

**This webinar explores ideas for teaching RE this term that are creative, spiritual, interesting and spill over into other subjects. Good, hearty RE in hard times.**

**Here comes a flood of ideas for 5-11s as you teach Remembrance, All Souls and All Saints Day, anti-racist RE, annunciation, visitation, advent and Christmas**

**Let's make it marvellous for the pupils.**

**Lat Blaylock [lat@retoday.org.uk](mailto:lat@retoday.org.uk)**



**Spiritual and creative  
RE: getting thinking.**

**Remembrance**

## The Bible says:

- “Whoever shares with others should do it generously. Whoever has authority should work hard. Whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Love one another warmly, as Christian brothers, and be eager to show respect to one another. Work hard. Do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful. Be patient in all your troubles. Pray at all times.”
- **14 pieces of advice / Saint Paul, Romans 12:8-11**





**Was Dr Noel Chavasse an  
inspirational person?  
Was he a good follower of Jesus?**





Captain  
NOEL GODFREY  
CHAVASSE  
VC and Bar MC RAME  
A Gallant  
and Devoted Officer



Capt. N. G. Chavasse  
RAMC  
Liverpool Scottish  
B-E-F.

June 11-1916

My dear Tankard

Thanks you very much for  
your letter to me. I was delighted to  
receive it. I am very glad indeed  
that you don't forget your old friends, is  
the old school. I can assure you, that  
we don't forget you and that your old  
school and friends are very proud of  
you and of the other old boys who  
are defending their country.

As you said in your letter. Yours L

PA











THE BRONZE STATUE OF THE THREE SOLDIERS  
ERECTED BY THE BRITISH ARMY  
IN 1921 TO COMMEMORATE THE  
SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN THE  
FIRST WORLD WAR  
THE STATUE IS A WORK OF ART  
BY THE SCULPTOR  
JOHN WOODWARD  
THE STATUE IS A WORK OF ART  
BY THE SCULPTOR  
JOHN WOODWARD  
THE STATUE IS A WORK OF ART  
BY THE SCULPTOR  
JOHN WOODWARD





## Liverpool Heroes

This sculpture commemorates the life and deeds of Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse VC & Bar MC, RAMC, Medical Officer to the 10th Battalion (Liverpool Scottish) King's Liverpool Regiment, and fifteen other recipients of the Victoria Cross who were born in Liverpool and whose names appear around the base.

Captain Chavasse, son of the second Bishop of Liverpool, was the only man to be awarded two Victoria Crosses during World War I and died on 4th August 1917 of wounds received in Flanders.

Several of the others named also made the supreme sacrifice. May this memorial remind us all of the debt we owe to such men.

"Greater love hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down his life for his friends"

## **The Bible says:**

- **“Whoever shares with others should do it generously. Whoever has authority should work hard. Whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Love one another warmly, as Christian brothers, and be eager to show respect to one another. Work hard. Do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful. Be patient in all your troubles. Pray at all times.”**
- **14 pieces of advice / Saint Paul, Romans 12:8-11**





## BAR TO VC FOR ARMY DOCTOR

RESCUED WOUNDED  
FROM NO-MAN'S LAND

64



Captain Noel Chavasse, RAMC, has been posthumously awarded a second Victoria Cross in recognition of his gallantry in tending British casualties at Passchendaele.

*'SELF-SACRIFICE BEYOND PRAISE'*

Capt Chavasse, an accomplished athlete, won his first VC on the Somme. He ignored the constant bombardment of machine guns, artillery, helping the injured, the threat of poison gas and





CAPTAIN

N.G CHAVASSE  
V.C AND BAR. M.C  
ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL  
CORPS

4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 1917

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN  
THAN THIS THAT A MAN  
LAY DOWN HIS LIFE  
FOR HIS FRIENDS.







# IN MEMORY OF...

## NOEL CHAVASSE

Noel Chavasse was a British Medical doctor and British army officer who would risk his life to save others. He was one of only three people who was awarded the Victoria Cross twice. He was awarded his first Victoria Cross in the battlefield of Guillemont where he was hit by shell splinters whilst saving one of his men in no-man's land. It was said he got as close as 25 yards from the German line, where he found three men and continued throughout the night under consistent rain of sniper bullets and bombing. He performed similar heroics in the offensive at Passchendaele to gain his second Victoria Cross. Although operated on, he was to die of his wounds two days later in 1917.





66 Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse, M.C., M.B.,  
Royal Army Medical Corps. For most conspicuous  
bravery and devotion to duty. During an attack  
he attended the wounded in the open all day,  
under heavy fire, frequently in view of the enemy.  
During the ensuing night he searched for wounded  
on the ground in front of the enemy lines for  
four hours. Next day he took one stretcher-bearer  
to the advanced trenches and under heavy shell fire  
carried an urgent case for 500 yards into safety,  
being wounded in the side by  
by a shell splinter during the  
journey. The same night he took up a  
party of 20 volunteers resoled three  
wounded men from a shell hole  
twenty five yards from the enemy's  
trench, buried the bodies of two  
officers and collected many identity discs,  
although fired on by bombs and machine  
guns. Although he saved the lives  
of some men badly wounded men,  
of some men the ordinary cases  
besides the passed cases

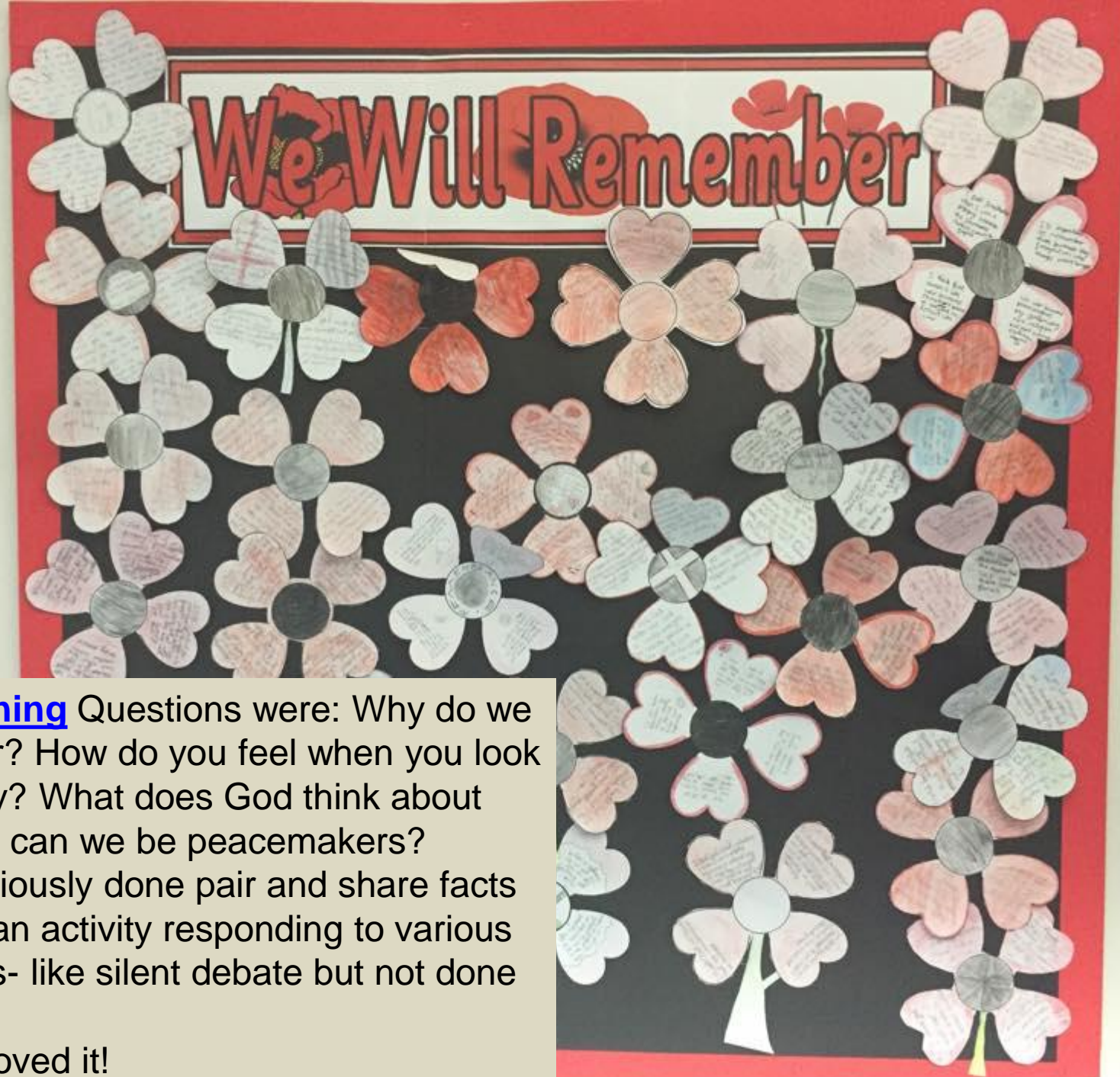
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in the side by  
splinter during the  
night he took up a  
tears rescued three  
from a shell hole  
from the enemy's  
the bodees & two  
many identity discs,  
bombs and machine  
he saved the lives  
badly wounded men,  
the ordinary cases  
passed

his hands  
rage and  
sacrifice  
were  
praise

99





**Kate Bruning** Questions were: Why do we remember? How do you feel when you look at a poppy? What does God think about war? How can we be peacemakers? We'd previously done pair and share facts and then an activity responding to various viewpoints- like silent debate but not done in silence! Children loved it!



