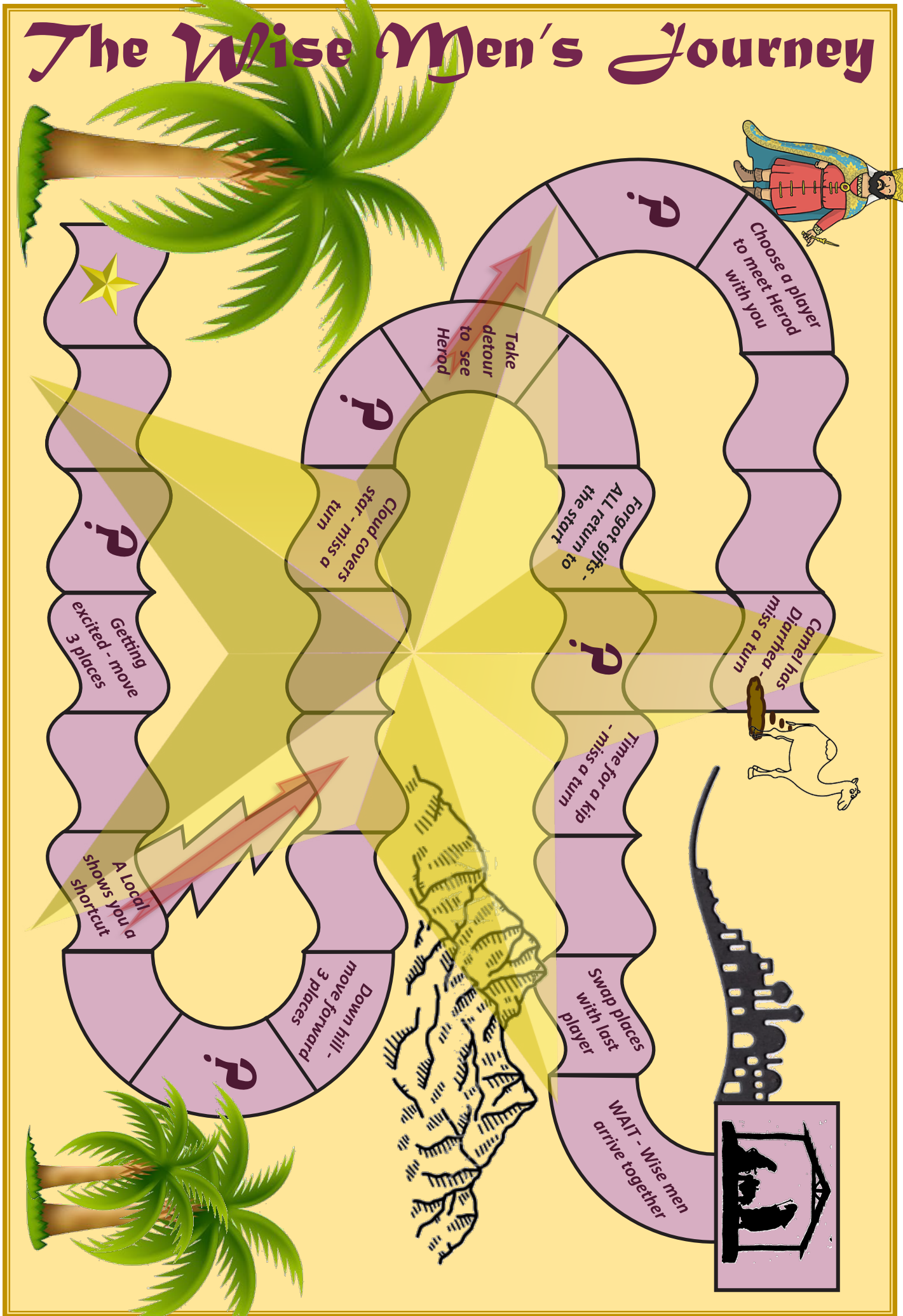
## Answers to the Wise Men's Journey

1. What three gifts did the wise men give to Jesus?  
Answer: **Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh**
2. Who did the wise men go to visit, when they were looking for the new king?  
Answer: **King Herod**
3. How did Herod feel about the news of a new king?  
Answer: **Troubled and worried**
4. Can you sing a song about the wise men?  
Answer: **A star**
5. What sign had the wise men seen, that told them a new king had been born?  
Answer: **A star**
6. Can you sing a song about a star?  
Answer: **The East**
7. Where were the wise men from?

8. Where were the wise men travelling to?  
Answer: **Jerusalem**
9. What question did the wise men ask?  
Answer: **Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews?**
10. Can you sing a song about the baby Jesus?  
Answer: **Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews?**
11. What two things did the wise men do when they found the child Jesus?  
Answer: **They bowed down and gave him gifts**
12. Where did the wise men find Jesus?  
Answer: **In Bethlehem**
13. Why did the wise men not return to Herod after seeing Jesus?  
Answer: **They were warned not to in a dream**
14. Name three things they might have seen on their journey?  
Answer: **Eg Oasis, Palm trees, lizards, sand, the star**



# The Wise Men's Journey



Board game for week 2