

TO PROCLAIM, PREACH  
AND LIVE THE GOSPEL  
OF JESUS CHRIST



TROQUEER  
PARISH CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

December 2021

# The Minister

Dear friends,

We enter Advent, the start of a new church year. What are your hopes for the year ahead? Last year certainly was a challenging year. We have had to change the way we have had to do church. We've had to close-down our church building but the skills of our computer savvy members enabled us to stream services online. It's been a challenge for me; preaching to an empty church with Frances recording the sermon.

I know it has been a challenge for many of you. Some of you have suffered bereavement, and some have had to suffer bereavement when a church service wasn't possible. Important family gatherings have been missed. Birthdays have been left uncelebrated, hospital visiting has had to be curtailed.

Yet there have been many in our congregation who have been in the frontline during Covid. We bless God for them: those working in hospitals, those helping those with mental health challenges, teachers, shop workers, health care workers. God knows the hours you have worked, the challenges you have faced, the tears you have shed.

Things are looking slightly better this Christmas. We have the opportunity to worship in church this year, we will be carol singing this year. We will be able to visit family and have family visit us.

Celebrate this year. Celebrate with family if this is possible, celebrate with friends, fellowship with brothers and sisters in our congregation.

As Christians we know what we are celebrating:

For to us a child is born  
To us a son is given  
And the government will be on his shoulders  
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father Prince of Peace

God Bless

*John*



# An update from the student

Hello folks, and greetings from Castle Douglas. No I haven't moved house, but this is where I am currently on placement for my second year of ministry training and I'll be there until May. One of the great things about the training programme is that you are placed with 3 different congregations throughout your period of training. This gives you different styles of ministers but also different styles of worship and different types of congregations. The flip side though is that its like starting a new job every 9 months having to get to know a different set of folk, learn what they like and don't like and make new relationships. Everyone in Castle Douglas is very nice and welcoming although 3 months in and not a single key change during worship.... I'm going to have to start educating them soon!!

It's amazing just how quickly time flies I'm nearly 18 months into my 3 years of study and I just don't know where the time has gone. One of the subjects that I am studying this term is ancient Hebrew and it is messing with my mind! Not only do they write from right to left, use symbols that rather than our alphabet, they use a system of dots and dashes for vowels that look like morse code. Rest assured I have no plans to start preaching in ancient Hebrew any time soon. However, if anyone reading this happens to be an ancient Hebrew scholar please get in touch with me and name your price (in cake form) for private Hebrew lessons!

Overall, I continue to be amazed and incredibly grateful for the experiences and blessings that God has given me, and continues to give me through my journey towards ministry and I trust that no matter how hard the Hebrew gets I will continue to feel his guiding hand on my life. I just wish he could sit my exam for me!!

Missing everyone and hope to be back with you soon.

Take care

Christopher

## Hymns for the road

If you MUST speed on the road during this Christmas season, at least sing these hymns loudly as you go:

at 45 mph.... 'God Will Take Care of Me'  
at 55 mph.... 'Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah'  
at 65 mph.... 'Nearer My God to Thee'  
at 75 mph.... 'Nearer Still Nearer'  
at 85 mph.... 'This World is Not My Home'  
at 95 mph.... 'Lord, I'm Coming Home'  
at 100 mph.... 'Precious Memories'

# Growing Young

On 6 November the team attended an all day conference where we met virtually with the other Scottish churches who are continuing with year 2 of the project. Also speaking at the conference was Jake Mulder, whom we have got to know quite well over the last year. He is on the staff of Fuller Youth Institute, and lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We felt very sorry for Jake as our 9am start was a 4am start for him – that's commitment for you!

If you are interested, I'd really recommend looking at Fuller's website

<https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/>

He opened by encouraging us to have an honest assessment of our reality now that we are one year into the project. If Growing Young is about culture change in our church, where can we see this happening? He encouraged us to look for fruit in unpredictable places (I'll share a story about this at some point!).