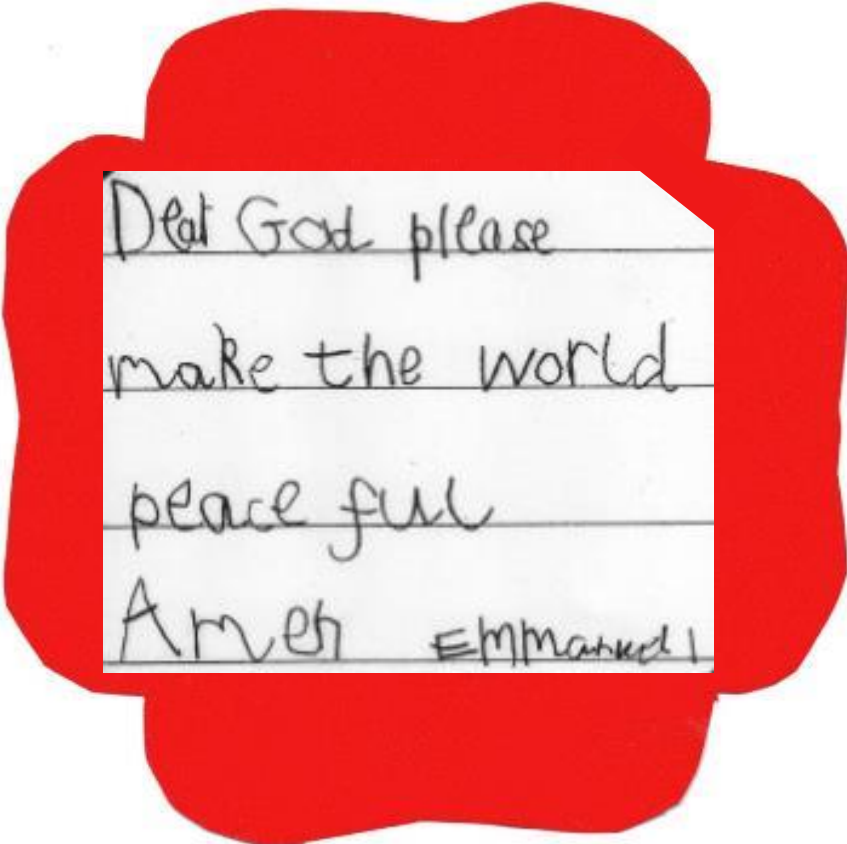
Layla Year R



Hannah Year R

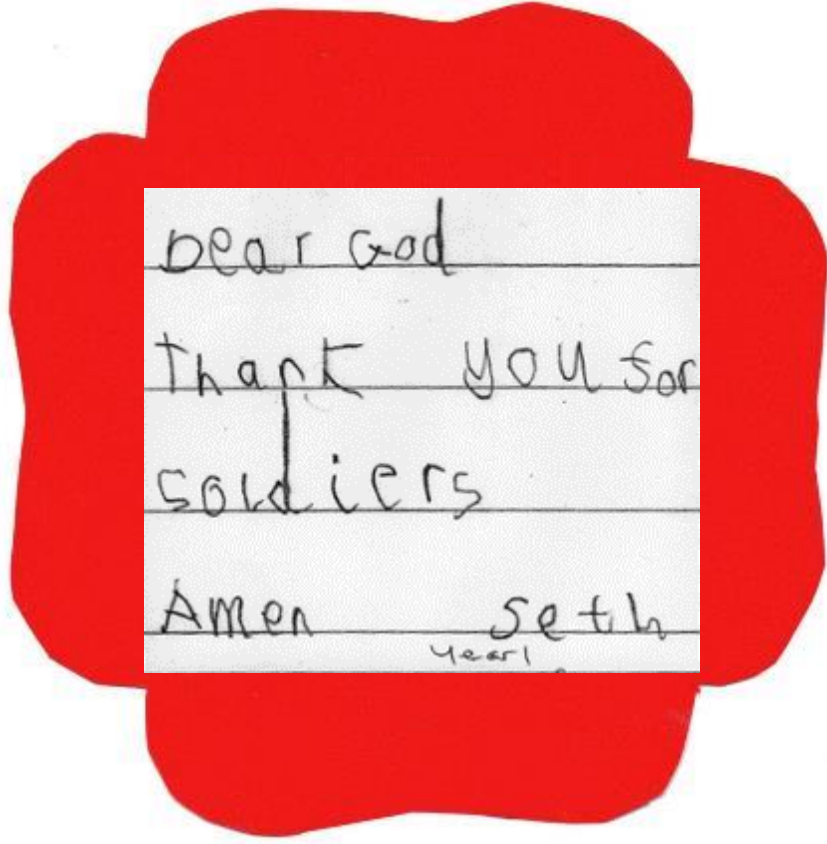


Emmanuel Year 1

A red, hand-drawn flower-like shape with multiple petals, serving as a background for a white rectangular piece of lined paper. The paper contains a handwritten prayer in cursive script.

Dear God please  
make the world  
peaceful  
Amen Emmanuel

Seth Year 1

A red, hand-drawn flower-like shape with multiple petals, serving as a background for a white rectangular piece of lined paper. The paper contains a handwritten prayer in cursive script.

Dear God  
Thank you for  
soldiers  
Amen Seth  
Year 1



Erin Year 3

Dear Lord, help me to remember  
the servicemen or women that  
have fought in the war for us to  
live. Help me to remember my grandpa  
Tom, please Lord let us have  
world peace.

♥ ♥ ♥  
x Amen x  
♥ ♥ ♥

Erin

Eva Year 3

Eva  
Dear Lord,  
Please help the  
children that are  
finding it hard to  
cope with out a  
Mum or Dad that  
has died in conflict.

♥ Amen ♥

Billie Year 5

Armistice acrostics

Tabatha Year 5

Always remember those who were  
brave,  
Remember the death of November,  
Many men standing strong.  
Instead of war there is peace.  
Soldiers standing silent and still.  
Talented fighters lost their lives.  
Injured men lost their families  
Courageous as lions  
Everyone stops and is quiet.

Army who fought for us as brave  
as lions,  
Respect for the lost souls,  
Millions of men who lost lives,  
Instead of crashing guns, sailors  
Stolen souls taken from war,  
Trenches full of mud and rats,  
Infantry stop your guns,  
Countless poppies to remember all,  
Eleven o'clock on the eleventh,  
day of the eleventh month.  
peace.



Dear Lord

Precious poppies to remember those who fought and died

Everybody in the world should remember all their heroes

Appreciate the lives who were lost

Caring for millions who fought in the wars

Each of us should love the heroes

Amen

Aryan

Aryan Year 4  
A peace acrostic

Dear God,

please help us to have peace in our world.

Please give us faith to think of people who died. Help us to be kind and caring to each other. Live with love and peace now and forever.

Amen.

Thea Year 4  
A prayer for  
peace



# Poll: What are your ambitions for RE this year?

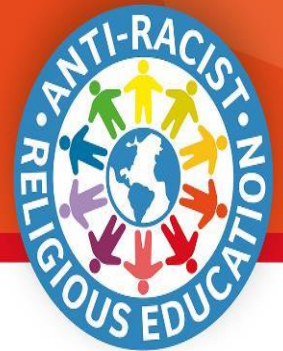
- A. I would love to see more classes across the Year Groups where creative ideas are used often.
  - B. We need a more thoughtful RE where childrens' own thinking skills grow and are applied.
  - C. We need to move away from too much 'bread and butter' book learning to a much more engaged, exciting and memorable curriculum
  - D. Spiritual growth for every child, not just 'knowledge gathering' or 'factual recall.'
  - E. We could do with greater relevance in RE – e.g. from some topics and from making better connections to what the children believe and their own ideas.
- Please select up to three of these from your thinking today, and type your comments on these into the chat box.

# How did Saint Peter learn that 'God has no favourites'?

Anti-racist religious education

[www.anti-racist-re.org.uk](http://www.anti-racist-re.org.uk)

[www.natre.org.uk/anti-racist-re](http://www.natre.org.uk/anti-racist-re)



RE TODAY AND NATRE WORKING WITH THE FREE CHURCHES GROUP AND METHODIST SCHOOLS





# How did Saint Peter learn that 'God has no favourites'?

In RE pupils learn about diversity all the time.

In anti-racist RE, negative or racist attitudes or behaviour are confronted and challenged so that prejudice can be reduced and equality and justice issues can be highlighted.

In this lesson your pupils aged 7-11 will have a chance to explore the meaning of a key story from the Christian Bible. They will think about the belief that 'God shows no favouritism' and have the chance to respond with ideas of their own.

See the notes to this slide for further details.

Start your pupils work on the next slide.

Here is a simple video version of the story that you might like to use.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THfHM84byqA>



# The story of Peter at Joppa

(from Acts chapter 10)

- 2000 years ago, when the Christian church was new, its first members were Jewish like Jesus had been. They followed the Jewish laws about food and they didn't eat with people who were not Jewish. Maybe some of them were prejudiced against non-Jewish people, who they called 'Gentiles.' Maybe there were even some reasons for Jewish people to dislike Gentiles.
- But things had to change. People from all sorts of different backgrounds and ethnicities wanted to follow Jesus. They were starting to convert to Christianity.
- One of them was a Roman soldier, a centurion called Cornelius, in charge of 100 troops. Of course, many Jewish people had reasons to be suspicious of the Romans and their armies. And it was the Romans who had crucified Jesus. Cornelius had a message from an angel about talking with Peter, Jesus' disciple, and he sent servants to invite Peter to meet with him.





- Peter was now one of the leaders of the new church. Before Cornelius' servants arrived at the house where Peter was staying, he had a vision. He had gone up to the roof of the house to pray in the afternoon, and he fell asleep. In his dream he saw a great big sheet, let down from heaven. In the sheet there were all kinds of animal foodstuffs – all the ones which Jewish people are not allowed to eat. Peter heard a voice, which he recognised as from God: 'Get up Peter, and eat!' 'Never!' he replied. 'I have never eaten these kinds of dirty foods. I'm Jewish!'
- In the dream the same thing happened three times. Then he woke up. While he was still wondering what this dream meant (he did not forget it!), his visitors arrived. The Centurion's servants explained why they had come. "Our master Cornelius has sent us. He is a Roman Centurion and he wants you to come and visit him and bring the message of Jesus. He wants to be a Christian, even though he's a Roman.'



- Suddenly, Peter realised what his dream meant: if God sent Gentiles to him asking about Jesus, it would be wrong of him to say 'they are dirty, unclean, foreigners to God'. 'Now I get it' he thought 'God is telling me that people of all different nations can come to Christ.' He agreed to go and meet Cornelius, and when he got there, he shared the Gospel of Jesus with the Gentiles. He said to them: 'Certainly, I now understand that God shows no favouritism.' He had learned a big lesson.
- Cornelius and all his household became Christians, and from then onwards the Christian community was not just open to Jewish people, but to all people. The religion Jesus had started was not to be a racist religion, but one where people from every nation and tribe were united in worship and faith. The Christians did not always follow this teaching, but it is in the Bible, and can make a difference today





Here are four different ideas about the main meanings of the story.

Read each one aloud in a group of three and discuss together what it is saying.

Rank them: which ones do you think give the best interpretation of the story?

"I think the main point of this story is that God showed Cornelius what to do next. This Roman was already a good person, and gave to charity, but he wanted something more from life. That is why God gave him the vision, and why he became a Christian."

"This story matters to Christians very much because it is the moment when the new religion of Jesus stopped being 'just for Jewish people' and became something for everyone. Today there are over 2.4 billion Christians. It started with Cornelius."

"The story has 2 meanings. It's about Cornelius becoming a Christian and Peter realising that God has no favourites. God loves everyone the same, Jewish or Gentile. The Spirit of God sends visions and dreams to make these two things happen. I can't guess who learned the most, whether it was Peter or Cornelius."

"The first Christians were all Jewish and they may have been prejudiced against the Gentiles. This story is in the Bible because it tells all Christians that they mustn't be racist. Just as God loves and forgives everyone, so all Christians must accept humans, whatever people or tribe they are from."



**Complete these 4 sentences to give your own understanding of the story**

- A. Peter might have been alarmed by Cornelius, the Roman Centurion, because...
- B. The meaning of Peter's vision of the sheet full of forbidden food was...
- C. Peter said 'I now understand that God shows no favouritism.' I think he meant...
- D. What might Christians today learn from this story? I think...





# When did you change your mind?

- Good learners are willing to change their minds.
- Look at the grid here, and think and talk about times when you changed your mind.
- Sometimes we call this 'having an open mind.'
- Complete your version of the grid, thinking carefully

## Changing your mind: it's the only way to learn

When have your thoughts been challenged and changed? If we never change our minds, then we never really learn!

Think of a time when someone or something really made you think... what happened? Share your experience with a friend and fill in the grid below.

I used to think...	But now...
I used to worry about...	But now...
I used to be scared of...	But now...
I used to laugh at...	But now...
I used to see...	But now...
I used to be...	But now...



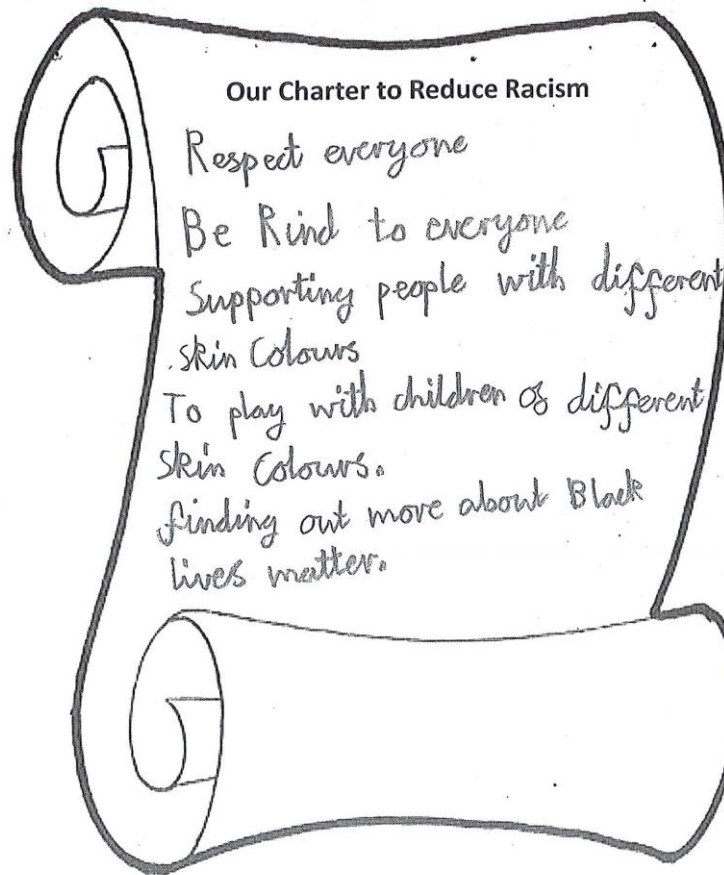
## Design a 'Welcome' poster

- Sometimes people grow up to be scared of those who are different – maybe Peter was like that in the story. But the voice of God changed his mind. If Christian churches follow the example of Peter, they should never be racist, because god has no favourites.
- Design a 'Welcome' poster to go outside a church that expresses this idea.





