

Advent in a bag



FAITH
@
HOME

Welcome to our Faith @ Home activity 'Advent in a bag'. Follow the numbered squares, with an activity idea for each day, and countdown to Christmas. Advent is a time to prepare to meet Jesus to think and to pray. Our theme this year is 'Follow the star' and the activities are based on stars. There are activities to explore the story, help those in need, talk together, pray and be creative. Please do upload pictures to the Parish Facebook page or email to mandy@waltonparish.org.uk. We hope you enjoy this resource to bring faith into your everyday family life. This is a free resource from St Mary's and St John's church.

With love from Mandy and the Team

Name _____





1. Advent countdown

Pin up your advent countdown chart and stickers in your home. Each day cover over the number with a sticker.

Colour in the words 'Follow the star' with bright colours.

I wonder how you might shine like a star? Are you excited to start your Advent journey?

2. Start filling your

Children's Society Christingle collecting tube. Add the service to your calendar (December 8th 3.30pm or 5pm).



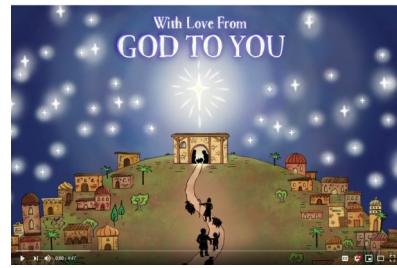
Could you sign up to deliver Christmas cards in your road? Look at the road list at the back of either St John's or St Mary's.

3. What does a star look like? Have a search on google. Can you draw a star? Share it on the Parish Facebook page or email it to mandy@waltonparish.org.uk



4. Watch the story of

'With love from God to you' on the Bible Society, the Parish website or follow the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IX2LCoTegfg>



5. Donate an item to the foodbank.

We are called to shine like stars, making a difference by shining God's light into the problems of the world. Helping others who have less than us can shine God's light to those in need.

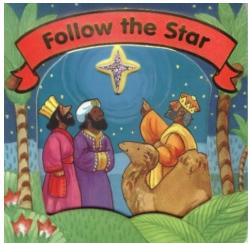


Follow the star

6. Find a Christmas story book or read about the star in Matthew 2:1-12

Talk about the story. Who is your favourite character? What surprises you about the story?

What does the star do in the story?



7. Make a star card for your neighbours or friends and invite them to come to a Christmas service with you. Take them a mince pie and share a Christmas story together.



Follow the Star

8. Come to one of our Christingle services at St Mary's Church at 3.30pm (pre-made) or 5pm (make in the service). Learn about the Christ light coming into our world.



9. Colour by numbers

Spend some time talking to God as you colour. Pray each colour:-

Blue —for yourself and your family

Yellow—say thank you

Purple —say sorry

Gold—for Jesus

10. Christmas cards

As you open each card say a prayer for the people who sent it. Talk as a family about what the cards tell you about the Christmas story. Which picture is your favourite and why?



11. Star friends

Write this simple prayer onto one or more stars 'loving God, bless my friend today'. Give it to a friend who shines like a star for you.



12. Think of as many

Christmas songs with the word 'star' in them as you can. Wonder together whether the star that is sung about might be the one the wise men followed. Have a sing song together.



13. Shine like stars.

Can you make a giant star to hang in your window. You could use wire hangers, tinsel and battery lights. Send a picture into Mandy.



14. Star sky:

Take a walk on a clear night and look at stars together. Think of how beautiful the stars in the sky can be and remember how stars lead people to think of the amazing wonder of God.



15. Place a small star onto

a table. Light a candle to help you think about Jesus the light of the world coming into your home and family. Ask God to be a light to everyone.



16. Make a star decoration

for your Christmas tree. Take a photo of it and share on the Parish Facebook page or email mandy@waltonparish.org.uk Google for ideas.



17. The star shines in the

darkness. Do you know any Christmas jokes? Who can you bring joy and laughter to today by telling them it?

Share on the Parish Facebook page or email it to mandy@waltonparish.org.uk for a chance to win a prize!



18. Make a string of stars. Label each one with a different word: homeless, hungry, lonely, hurting, laughing, crying, hiding, running, working, singing, loving, searching. Choose one each day and pray that God's star light would be close to those in that situation.



21. How could you be a 'star' today? Could you help out and not tell anybody? Could you do something kind for someone?



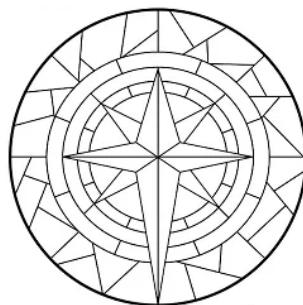
24. Let's go and find the baby. Join in one of our Crib services. Come dressed as one of the characters in the story.

3.30 and 5pm at St Mary's
4pm at St John's



19. Stained glass star

Colour in the plastic star with sharpies or stick on tissue paper to decorate. Hang it up in a window.



