



# THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

## Prayer Resources

DIOCESE OF  
ST ALBANS  
*Living God's Love*

**These resources are to accompany the Hope of Christmas Nativity Film**

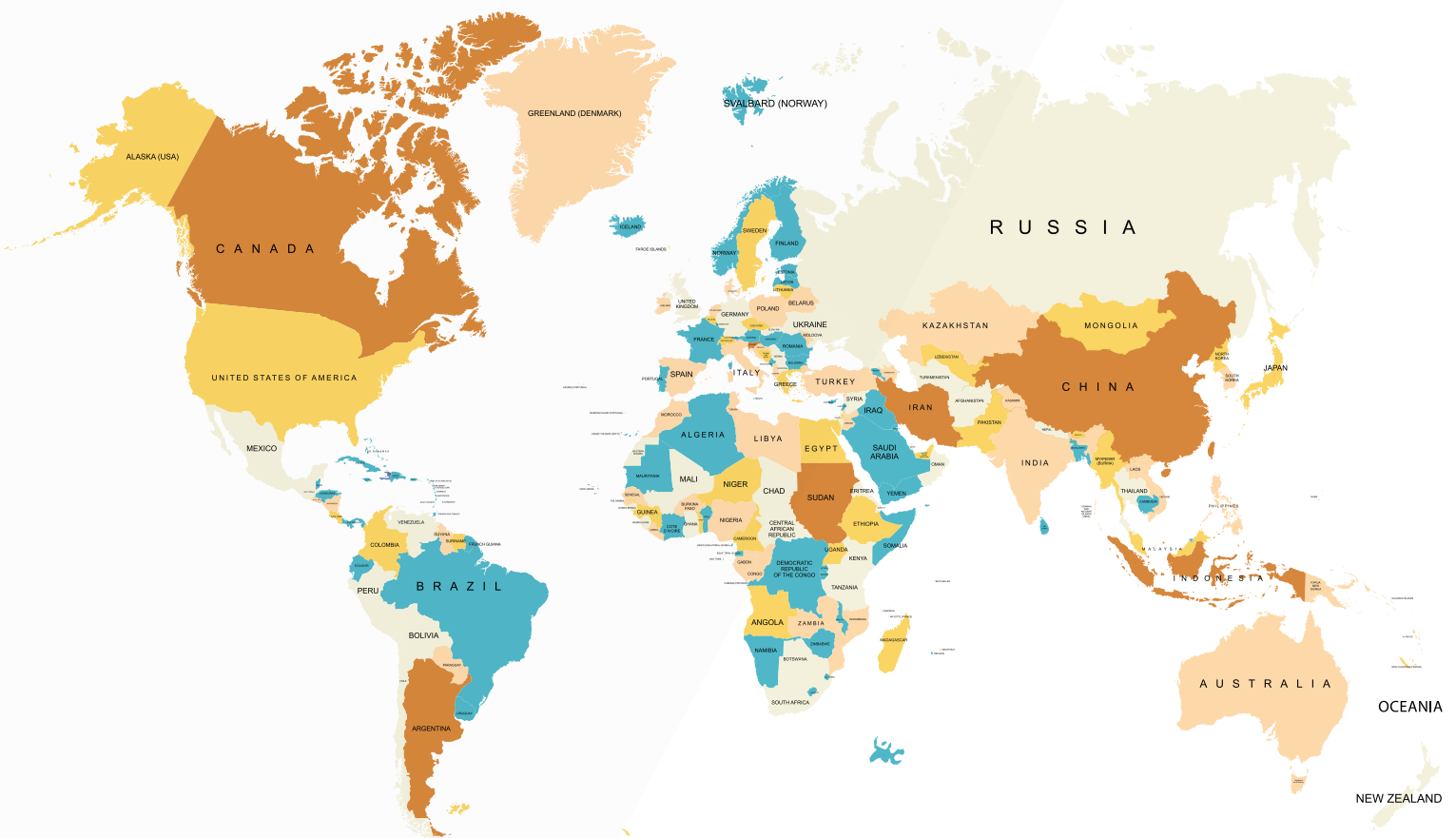
St Albans Cathedral/Christmas Nativity  
Starring St Albans Cathedral Children's Church  
with thanks to the Abbey CE VA Primary School

*\*Filmed following all relevant government guidance at the time.*



## PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

The hope of Christmas is that Jesus was born to give us life and life to the full! He's come to bring peace to the world and hope for every single person. You might like to print out a huge map of the world and pray for different parts of the world. You might like to pray for Yemen and the unrest happening there. Or for refugees who don't feel safe at the moment. You might like to pray for the UK and things in your town or for whole countries! We pray that everyone would be reminded that Jesus is the hope of the world.