Charter to reduce racism, but a group of Yr 4 pupils, interesting to see that it starts with two universal points, then makes three points about the specifics of racism.



Freya and Isabella, both in Yr 3,  
designed these welcome notices for  
church and school

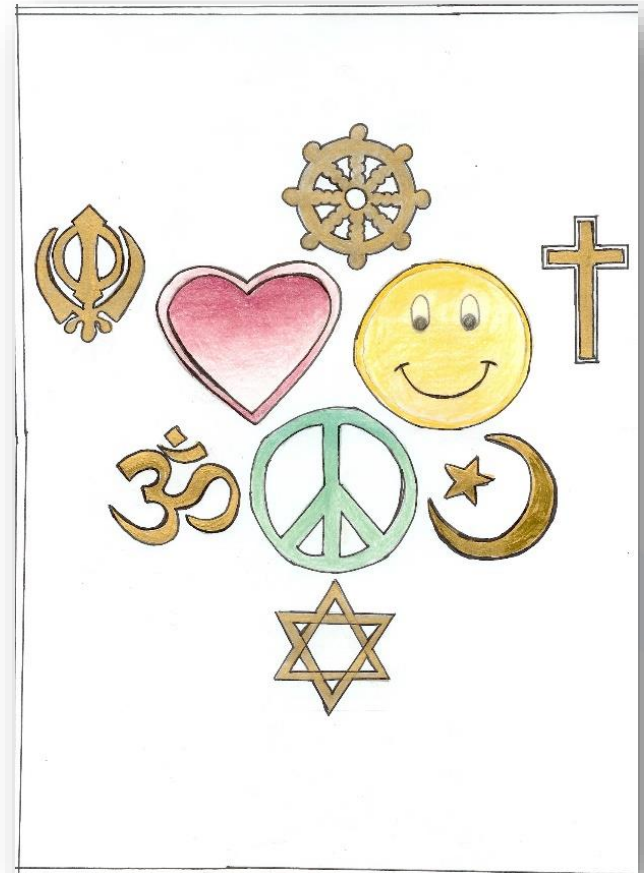


# Examples



A Welcome sign for our  
RE classroom

Saira is 11



A Welcome Poster for all  
religions

Simran is 11





## What did you learn?

### Can you say 'yes' to some of these? Well done!

- Describe the meaning and importance of Acts 10 for Christians today
- Consider different possible meanings for Acts 10 and rank them, giving reasons
- Explain links between the Biblical story and the Christian community today
- Express thoughtful views about ways in which a community such as a church can be a place of welcome for everyone, including people from minority ethnic communities.



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### Buy

Relevant to today's work:

- 101 Great Ideas for Spiritual and Moral RE - £26.50
- Picturing Jesus Fresh Ideas - £31
- RE in Action – 40+ examples of great RE. £25
- Series of 9 books: Inspiring RE £80 (usually £10 each)
- You can have 20% off because you are here today if you spend over £10.
- Would you like me to give your staff a webinar? Ask me for prices....



**Look at the little family here.  
Lodz, Poland  
All Souls is celebrated with  
millions of candles all over  
each city. Calm, solemn,  
thoughtful.**





Mexico, The Day of the Dead. These festivities invert the norm, and play with the holy – edible skulls made of cake, sugar, chocolate, draw the sting of the fear and a riotous set of celebrations and memories are unleashed.



Comparisons: same day, same religion, same meaning (?) But so different – what is good about each one? Can you think of three things?

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/day-of-the-dead/>

- And what do you think?
- Discuss with your talking partner what would be the best 5 ways to remember those we love who have died.
- Remember this can be a sensitive or a sad topic – but remembering people is so important.





# *All Souls' Day*

November 2

*J*esus, dear Savior,  
on this day we prayerfully remember  
all our loved ones who have died.  
Please give them comfort and hope  
and may they be at peace,  
knowing that they will  
rest in God's arms eternally.  
Thank You for our memories of them  
and for the good times we shared.

We ask You, please,  
through their intercession,  
to deepen our faith,  
strengthen our hope  
and increase our love  
that we, too, may someday  
stand before You,  
ready to enter Your  
Holy Kingdom.

*A*men.



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# Saints

Put the picture on the whiteboard and ask the children...

- How many people can you see?
- How old do you think they are?
- How many girls? How many boys?
- What are they wearing?
- What do you notice about the lady in the middle? What do you guess about her? (tell the children about Mother Teresa)
- What prayer might she be praying in the picture? Ask children to write the prayer.



# Core knowledge for pupils (adaptable for All Saints)

## **RE expects some tough thinking.**

- You will learn about the story of Mother Teresa / Saint Teresa and make some inferences (guesses) about her way of following Jesus.
- You will think about and describe how and why Mother Teresa puts her beliefs into action

## **RE always encourages you to be thoughtful and imaginative. Can you learn to:**

- Respond thoughtfully to some things Jesus said.
- Create an image of Mother Teresa which shows your thoughts about her life



<b>1. Trust in God</b>	<b>2. Love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.</b>	<b>3. If someone does you harm, forgive them</b>
<b>4. Do to other people what you would like them to do to you.</b>	<b>5. You are happy if you are kind to others. People will be kind to them.</b>	<b>6. Be like a light: shine in a dark world</b>

Here are six things Jesus said. Mother Teresa tried always to follow Jesus. Can you use the 6 sayings to work out what she might do when she had a decision to make?

# Guess what Saint Teresa did next

One day in 1946 when she was a head mistress Teresa was walking down the street in Kolkata.

She saw a person lying in the gutter. He was dirty, starving and terribly ill. He was close to death.

Everyone else was ignoring the man.

- She took the man's hand, spoke kindly to him, and prayed for him. She stayed with him till he died, and arranged for his body to be cremated.

# Guess what Mother Teresa did next

Mother Teresa was always very busy.

Thousands of people came to her homes for help when they were sick or dying.

There was never enough money to look after all those she wanted to help. She did not want to beg.

- **She got up at 5am every morning and prayed to God to supply the needs of the Missionaries of Charity.**



# Guess what Mother Teresa did next

Some people did not like the fact that Mother Teresa was caring for sick and dying people in their area.

They worried they might catch something nasty.

Some of them threw stones at her.

- She forgave the people throwing stones. She asked them to come and see the work she was doing. She took them on a tour of her 'Home for people dying.' One of them became her friend.

# Guess what Mother Teresa did next

**Mother Teresa knew that some people in India had babies they did not want.**

**Sometimes these babies were just left outside a hospital by mums who were too poor to look after them.**

- **She put adverts in the papers to say 'If you cannot care for your baby, if you don't want your baby, I want her, or him. Bring the babies to me'.**
- **She ran the biggest adoption agency in India (Adoption is caring for babies whose mums and dads could not care for them by finding them a new family)**

# Guess what Mother Teresa did next

One day Mother Teresa met a person who had the virus called HIV.

Many people were scared of this virus, which can make you very ill or kill you.

They would not even shake hands with a person with HIV.

- **She sat down with the sick person and held his hand while they were filmed and the film was shown on TV. She was not scared.**





# Anyway

A poem by Mother Teresa

People are often unkind and selfish

**Forgive them anyway**

If you are kind, people may think  
you want something back

**Be kind anyway**

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

**Be honest anyway**

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

**Be happy anyway**

The good you do today  
may be forgotten tomorrow

**Do good anyway**

Give the world the best you have,  
and it may never be enough

**Give your best anyway**

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God  
It was never between you and them, anyway

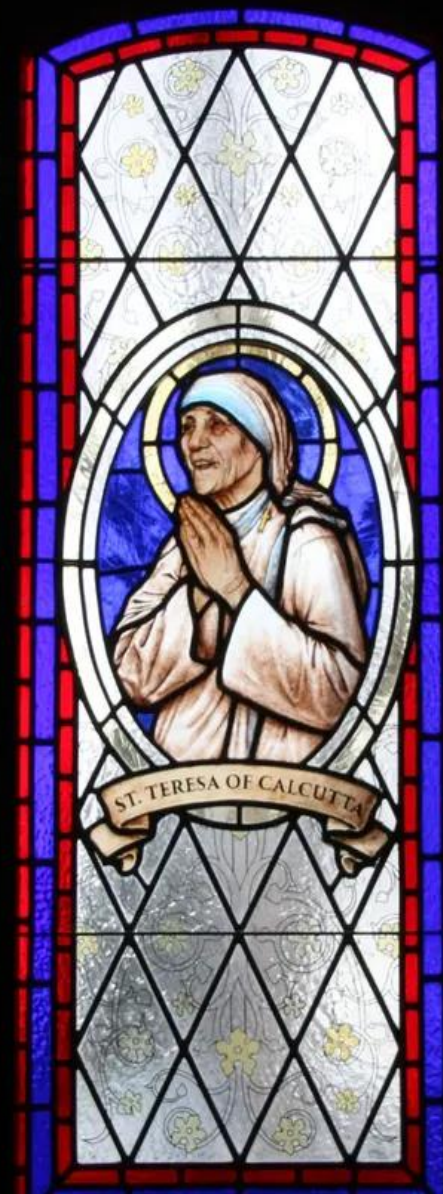


Saint Teresa of  
Kolkata  
Choose six words  
that sum up her  
life. Design a better  
window!



Blažena  
MAJKA TEREZIJA







This class book was made by Yr 1 pupils from a 'life of Saint Teresa in 30 sentences' Each child made one page, and the whole story was loved by the class.

Choose any saint, and tell the story like this. Make a gallery or class book.

Set some harder and some easier sentences to differentiate, and ask a small group if they can put the book together.







Tiny baby Agnes was born in  
1910 in Macedonia





When she was a little girl,  
she liked stories about  
people who gave their lives  
to God



Love other and  
care!



When she was 18, Agnes  
committed herself to serve  
God as a Sister, a Nun.

By Amarakhe  
Home

Agnes chose a new name for  
herself as a nun: Teresa.







help  
poor people!

One day in 1946 she felt God  
telling her to help the  
poorest people in Kolkata.  
Her life changed.