20. God sent his son,

Jesus, to come and live with us. He is with us everyday. Emmanuel—God with us. Where was God in your day? Say a thank you prayer to God.



22. Colour the scene in your bag. How many stars can you fit into the sky? Make the star extra special by adding glitter or tinsel so it shines brightly.



23. Make star

tablemats for Christmas Dinner—or any other special family meal. Write a simple prayer on each one. 'Thank you God for the stars who bring us food, and the stars who prepared this meal. Thank you that stars lead us to the love of God and the light of Jesus. Amen.'



25. Christmas Day

Celebrate the birth of Jesus.

St Mary's 10 am

St John's 10.30 am



Wishing you all

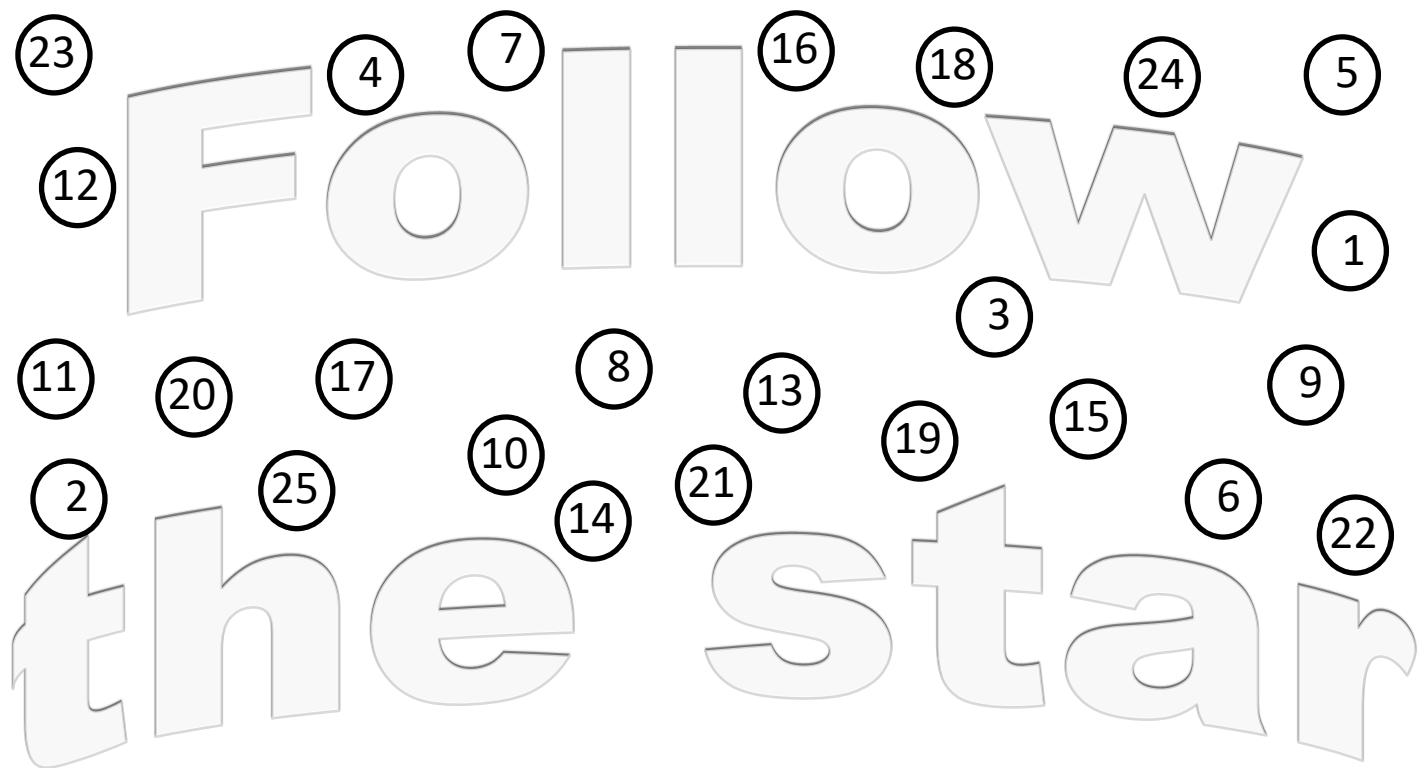
a very Happy

Christmas

From Mandy,

and all

the team.



Welcome to our Advent calendar! Each day of December add a spot to the date to show you have done your activity / challenge for that day. If you are unable to do any, please do not worry, just add the sticker and say a prayer for someone you love. We hope you enjoy getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. This is a great way to talk about the Christmas story with the family. This is a free resource from St Mary's and St John's church. Donations welcome.

Happy Christmas! Mandy and the Team

P - Purple
Y - Yellow
G - Gold (dark yellow)