Our task before our next sessions is to envision what our church would look like if we got to 2025 and discovered that all of our hopes and prayers had come to fruition. We are being encouraged to be bold, and stretch from the status quo – indeed the phrase of the day was that we should have BHAGs – Big Hairy Audacious Goals.

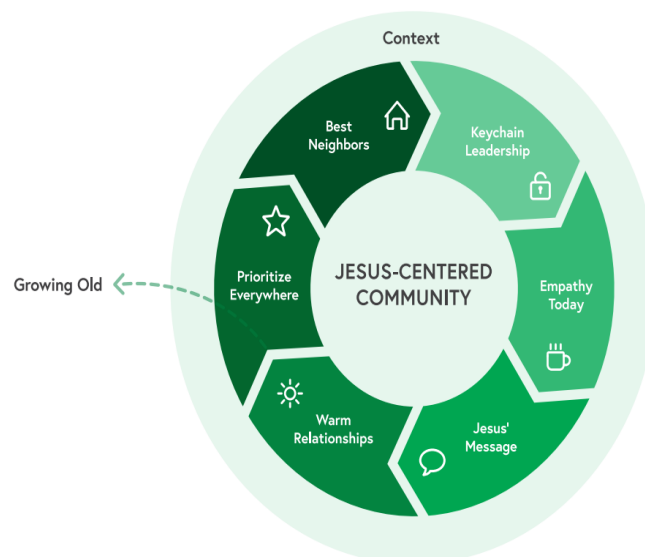
There will be things we need to STOP doing. Other things we can CONTINUE (largely as is). Some things we will want to CREATE, start from scratch.

After listening to input from the congregation, consideration and prayer, we have created evening services under 4 themes: Pray together, Grow together, Worship together and Eat together. Hopefully you have heard plenty about this in church, but if you would like to know more, please ask or come along to the centre at 6.30 on Sundays.

We often say that people can ask us anything, or give us some input. Of course, in reality this almost never happens. So if you have a BHAG you could share with us, please do!

## The 6 Core Commitments

of Churches Growing Young



## **The Dobel Bible translation project**

### **An Update from Jock and Katy Hughes**

A year ago Katy and I wrote an article in this magazine telling you how we were having to adapt to continuing the Bible Translation project in Indonesia, with us working from our house in Dalton and our team in Indonesia working there. We wondered if we'd be able to return to Indonesia in 2021, but here we are a year later, and that has not yet been possible. Since then the Covid virus has hit Indonesia hard, but by God's grace none of our friends and colleagues there have been badly affected, although one team member did test positive earlier in the year. There have been long periods where the team could not meet together to work, but just recently they have started working full-time once again, for which we are thankful. Last year I wrote that we were working on translating the books of 1 and 2 Peter and Hebrews. Now these books are all completed except for the final check with a Bible translation consultant, part of the process that is best done face to face with the team. Over the last year, I have spent a lot of time working through the team's draft of the book of Matthew verse by verse, checking that it is clearly communicating the meaning of the original text in Greek. That involves studying the book and reading commentaries and other helps to make sure I know what the meaning actually is (exegesis), and then making suggestions to the team as to what changes might be needed to the first draft. Two Dobel team members, Eka and Abua, are then going over my suggestions adding notes as to whether they think my suggestions make sense, and sometimes adding their own suggestions of ways to communicate the meaning. When I'm finished the exegesis, I'll go over their notes making changes when I agree, and flagging things for discussion when I'm not sure. Then we will meet together (either on Zoom or in person, if God opens the way for us to make a trip to Indonesia after New Year) to finalise the draft. This will then first be checked for clear understanding with members of the Dobel community, and then finally will need to be checked by a Bible translation consultant.

While this is going on, another team member, a young woman named Yoke, is looking over Mark's Gospel, which was the first book we published away back in 1991. She is making notes on things that she thinks need to be revised before the New Testament is published. The fourth member of our team, Yustus, is working on first drafts of the Old Testament, currently the book of Esther.