I'll  
help  
you



by Alba

She saw a man dying from a  
horrible disease in the  
gutter, in the street

Teresa took people who  
were dying alone in Kolkata  
and nursed them herself,

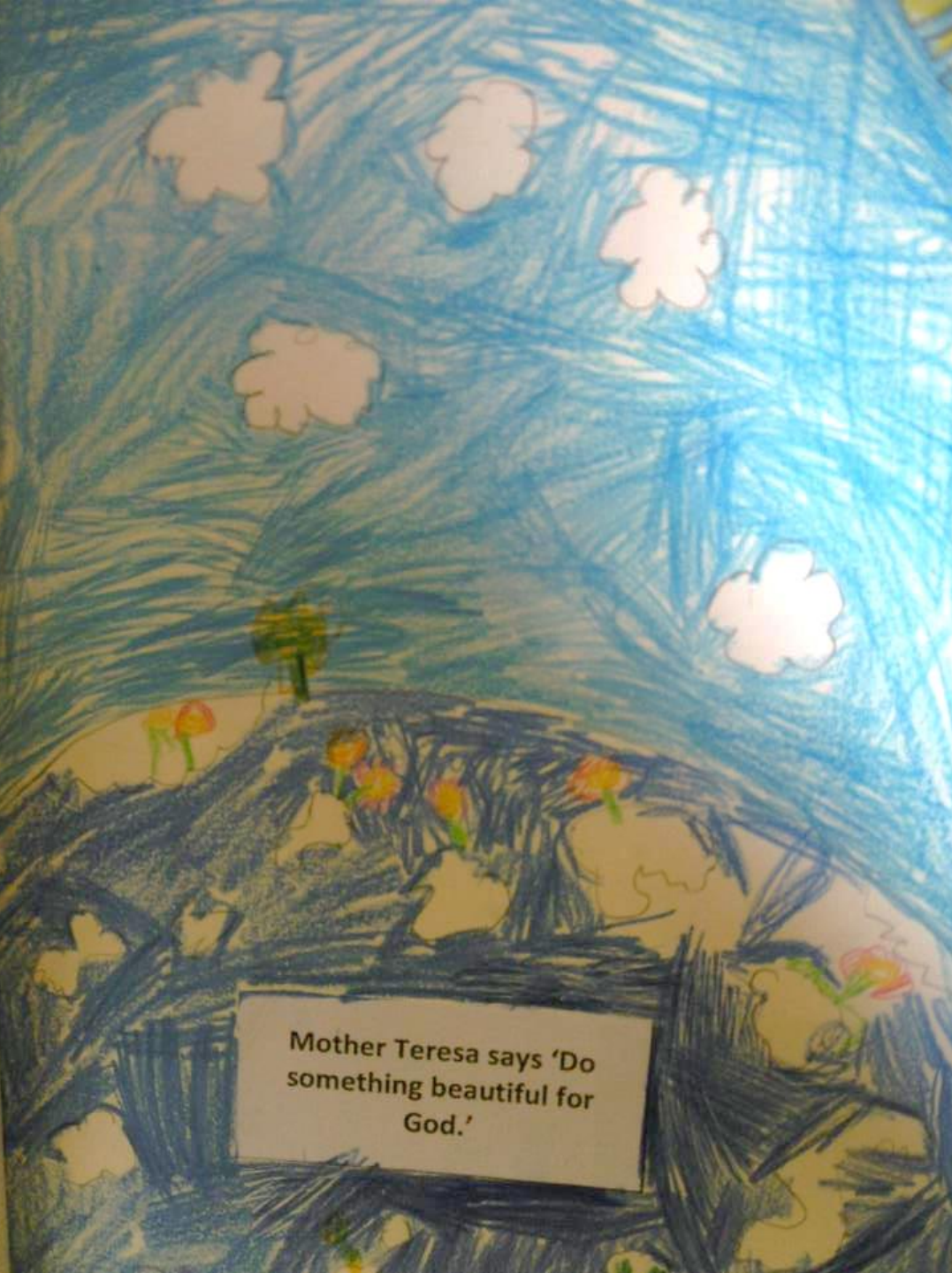


by Julia



Mother Teresa says 'God  
doesn't require us to  
succeed. He just requires us  
to try.'





Mother Teresa says 'Do  
something beautiful for  
God.'



All over Kolkata, thousands  
of the saddest and poorest  
people were loved by  
Mother Teresa



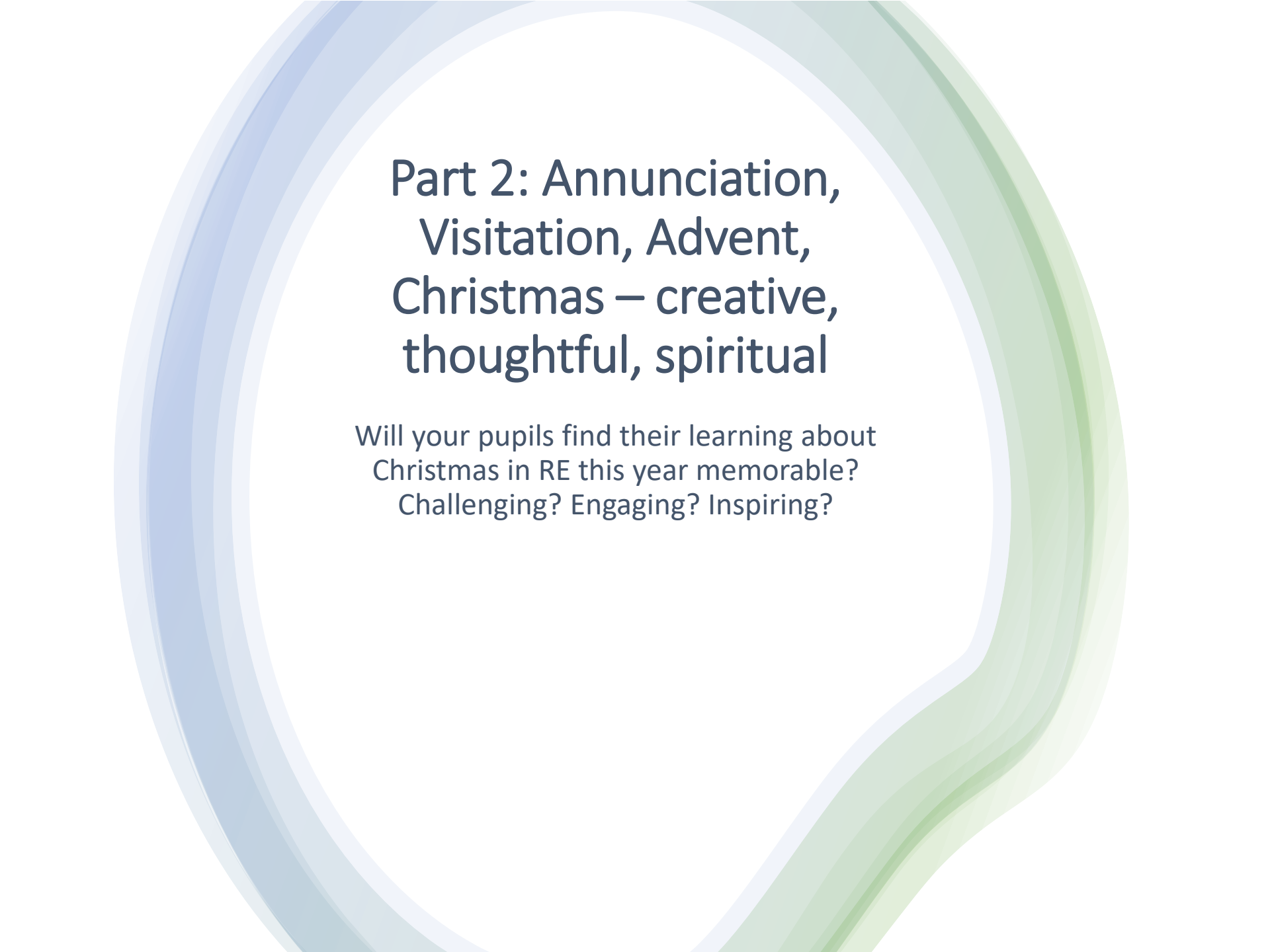


Mother Teresa became famous all over the world, teaching love and peace.

Ru. Jaga

# Poll: Which of today's activities are you keen to use in your school?

- A. Noel Chavasse's story and Roman 8
  - B. Poppies and Acrostics for Remembrance displays
  - C. Saint Peter at Joppa: God has no favourites
  - D. When did you change your mind? Anti racist RE
  - E. Saint Teresa of Kolkata – spiritual thoughtful and creative learning
- Please select up to three of these from your thinking today, and type your comments on these into the chat box.



## Part 2: Annunciation, Visitation, Advent, Christmas – creative, thoughtful, spiritual

Will your pupils find their learning about  
Christmas in RE this year memorable?  
Challenging? Engaging? Inspiring?





## Part 2: Annunciation, Visitation, Advent, Christmas – creative, thoughtful, spiritual

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- 5-11s deserve to have their school Christmas be memorable and thoughtful
- A spiritual curriculum at Christmas doesn't just involve knowing the stories, but also engaging with the meanings, symbols and personal engagement.
- Variety of activity opens up creativity, thoughtfulness and spirituality – 'book work' does not always achieve this.



"Annunciation" by Edward Frampton





"The Visitation" by James B. Janknegt, 2008.





8. Our best ideas about the picture...

3. We can see that...

9. It made us wonder...

4. We're not sure about...

2. We would call this picture...

...because...

*Drop in a picture, or a work of art, a photo or even a text. Or pupils can draw their own sketch of one you give them or from the whiteboard. Vary the prompts to suit your age group as well, but keep them challenging. This can make a nice assessment evidence sheet.*

10. We also want to say

7. We want to ask some questions...

5. We realised that...

1. We noticed...

6. It made us think more about...

5 things we noticed and 5 things we thought

8. Our best ideas about the picture...

3. We can see that...

9. It made us wonder...

4. We're not sure about...

2. We would call this picture...

...because...

10. We also want to say

7. We want to ask some questions...

5. We realised that...

1. We noticed...

6. It made us think more about...



5 things we noticed and 5 things we thought



A mobile phone



Messengers  
and  
messages

Angels

Prayer

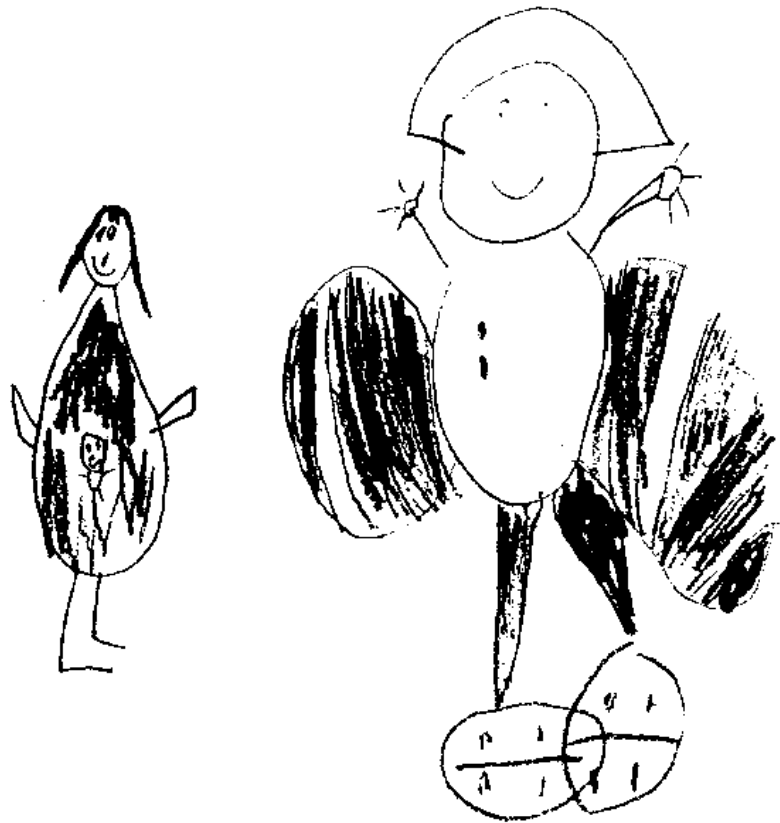
Communication

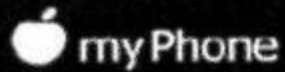
Roles of angels in the first revelation of the Holy Qur'an and the Christmas story have been explored in stories and thinking.

Pupils take a mobile phone illustration, and create 5 messages to the human race, from the angel of mercy, the angel of good news, the angel of death, the angel of hope and the fallen angel - this expresses visions of life in a reflective and interesting way. What would the angels say to the humans today?