## SOAKING TIME

The aim of our soaking time is that we spend time in God's presence and being reminded that He is the hope of Christmas. Ask the children to find a comfy place on the floor, be still and play a song quietly in the background. They can lie down if they would like to. Pray and ask God's presence to come. Tell the children to try and focus, see if they can catch anything that God is saying to them. He might be reminding the children that he loves them or is with them. Encourage the children to speak to God about anything they would like to. It can be a helpful image to say that sometimes hearing from God is like a feather floating down and we can be still and feel/catch it as it lands.





## LOLLIPOP STICK SHINING STAR

This prayer activity is all about reminding ourselves how God is our light in the darkness. We are going to make a star like the star that God sent to direct the wise men, this will help to remind us of God's faithfulness when we see it. You can hang it on your tree and every time you see it, ask God to show you how He is the light in the darkness.



### INSTRUCTIONS:

To make the star you will need to take your lollipop sticks and place them in the shape of a star like our handy example below. Once you are happy with your star put a little bit of glue on the ends of each of your sticks then place them back into the star shape pressing the two sticks together to help the glue set. After you have stuck your star together you can now get decorating. You can decorate however you would like, maybe with glitter, shiny paper or with crayons.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Lollipop Sticks
- Glue
- Shiny paper
- Glitter
- Crayons

## MEGAPHONE PRAYERS

We can pray in lots of different ways, we can pray quietly sitting on our own, we can pray with our friends or we can pray loudly. When the angels appeared to the shepherds to tell them about the birth of Jesus it was loud. A megaphone is used in a crowd to make sure that the person speaking can be heard. When you are praying for your friends to know more about Jesus, use your megaphone while you pray as a fun way to remind you that God hears our prayers loud and clear!



### INSTRUCTIONS:

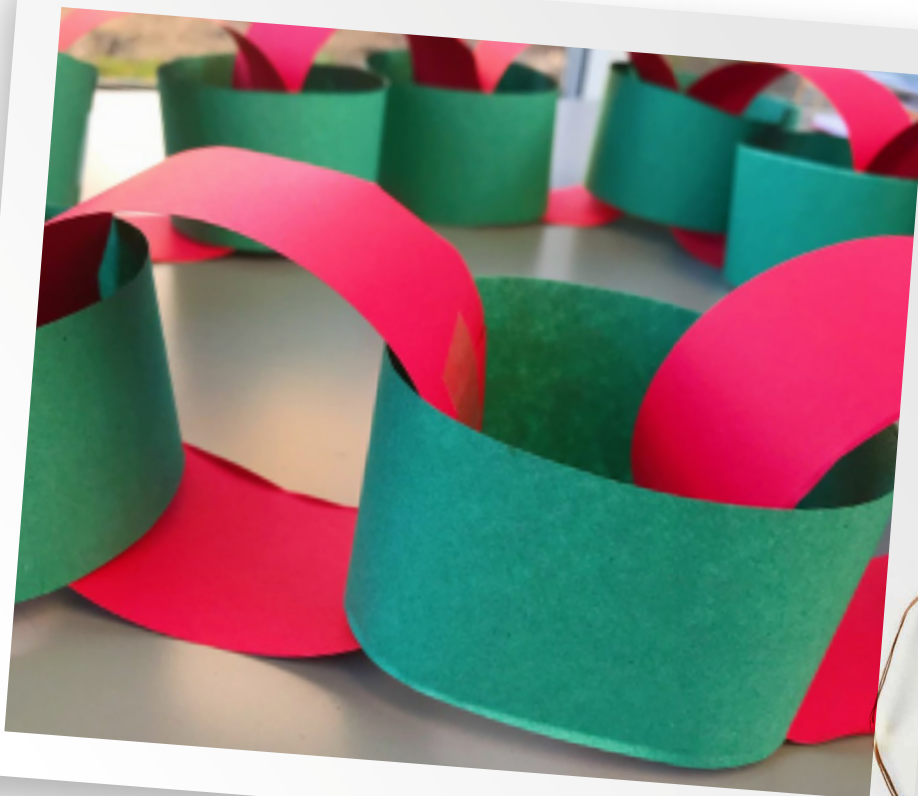
To make your megaphone, cut up some paper and roll into a cone shape. Stick the ends together so they stay as a cone. Now stick on your handle and decorate however you'd like to.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Glue
- Paper
- Things to decorate your megaphone with

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER PAPER CHAIN

This is a great way to include lots of people when you pray. A prayer chain is a paper chain with someone's name written on each chain individually. Why not think about those you know who might need some hope this Christmas.