Now that we don't need to quarantine in a hotel on return from Indonesia, we are considering making a trip there, possibly in early February. Please pray that we'd be able to do that safely and that by then Indonesia will be letting vaccinated people from the UK in without too many expensive or logistically awkward restrictions. We are hoping that the translation consultant with whom we work, Kathy from the USA, will also be able to come at that time, and we'll be able to get the final checks done on 2 Corinthians, 1 and 2 Peter and Hebrews. That will only leave Matthew for the New Testament to be finished.

Thank you again, so much for your prayers and support for us.



# ***Christmas Events***



## **Christmas Family Service – Sunday 19 December, 11am (Church)**

An all-age service to celebrate Christmas.

## **Carol Singing – Thursday 23 & Friday 24 December**

We are hoping to go Carol Singing in some way as we did pre Covid. Look out for details in church announcements and on the Facebook page. We won't be able to go to anyone's door, but are open to imaginative ideas on how we can do this – especially if you are willing to come along and participate!

When? Thursday 23 and Friday 24 December.

Evening, start time to be confirmed

Where? Thursday Rotchell , Friday Troqueer

Contact Sheila or Christine

## **Watchnight Service – Friday 24 December, 11.30pm (Church)**

Bring along friends, family or neighbours to this time of worship, an opportunity to thank God for sending His Son to be our Saviour.

## **Christmas Day Service – Saturday 25 December, 11am (Church)**

If you're not good late at night and missed the blessings of the Watchnight service then come and join our Christmas Day Celebration.



## **Powerhouse**

We continue to meet in person in the centre after the first part of the service in the church. A recent highlight of the Powerhouse introduction in the church was when Alison interviewed Colin Crosbie about meeting the Queen. We have been following the themes of the services on the Apostles creed and are looking forward to Christmas with the Nativity service on 19th December.

## **Youth Fellowship**

The Youth Fellowship are continuing every week and it is open to anyone P6 upwards. They are looking forward to a visit to the Theatre Royal with the Boy's Brigade and Girl's association next week.

Please continue to keep our young people in your prayers.

Karyn

## **Photo Competition**

We are running a photo competition called "Our Town", this can be photos taken anywhere around the town. There is no age limit and you can enter 2 photos each. You also do not need to be a member of the church or attend the church to enter, this is open to everyone.

### **Guidelines**

All photos must be original work, taken by the entrants. No third party may own or control any materials the photo contains, and the photo must not infringe upon the trademark, copyright, moral rights, intellectual rights, or rights of privacy of any entity or person.

You can include pets or other animals in the photo but please do not include any people.

By entering the contest, entrants agree that photos submitted can be used by Troqueer Church on social media or other church publications.

Please send you photos with your full name and email address by private message on our Facebook page or email it to [churchnewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:churchnewsletter@btinternet.com)

Closing date for submissions will be 18<sup>th</sup> December

From 19th December the photos will be posted on the church Facebook page and people can like their favourite photo. Closing date will then be 23<sup>rd</sup> December and the winner will be announced on 24<sup>th</sup> December and the winning photo will be published on the Facebook page at 6pm

Christmas  
Appeal 2021



# Dirty water or none at all?

Climate chaos in South Sudan forced Adut to give her children this dirty river water.

**Not anymore.** Adut now has access to a borehole. That means clean water for her children to drink and peace of mind for a loving, determined mum.

Stand with more mums facing **impossible choices** this Christmas at **[caid.org.uk/christmas](https://caid.org.uk/christmas)**

christian  
**aid**

Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Africa, 80% and 20% charity no. 1100801 and 1100802 respectively. Christian Aid is a registered charity in the UK, 1100801 and 1100802. Christian Aid is a registered charity in the UK, 1100801 and 1100802. Christian Aid is a registered charity in the UK, 1100801 and 1100802. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. © Christian Aid September 2021 Photo: Christian Aid/Steve Niles 2021/02





## Impossible choices. Not anymore.

This Christmas, we'll hear the familiar story of Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem to discover there was no place for them to stay - an impossible choice for an imminent mother.