**“The angel came to  
tell Mary about the  
baby Jesus. Mary  
was surprised. She  
said it was OK”**

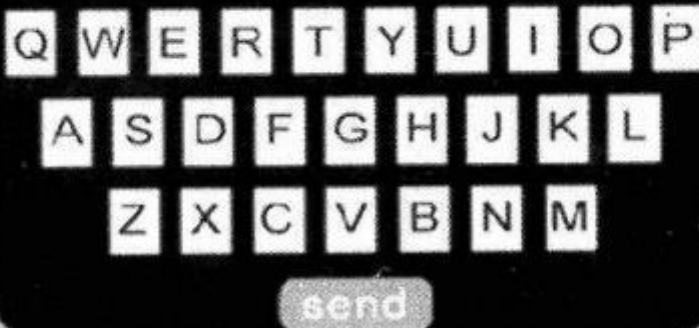
**Chloe is 4**





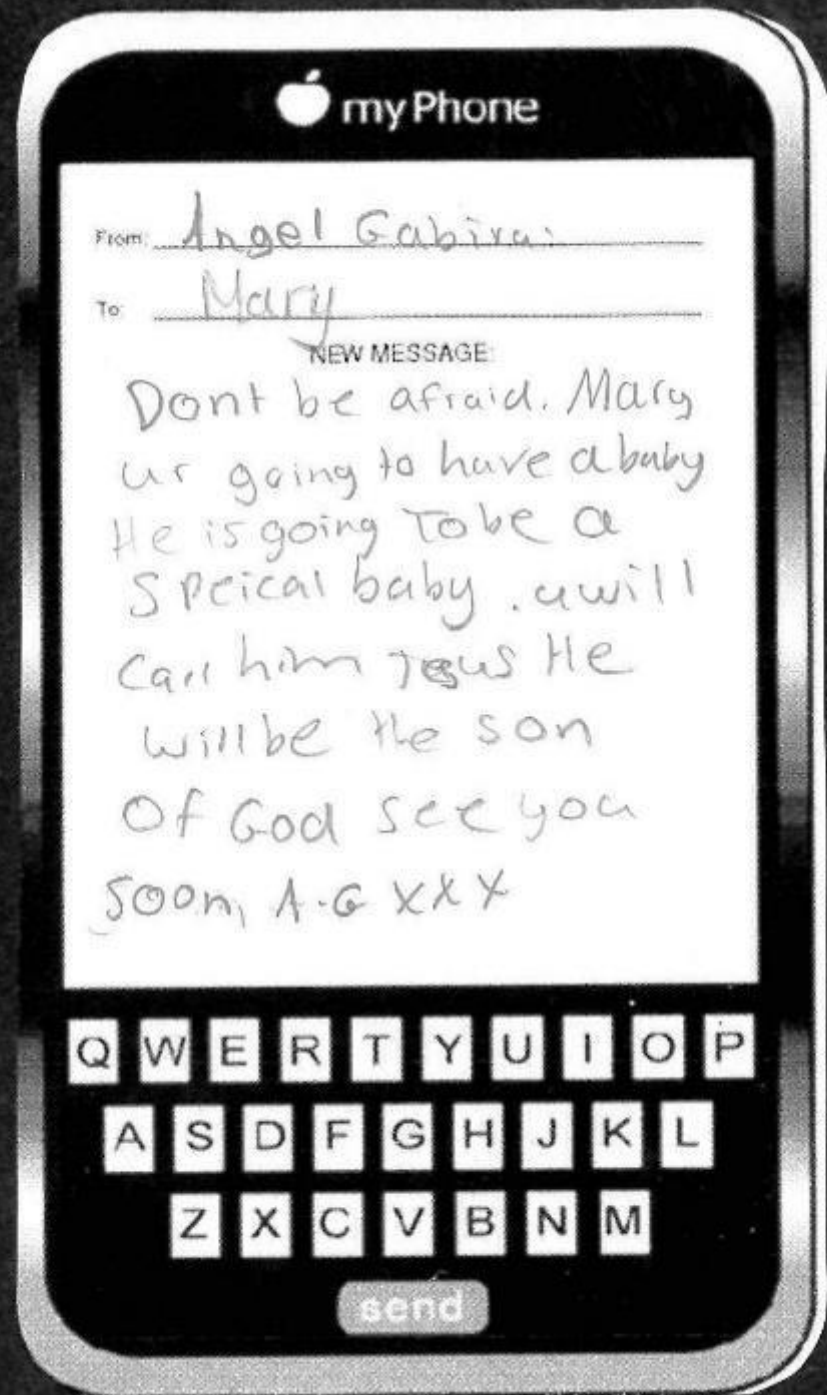
## Angel Messages

Read the text  
messages on the  
following slides. Can  
you work out what is  
happening using  
just these texts?

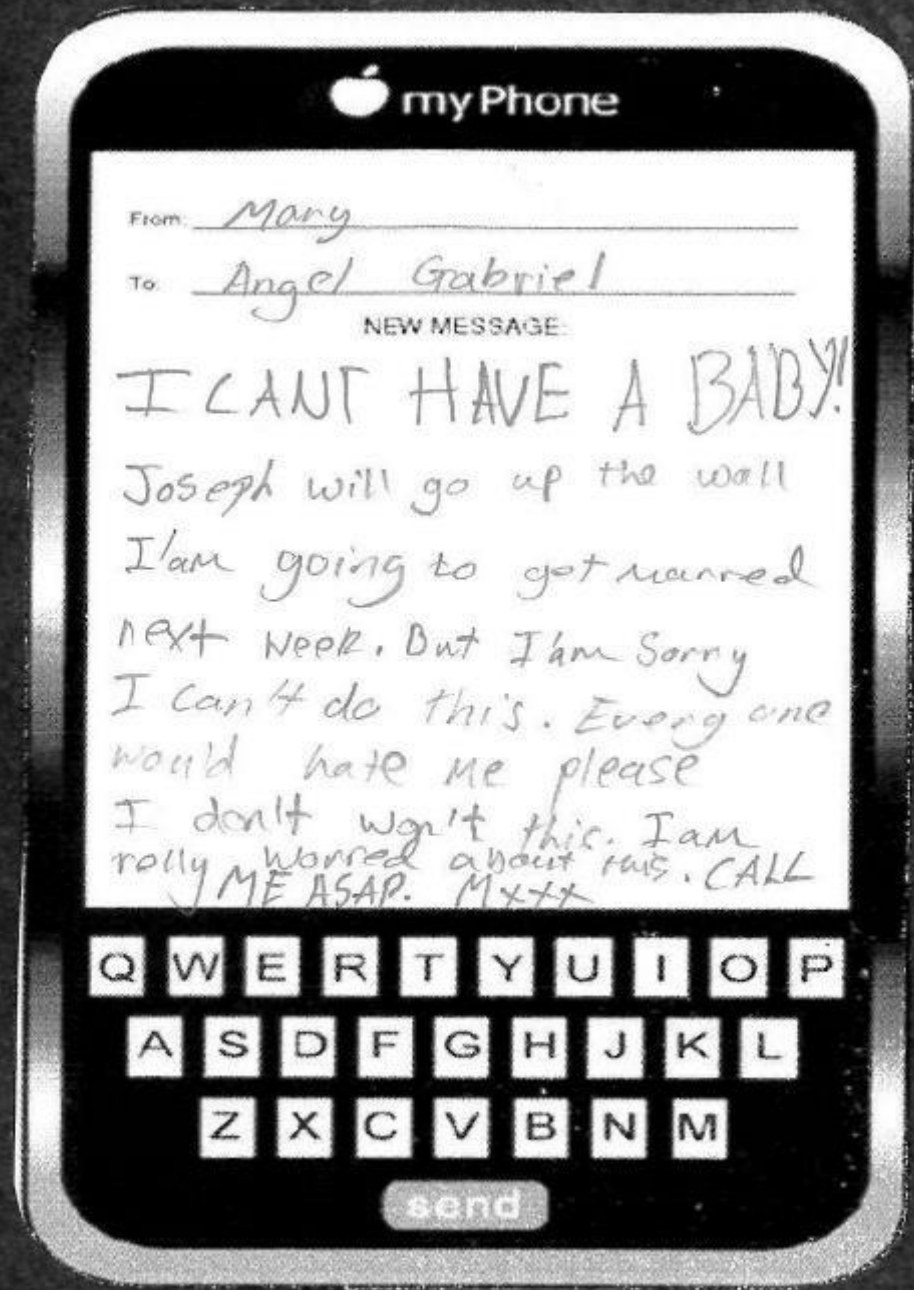




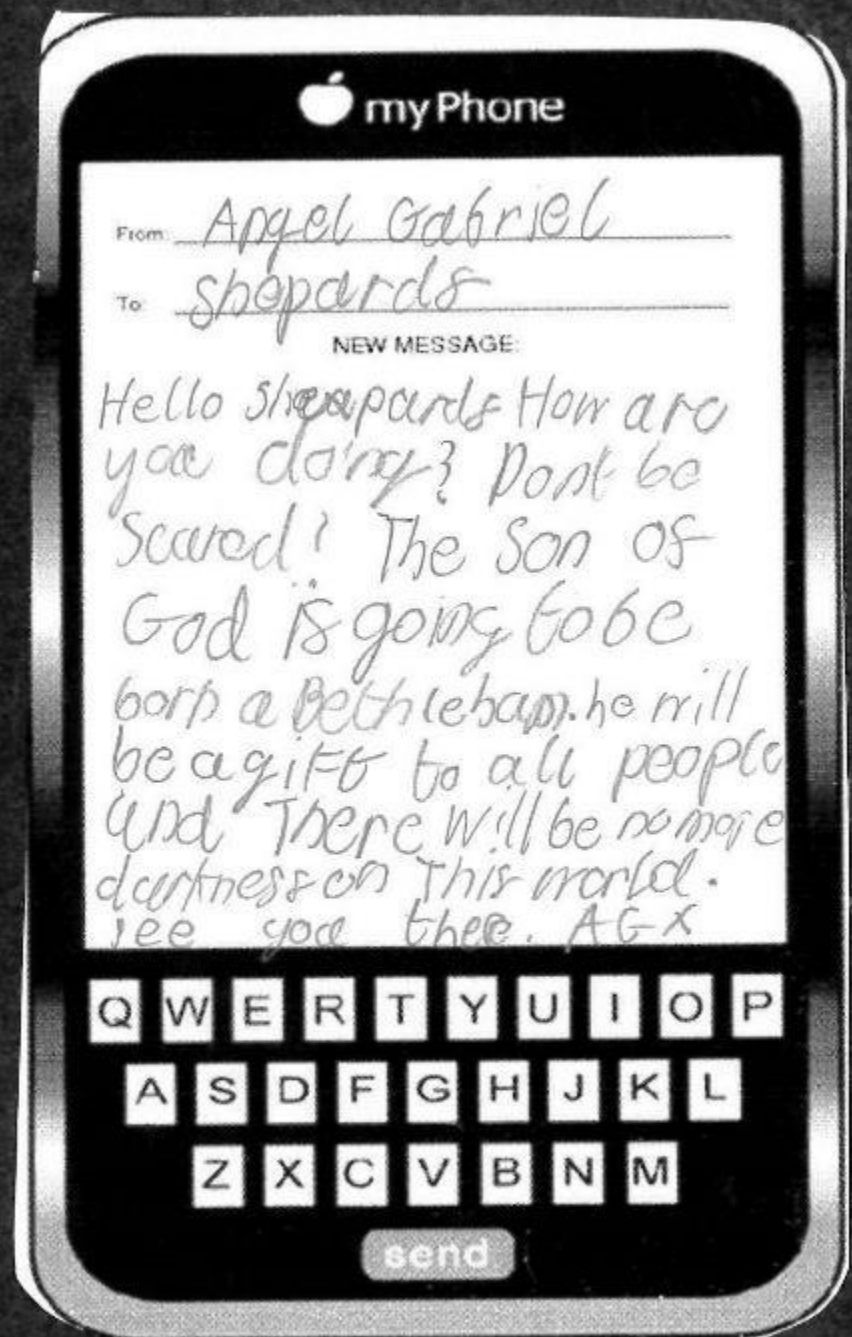
From the angel Gabriel to Mary:  
“Don’t be afraid Mary. Ur going to  
have a baby. He is going to be a  
special baby. U will call him  
Jesus. He will be the Son of God.  
See you soon, A-G x x x ”  
By Tyler, 10