### INSTRUCTIONS:

To make a prayer paper chain, first, you cut out some thin strips of paper. Take one strip and write someone's name on it; it's best if the name is of someone you know, like a parent, carer, friend or someone from school. Once you have written a name, create a loop by putting glue on one end of the strip and sticking it to the other end.

Then, create a chain by adding more loops to the first! Take a second strip and write another name on it. Put one end of the second strip of paper through the first loop, then stick the ends together to make a second loop. Keep writing more names on your strips and join them together into a long chain! If you find this difficult, you can get the help of an adult.

Once you have created your chain, you can use it to pray for the people whose names you've written and ask God to bring hope to each person.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Green and Red Paper
- Scissors
- Pens or pencils
- Glue



## PRAYER LETTERS TO GOD

We're going to write a prayer to God that we can look over and read over the Christmas season. The first thing about writing a letter is to know who we are writing too. We're writing our prayers to God and he is kind, generous and faithful and he loves each one of us!

In this letter you can write or say anything to God that you would like to. Here are a few helpful pointers to get you started! You can include them all or just pick a few to write about and speak to God about.

- Are you looking forward to Christmas? Share it with God! Tell him what you're excited about.
- Just like the wise men saw the star that led them to the new baby Jesus, is there any area or part of your life that you'd like Jesus to shine in? Perhaps it could be school or your family or home. The Bible says that Jesus is the light of the world! He helps shine light into all places. Think of some people or places you'd like Jesus to shine his light.
- Is there anything you feel worried or scared about? The hope of Christmas is that Jesus is with us! Share with God those things and ask him to remind you that he is your hope. When things feel a little uncertain, Jesus is our hope.
- Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write those in your letter too. Maybe list them and thank God for them. It could be your bed or your friends or your favourite toy!
- Why not finish your letter by asking God to be with you over the Christmas period and that he'd show just how much he brings hope to the world.



# IMAGINING WE'RE DIFFERENT CHARACTERS FROM THE CHRISTMAS STORY

## JOSEPH

Think about the story of Christmas and imagine yourself as Joseph! Joseph was Mary's husband. Think about all the feelings you might have had if you were Joseph and being on the long journey to Bethlehem. He made sure Mary was okay and tried to find a place for Jesus to be born. It was a really busy time in Bethlehem because a census was being taken and so there weren't any rooms. Joseph must have felt pretty out of control and scared. Mary was about to give birth! How would you have felt?

## MARY

Mary was the mother of Jesus. She was heavily pregnant when the journey to Bethlehem began. Can you imagine sitting on a donkey for that many hours! How do you think you would have felt if you were about to become the mother of the saviour of the world? Perhaps Mary would have felt nervous or unsettled. Maybe she would have remembered what the Angel said to her when they told her she was going to give birth to God's son "Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God". God was with her! If you're ever feeling like things are a little much and confusing, remember that just like Mary, we don't need to be afraid.

## THE WISE MEN

The wise men were known as the Magi. They seemed pretty cool and followed a star all the way to where Jesus was born. Imagine seeing the star and knowing you're going on a long journey to follow it. Would you have felt excited about the journey? Excited about meeting the baby Jesus at the end? The wise men gave gifts to Jesus. Is there anything you would give Jesus as a gift? Perhaps there's something you are good at, singing or welcoming people. When we give ourselves to Jesus, he loves that. Why not give Jesus yourself!

## SHEPHERDS

Let's imagine being the shepherds! We meet the shepherds out on the hillside. An angel appeared to them and told them not to be afraid, that he brings good news of great joy for all people! Then angels began praising God in front of the shepherds. Imagine being a shepherd and seeing all of this. How would you have felt? The shepherds hurried off to meet Jesus. The shepherds trusted what God had said. Do you find it hard or easy to trust God? Isn't it amazing that the angel said Jesus was to bring great joy for all people. Are there people you know who you could pray for now, that they would know joy?