As you come together to remember Jesus' birth, your church can give a gift to stand with mums facing difficult choices for their children.

Climate chaos in South Sudan forced Adut to give her children dirty water. She knew it wasn't safe, but she had no choice. Now, Adut has access to a borehole near her home.

That means clean water for her children to drink and peace of mind for a loving mum. Mums on the frontline of the climate crisis face impossible choices every day.

**But our decision to stand with them is an easy one.**

A gift from your church this Christmas could help build more boreholes, provide seeds and farming tools, and give mums the chance to set up a small business.

Use our special carol 'When out of poverty is born' in your Christmas worship, and take a collection, to stand with mums around the world.

# ZAYTOUN ALMOND AND DARK CHOCOLATE FAIRTRADE COOKIES



This recipe makes 20 – 25 cookies.

## INGREDIENTS

---

- 100g Zaytoun almonds
- 200g self-raising flour
- 200g plain flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 140ml of Zaytoun olive oil
- 200g Fairtrade dark brown, soft sugar
- 100g Fairtrade caster sugar
- 1 tsp Fairtrade vanilla extract
- 1 egg and 1 egg yolk
- 100g dark Fairtrade chocolate, cut into small chunks

## METHOD

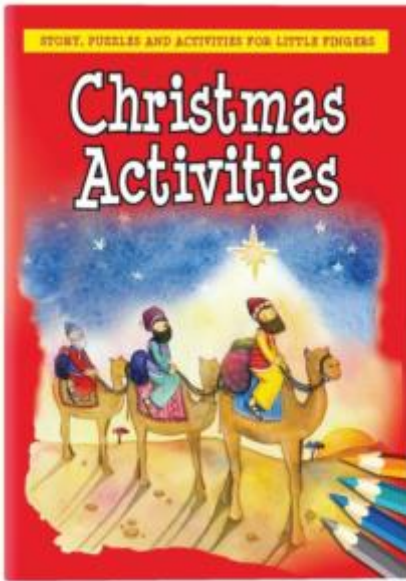
---

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C or Gas Mark 6 and line two large baking trays with parchment paper.
2. Roughly chop the almonds and then mix the chunks with the flours and salt in a large bowl.
3. Then add the sugars and vanilla extract to the olive oil and whisk well.
4. Beat the eggs into the mixture, then pour into the flour mix and stir well. Add the chocolate chunks and mix.
5. Roll the dough pieces into small balls, about the size of a walnut, and space them out on the baking trays. Flatten each ball slightly with the palm of your hand.
6. Bake for 10 minutes or until lightly brown. Let them cool before transferring to a cooling rack. Eat when cool or store in a biscuit tin.

# Book Reviews

## Christmas Activities

By Bethan James, Authentic, £2.50



All the events of the first Christmas are retold and illustrated in this small format paperback book with on-the-page puzzles and activities to complete. Kids will enjoy reading the story and immersing themselves in the related activities.

With attractive colour illustrations, age-appropriate text and a variety of puzzles, the book could be useful in church outreach activities with children aged four to seven. A little book for little fingers!