From Mary to the Angel Gabriel, "I CAN'T HAVE A BABY! Joseph will go up the wall. I'm going to get married next week. But I'm sorry I can't do this. Everyone would hate me. Please I don't want this. I am really worried about this. CALL ME ASAP. M x x x "



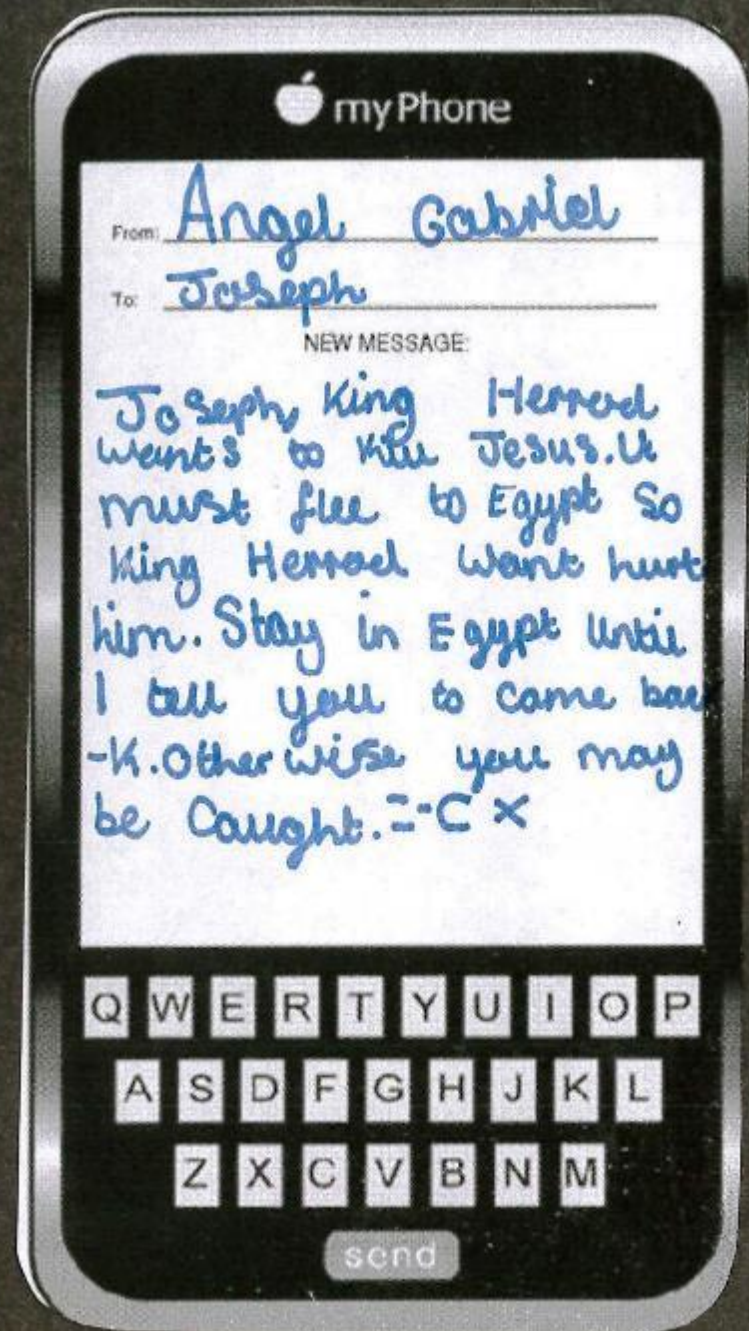
From the Angel Gabriel to the shepherds, “hello shepherds, how are you doing? Don’t be scared! The Son of God is going to be born in Bethlehem. He will be a gift to all people and there will be no more darkness on this world. See you there. AG x” (by Razik, 10)

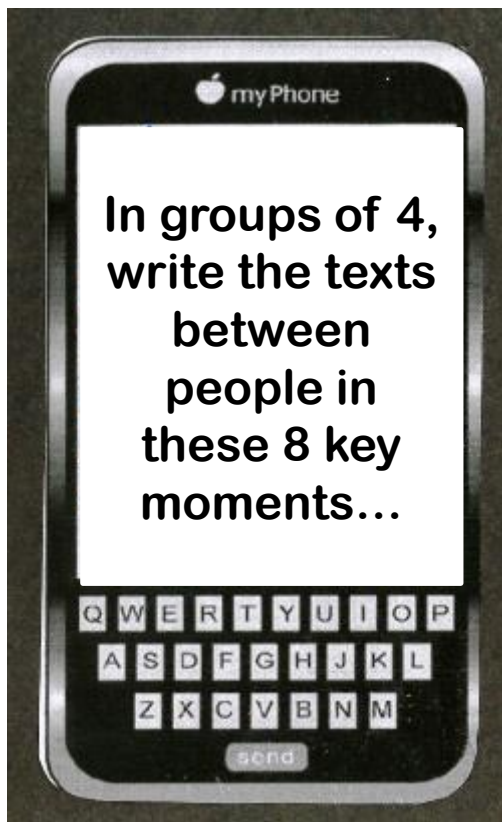


Razik



From the Angel Gabriel to Joseph,  
“Joseph, King Herod wants to kill  
Jesus. U must flee to Egypt so  
King Herod won’t hurt him. Stay  
in Egypt until I tell you to come  
back –K. Otherwise you may be  
caught. ☹ x” (by Travean, 10)





<p><b>1. The Angel comes to visit Mary and tell her she is going to have a baby. Mary accepts the message.</b></p>	<p><b>2. Joseph dreams of the angel, who tells him to go ahead and marry Mary, and call the baby 'Jesus'</b></p>
<p><b>3. The baby is born in a cattle shed because all Bethlehem is full. The angels watch.</b></p>	<p><b>4. The Angel appears to some shepherds and asks them to go and welcome the new baby, who is God come down to earth.</b></p>
<p><b>5. The angel is joined by the choir of angels, who sing 'Peace on Earth' to the shepherds.</b></p>	<p><b>6. The angel warns the Magi who have visited the baby with gifts to go home a secret way, avoiding evil king Herod.</b></p>
<p><b>7. The Angel appears to Joseph and tells him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to be safe from evil king Herod.</b></p>	<p><b>8. At the end of the story, the angel reports back to 'Heavenly High Command'</b> <b>How did it all go?</b></p>

# Well done! In RE today you have...

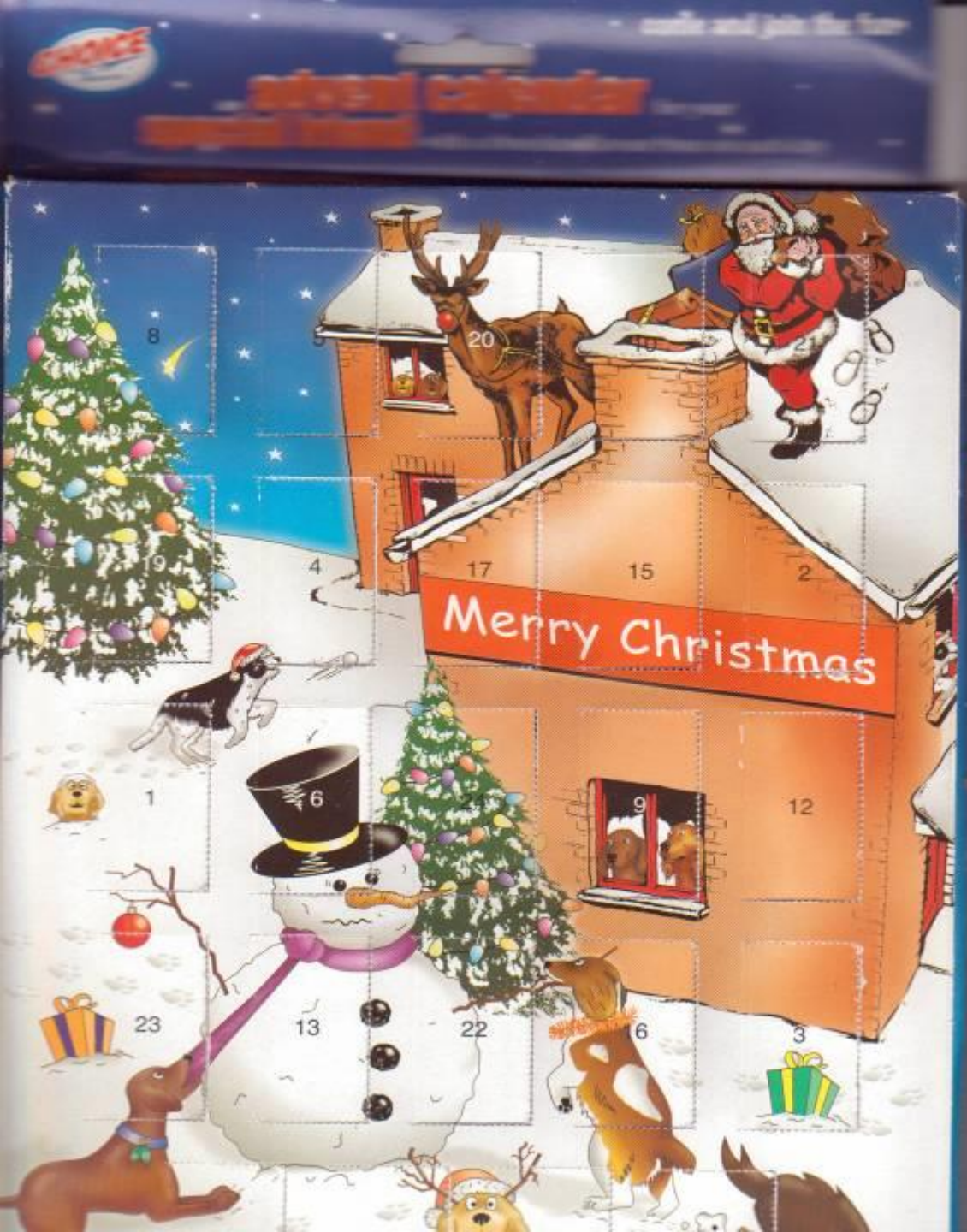
- Used words like 'incarnation', 'miracle' and 'celebrate' to show you understand the importance of Christmas for Christians
  - Had a great discussion about the story of the Nativity, and shown how well you understand Christian belief
  - Made links between what you know about God, angels, the Madonna and worship to your understanding of the stories of Jesus' birth.
- (Most 11YOs)**
- Explained why Jesus matters more to Christians than Santa Claus
  - Explained some similarities and differences between the ways Jesus can be represented in music, art and text
  - Explain your own views on questions such as: What is the real meaning of Christmas? Do artists and musicians express the real meaning of Christmas? What matters most to Christians at Christmas?

**(Some 11YOs)**



# Advent: Preparing for God?

The Christian season of Advent is, traditionally, made up of 24 days of fasting, prayer and self discipline, to get the believer ready for the coming of God in Jesus, celebrated at Christmas. How is the season changing?

