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# Star of Wonder

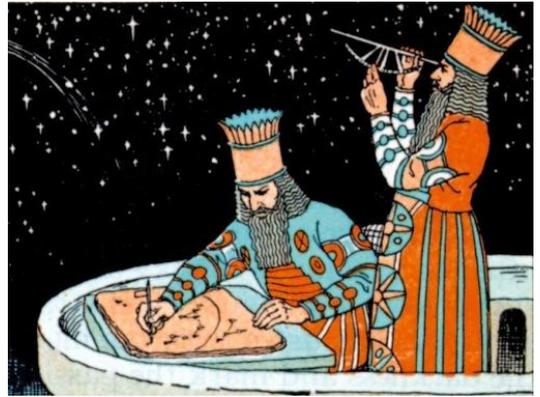


January 2021

I wonder if any of you are fans of Prof Brian Cox and Dara O'Briain and their star gazing programmes on the television. It was men with the same interest in the stars who are featured in the carol with the chorus that begins:

"Star of wonder, star of light....." It's the first line of the chorus of the carol, "We three kings of Orient are". Well, they may have been kings but more probably they were

astronomers (star watchers) working for a king. According to their books a new bright light was a herald of a new king being born. So convinced were they that they were witnessing a heavenly phenomenon, they were prepared to go in search of this king of another country.



So off they went, "through field and fountain, moor and mountain" according to the carol. They made sure they had gifts to give to this new king but they had no idea where the star would lead them. They seemed to be taken to Jerusalem and so they called at the palace of King Herod, surely where a new baby king would be. Bad move! Herod didn't know anything about a new king and certainly wasn't

going to allow any other king to take his place. His own wise men consulted their books and came up with the answer that it was predicted that a new King of the Jews would be born in Bethlehem, not far from Jerusalem. So Herod sent the travellers off to Bethlehem with orders to come back and tell him where the baby was so that he too could go and worship him. But what he really wanted was to get rid of him!



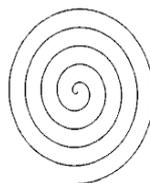
And so they arrived at the place where Mary, Joseph and Jesus were staying. It was probably some time after Jesus was born so by now he wasn't a tiny baby. Here these three travellers offered him their gifts – GOLD, FRANKINCENSE and MYRRH - not your usual gifts for a child but in recognition that they knew Jesus was to be someone very special. They were warned in a dream not to return to King Herod.

The date we remember this happening is January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Do you ever look at the stars and wonder about them? We know so much more now with people like Prof Brian Cox sharing their studies with us. Perhaps you would like to make some star decorations. See over the page for some ideas.

## Star Mobile

Draw a circle on an A4 piece of paper, blue if possible, using a dinner plate as a guide. Cut it out then draw a spiral shape on the circle. Cut along the lines until you reach the centre. Now cut about a foot long piece of ribbon or string and thread it through a hole you make at the centre of the spiral, being careful not to make the hole big enough for the knot to be pulled through. Lay the spiral down with the knot facing up.



Now cut out some stars, in shiny paper if possible, and attach them to the spiral with more ribbon, or strips of paper. Turn your spiral over and hang from the loop with the stars hanging below.



To make a WINDOW STAR find a piece of clear plastic, perhaps from a cake box. Trace the star below with thick black lines. Cut the outline and then the inside, keeping a thick black line. Stick shape onto the plastic but try not to use too much glue. Then colour the centre with sharpie pens (they write on plastic) or use coloured tissue paper, flat or scrunched into little balls.



Inside the main star are some more star shapes you could copy or cut out for your mobile.