## Be Still – a simple guide to Quiet Times

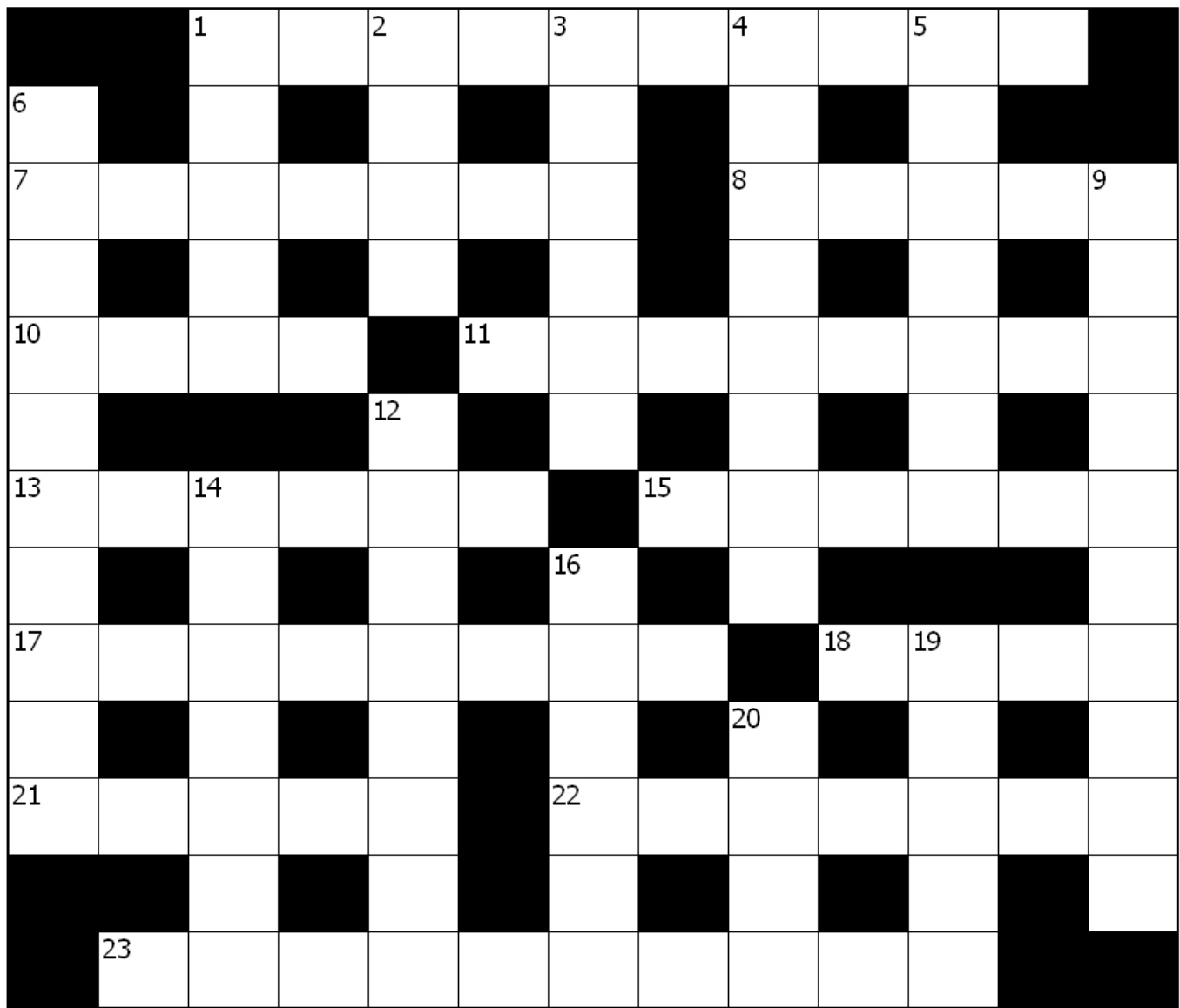
By Brian Heasley, SPCK, £9.99



In this easy-to-read guide, Brian Heasley explores the multitude of rhythms of Christian prayer and devotion available to every believer. From memorising scripture and prayer, running to noticing beauty everywhere, he demonstrates how we don't need to be static for our hearts to be still, and how even in the midst of a full, busy life, we can spend quiet times with God.

Packed full of ideas for different ways to pray and tips and advice for how to build prayer practices into everyday life, Brian's book may change the way you think about prayer and devotion and help equip you with all the tools you need to deepen your relationship with God.

This book can accompany the 24-7 Prayer's new *Be Still* prayer course. It also makes a great resource for youth leaders looking to help teenagers cultivate daily rhythms of prayer.



### Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)  
 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)  
 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)  
 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)  
 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)  
 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)  
 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith \_\_\_\_ (6)  
 17 Stormy (8)  
 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)  
 21 Arson (anag.) (5)  
 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)  
 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

### Down

- 1 '\_\_\_\_ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)  
 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as \_\_\_\_ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)  
 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)  
 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)  
 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)  
 6 'Offer your bodies as living \_\_\_\_\_, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)  
 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)  
 12 One who accepts government by God (8)  
 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)  
 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)  
 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)  
 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will \_\_\_\_ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)



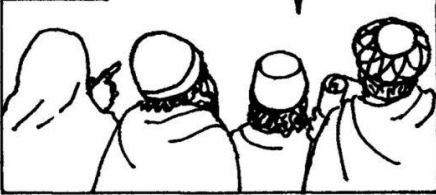
# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 2: 1-10

Around the time of Jesus' birth, in a land far to the east of Israel, there were men who studied the stars...

When they saw a new star they believed it showed a special King had been born. ☆ ☆



They set off to see that King.



They reached Jerusalem, the home of King Herod.



The Romans had made Herod king of the Jews about 30 years earlier. He was ruthless.



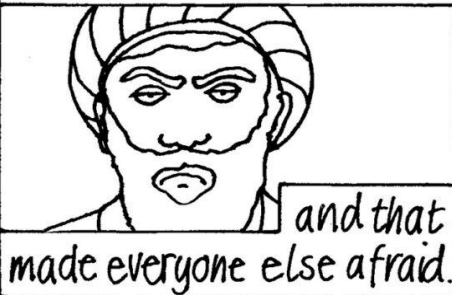
The Jews hated him and he was always worried that people were plotting against him.



He had them killed even if they were his wife or children...



So what the wise men said about a new King upset Herod.



Herod got the teachers and priests together and asked about the King's birthplace.



That would be Little Bethlehem\*.



Herod secretly met the wise men and asked when they had first seen the star.



Go to Bethlehem and look for the child. When you find him let me know so I can come and worship him.



As they left Jerusalem the wise men were elated to see the guiding star again. ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



# A Very Special Baby

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



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

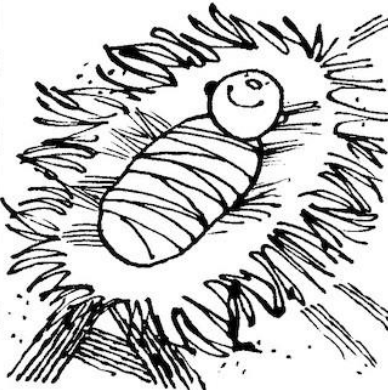


MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

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



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



The angel said:  
Fear not, I bring you  
**GOOD NEWS**

★ of great joy ★  
for all the people.

**A SAVIOUR**  
has been born to you,  
He is the ★

**MESSIAH**

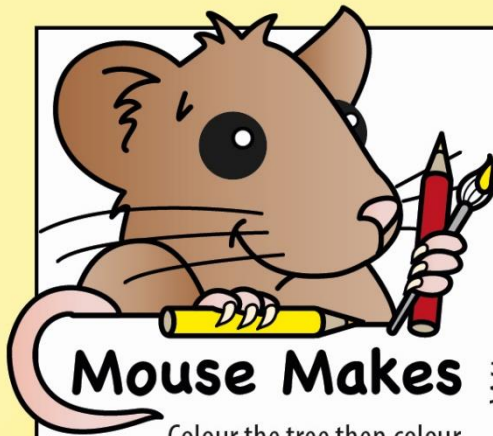
He is the

**LORD**

From Luke 2:8-12







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

What's on the Christmas Tree?