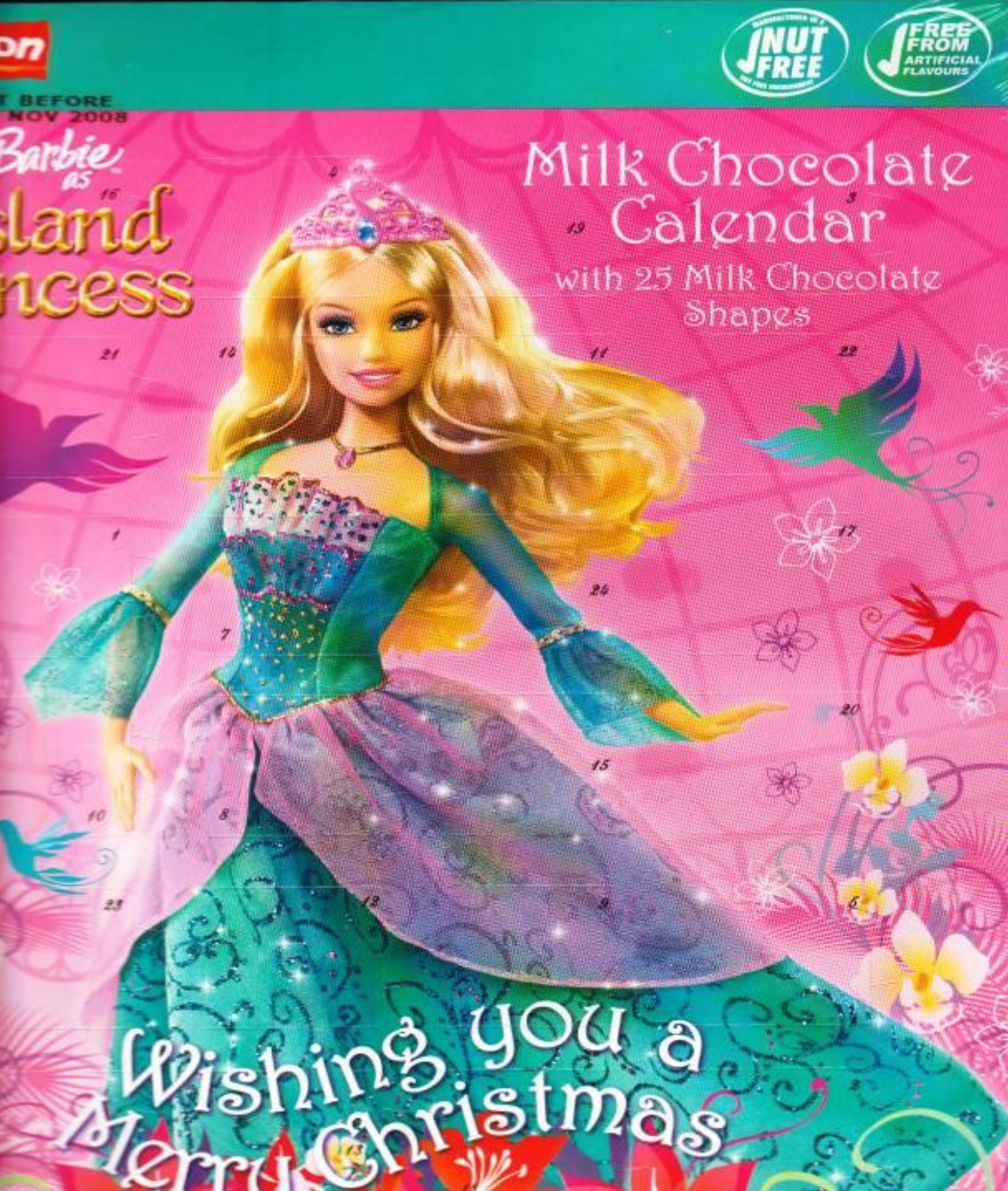


Christmas – what is it all about? Imagine an alien who wanted to know what is being celebrated at this festival. What view could be formed from looking at this one?

“Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, Bart, Marge and Homer get dressed up in red....”



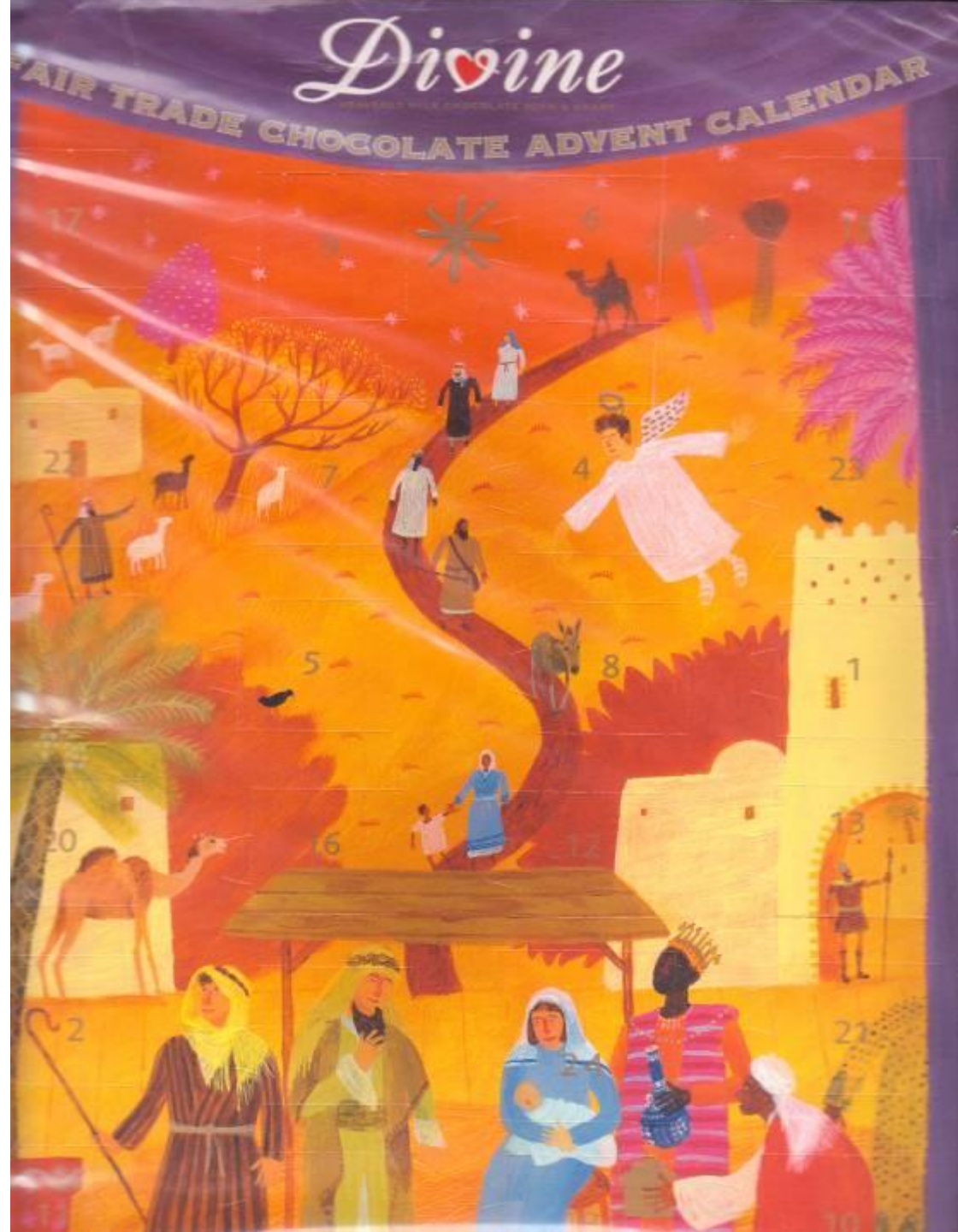




**“I’m a Barbie Girl,  
In a Barbie World.  
Made of Plastic.  
Not that fantastic.”**



- Is a fairtrade picture of Jesus birth better?





- Words fail me.



Harry, age 8  
Key Christian beliefs about Advent  
and Christmas



## Harry, age 8

### Key Christian beliefs about Advent and Christmas

- Harry has a clear understanding of the meaning of the period of Advent for Christians as a time of preparing, waiting and anticipating what is to come.
- A key quality of this work is the depth of knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs shown by the pupil; for example, that Jesus is considered by Christians to be a king and the Son of God.
- This work describes how Christians show their beliefs and use scripture as they mark, celebrate and worship at Advent and Christmas, Harry achieving well for his age.

#### Questions:

How could your school use a task like this to show progress in RE?

Do your pupils have clear knowledge like this about the Christian celebration of Advent / Christmas?

In what ways does this work show good RE in action?



The 24 doors all have different facts and quotes about advent behind them, adding up to rich knowledge of the season.



# Which nativity?















# Assessment: Which nativity?

- Describe the four nativity sets, and Father David's dilemma
- Explain your top two choices, with reasons.
- What matters most at Christmas, and why?  
Santa/ God coming to earth / Carols / Turkey  
/ Presents / Baby Jesus / Holidays / Families
- What did you think, in this activity, about the 'real meaning of Christmas'?

# Which nativity?

£159



£00



£199



£60





We made our  
own Angels to  
put on our Christmas  
Trees at home.







He came down to Earth from  
Heaven, who is God and Lord  
of all

The Angel said 'Peace on Earth  
and goodwill to all people with  
who God is pleased'

The true  
light was  
coming into  
the world.



The stars in the  
Bright Sky  
looked down  
where he lay,  
the little Lord  
Jesus asleep  
on the hay.

Mary laid him in a manger because  
there was no room for them at the inn

Sing to the Lord for  
he has done  
wonderful things





1. It's good to learn about other people's beliefs because...

2. One funny thing about religion is...

3. If God sent a mess, the earth would be a mess.

One thing about religion is...



# **Paper the walls with your wisdom**

## **Assembly for December 1st**

1. One thing I love about Christmas is...
2. One thing I hate about Christmas...
3. Christmas should be cancelled because...
4. Christmas is bad for turkeys and bad for...
5. If God came to earth today, he'd say...
6. By the end of December, I hope...
7. Santa Claus: what I think is...
8. Christmas is magic because...
9. If Christmas was banned then...
10. Christmas and Eid Al Fitr are similar because...
11. I prefer New Year to Christmas because...
12. What I'd like to ask God is...
13. I think Jesus was God on earth because...
14. Jesus could not have been God on earth because...
15. If I gave the baby Jesus a present, I'd give...
16. The real meaning of Christmas is...

**What  
are they  
thinking?**

I am glad that  
now Mary has  
had a baby I am  
So **HAPPY!!!**

We have been  
on such a long  
journey I am so  
tired and weary,  
So, So weary.

I can not  
wait until  
I give the  
presents too  
the new born  
baby, the  
mear, fram-  
cens, and  
God!!!

I can not  
believe it, it  
the first  
time that we  
us the shep-  
eards inv-  
ited to see  
a baby  
born!!!





Dear Diary  
 I Saw the most Beautiful Baby.  
 I Never Seen a Baby of a hold a  
 tiny Baby It was a Dora Bull I Never  
 Seen as Baby so close up.  
 I Whanted to ask lots of questions  
 But I now not ~~as~~ the angel gabie  
 But she never anserd me when I  
 got Back My Brother came Back  
 hey ~~said~~ it was glowd with people  
 I Did not say and onting excuse  
 they ~~it~~ will light at me. But when  
 I am a old man I will say and say  
 I love the Sight I Saw agis ago  
 but I can Rember what happend.  
 I have to go now See  
 you soon!



I feel Nervous  
 But I now  
 Now its nothin  
 to worry about!

Willow Lane  
 Primary School,  
 Lancaster

Aged 8

A Shepherd's diary

"I saw the most beautiful  
 baby I've ever seen... it  
 was adorable... I wanted to  
 ask lots of questions...

I did not say anything  
 because they will laugh at  
 me, but when I am an old  
 man I will say and say  
 again I love the sight I saw  
 ages ago..."



# The Madonna: one of the world's most popular topics for a painting

- Mary, the Mother of Jesus (often called 'The Madonna') has been painted hundreds of thousands of times. Why is that?
- Christianity is the world's largest religion, with about 2 billion members, around one third of the whole population of the world
- Christmas is the most popular festival in Christianity – lots of people who are not Christians celebrate it too.
- If you were an artist and you wanted to create a new painting of the Madonna, how would you do it? Discuss your idea with a talking partner, and if you have time make a quick first sketch.



Can you and your partner make up some good questions to ask about this picture, beginning with these words?

**What...**

**Where...**

**When...**

**How...**

**Who...**

**Why...**

**Which...**

**What if...**

**Whyever...**

**Can you imagine...**



“If you change the gender of the person who holds the Christ Child, does it change everything? Or nothing?”