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



**ANGELS**  
bring messages from God

Read about  
Gabriel's message in  
*Luke 1:26-38*

Read the  
shepherd's story in  
*Luke 1:26-38*

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



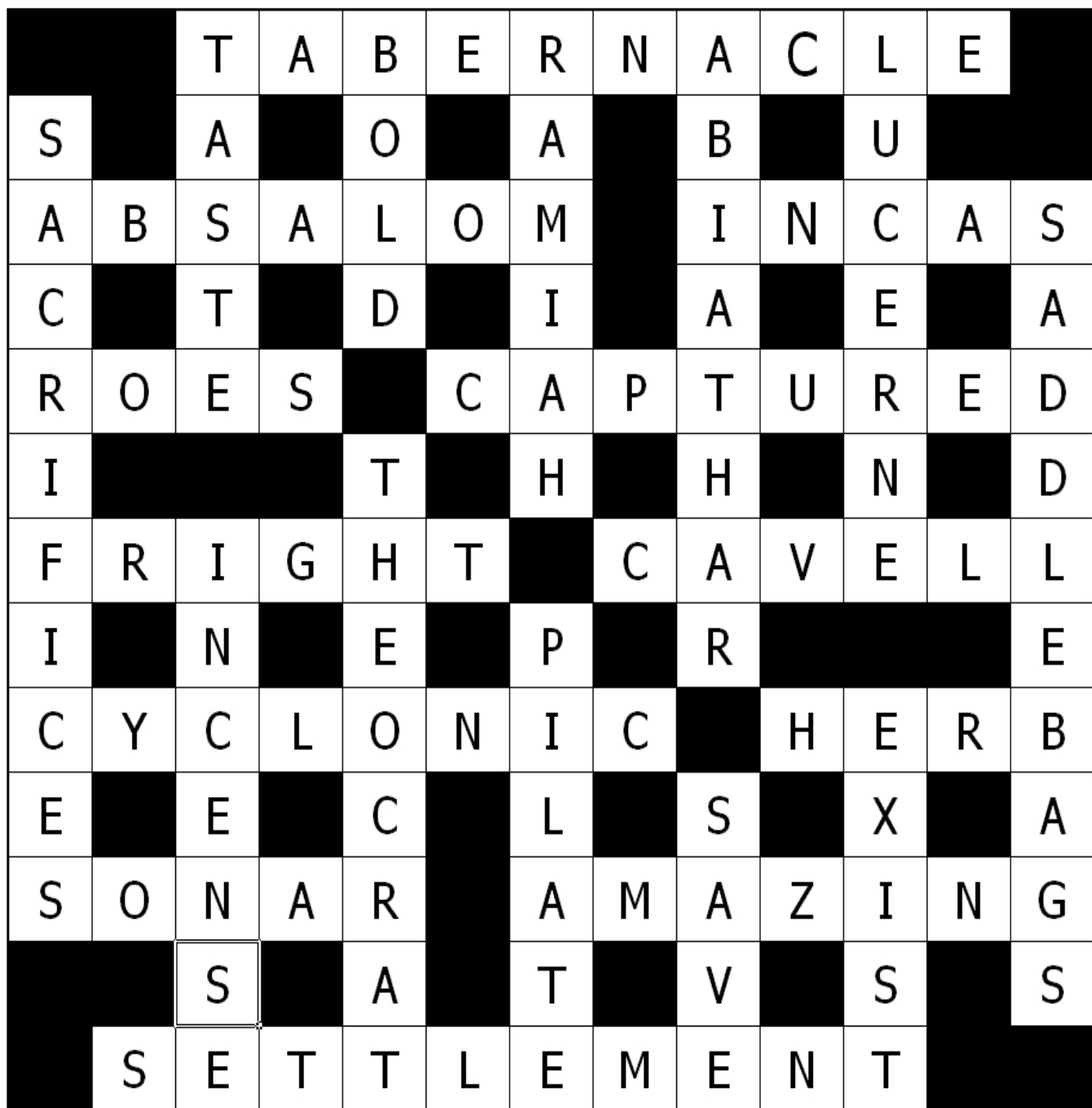
**PRESENTS**  
remind us of God's  
special gift to us ... **JESUS!**



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

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





**ACROSS:** 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

**DOWN:** 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.