This is about the role of fathers, and the care and love they give to children.”

“I think that in ordinary life God is just beside you, shining sunbeams on you.”

Apart from Jesus’ death, there are more pictures of Mary and the baby Jesus than any other image in the world.

Antonia Rolls paints stories of Jesus in modern settings, she says...

“The picture makes you think: ‘what’s wrong?’ But what’s right with it is that the father is a very tender person. It might make you look at men in a different way. It doesn’t diminish the Virgin Mary though.”

Christians have been painting pictures of the ‘Madonna and child’ for 1900 years!

Antonia Rolls, an artist who lives in Bognor Regis, made this ‘Male Madonna’ painting. Tell your partner what you think of the painting.



# What is this image all about?

## **Step 1: Raise questions.**

Write questions around the edge of your sheet, beginning with at least 6 different 'what, where, when, etc' words.

## **Step 2: Discuss possible answers.**

On your new sheet, discuss possible answers to the questions that the previous group have written.

## **Step 3: Become better informed.**

Read information about the artist and the picture.

## **Step 4: Refine your answers.**

With your new knowledge, create 'deep' answers to the questions. Hand your sheet back to its group- what do they think of your answers?

# **If Jesus was born in your town today...**

- Would he be born, not in a stable but in a bus shelter by Tesco?
- Would a pub landlord let them sleep in the garage?
- Would he be welcomed not by shepherds, but by dustbin collectors?
- Would wise women come from the East? (France, or Belgium)?
- Would they bring gifts? What gifts?



David, 7, "I think if Jesus came to Earth today he would be a lollipop person, because he helps everyone and is always helping us to be happy."



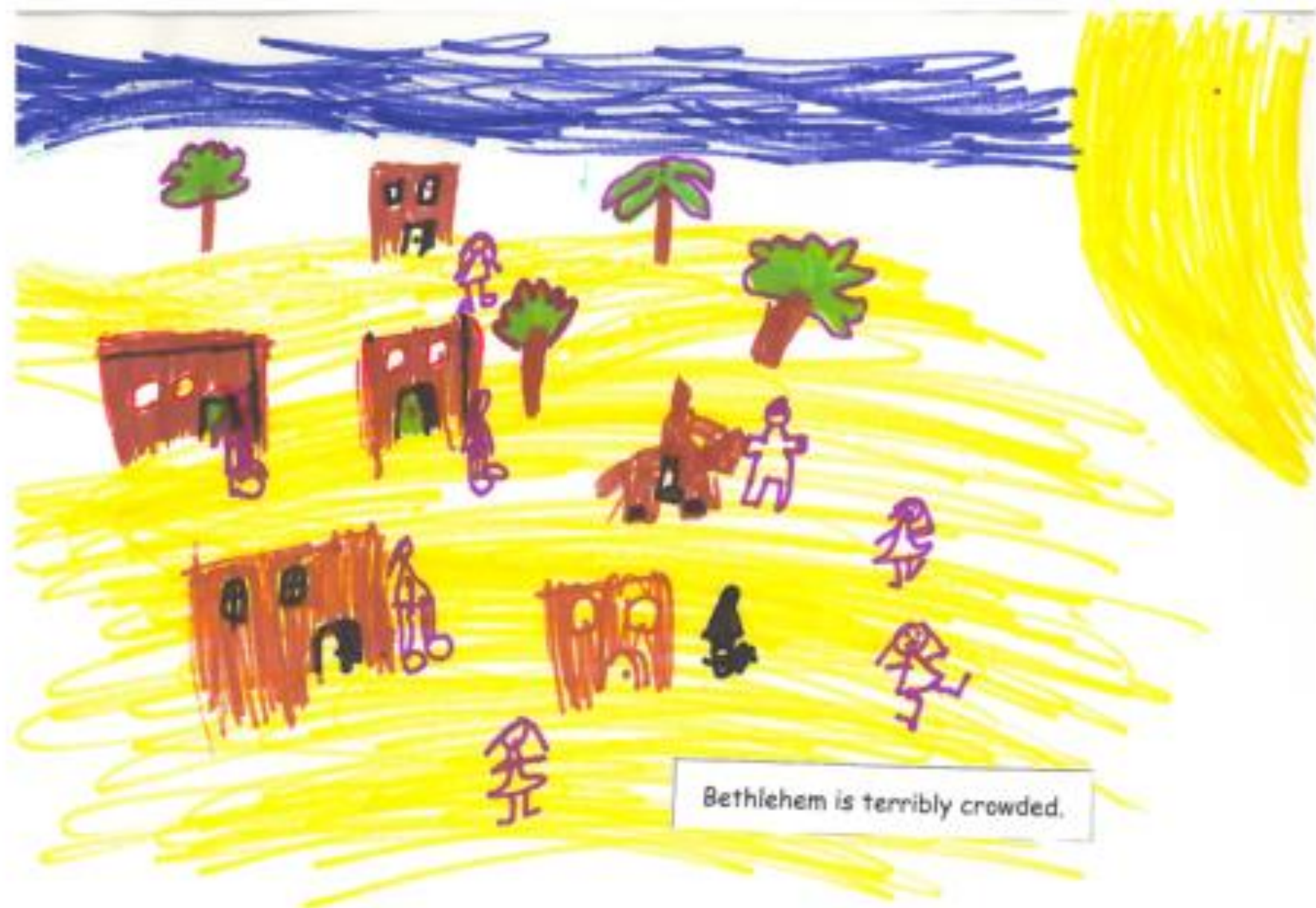


**Jess Dobson age 12**

**My work is about god in real life. Where is God? Perhaps he is walking down your street today. This picture is about showing or making people realise he will be there, but he might not stand out. My point is that if god suddenly walked down your street you would notice. The thing I like best about my work is the way that its different, it's bright and simple.**

## 30 Bites: telling the story in class shared art







**Asaf, 11 shows here that he is able to explain some reasons why the impact of religious celebrations today varies.**

- He looked at different possible answers to the question: what is the real meaning of Christmas in the UK today?
- The first list of points explains why the festival is seen in many different ways, showing he is alert to varied ways of looking at religions
- The personal explanation then goes on to consider how religion functions in the contemporary world, expressing ideas and a range of perspectives. This is characteristic of step 6

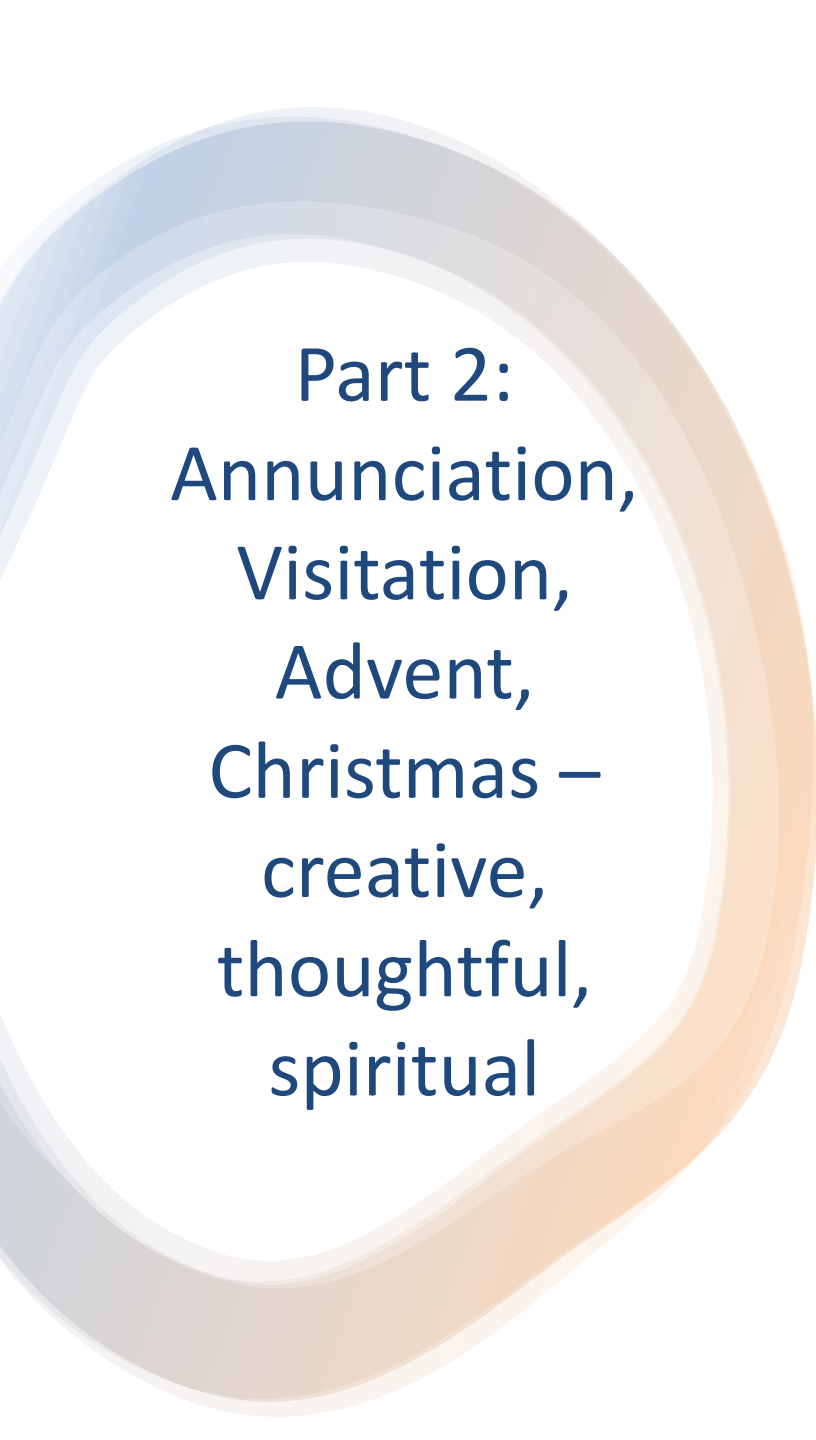
## The meaning of Christmas.

\* What different ideas are there about Christmas? :~:

- An atheist might celebrate it for the culture not the religious reason.
- A socialist might see it as a community event, for everyone to get to know each other
- A psychologist might see it as an event to entertain the mind and keep it from thinking about other things (anger, frustration, etc.).
- A Christian might see it as celebrating the birth of Jesus and his teachings.

\* My personal view of real Christmas.  
(give reasons & varied arguments)

- My point of view as a Muslim about Christmas is:
  - that now it is just considered as an event, a holiday, by most people.
  - the real meaning behind Christmas, in my opinion, is about celebrating life and togetherness.
  - Now a days many people don't celebrate Christmas in the traditional way because they might be atheists.
  - the people that do ~~not~~ celebrate Christmas for the religious meaning behind it, understand the meaning of a real Christmas, in my opinion.



## Part 2: Annunciation, Visitation, Advent, Christmas – creative, thoughtful, spiritual

Select your favourite three of these for the chat box and give a comment. But also use all eleven – or do eleven better things!

- A. Annunciation and visitation art work – observe and reflect
- B. Gabriel on the mobile...
- C. Advent calendars
- D. Which nativity?
- E. Christmas is Church – visual learning
- F. Paper the walls with your Christmas wisdom
- G. Male Madonna
- H. If Jesus was born in your town...
- I. Shepherd's diaries
- J. Christmas story in 30 bites – classroom gallery or picture book
- K. The real meaning of Christmas

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# Drawing conclusions

- Subject leaders need to lead – this is more about practical inspiration than anything else!!
- The range of ideas that enliven RE is endless, but it helps to have some to adopt or adapt
- Great lessons are memorable, spiritual, thoughtful and factual – go for all 4!
- Giving RE time and space – head-space most importantly – leads to higher achievement
- Spiritual growth in and through RE is always an open possibility. Expect some children to thrive like this.