

'Light in the Darkness' Advent Calendar **Secondary**

Wonder about how stories from across the Bible show light in dark times using this online advent calendar.

This link will take you to the Advent calendar.

[Advent Calendar 2024 \(Secondary\)](#)


Or you can go via our [Diocese of Guildford website here.](#)


In the event that the direct links stops working the one on the website will still work.


Online Advent Calendar 2024


Following the positive feedback about the online Advent Calendars that we have offered for the last three years we have created new ones for 2024. The theme is '*Light in the Darkness*'. This Advent calendar does not contain pictures of elves and snowmen, instead each day takes you to a picture by an artist from a variety of cultures. Also, a story from the Bible a video that picks up the theme and some questions to wonder about together.

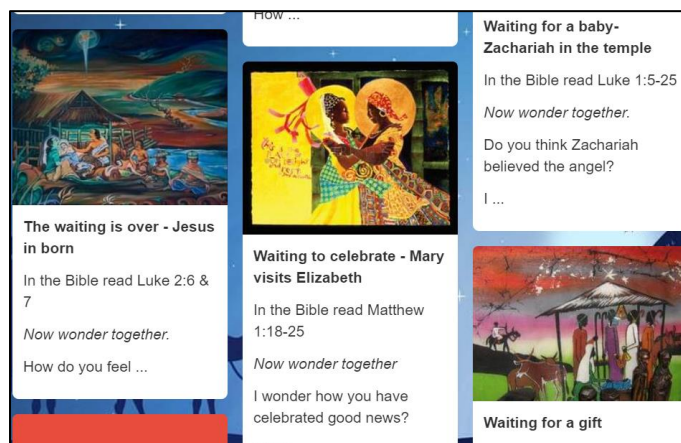
When you click on the door you will find:

 an image;

 some wondering questions;

 a video of the story or a song;

 the Bible reference for the story.



The calendar ends on the last day of term.

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'Light in the Darkness': Advent Calendar 2024 Secondary

At the weekends we have provided a picture and some questions to wonder about at home.

On the next page is a summary grid showing the content for each day. You may wish to select questions according to the age of your pupils. At the end of this document, you will find the images that we have used.





Using the Advent Calendar for collective worship in schools

The calendar would work well in 'class collective worship.

There is a separate primary calendar for younger pupils.



For each day to properly be an act of collective worship, spend a few moments together reflecting or praying about the things you've discussed. The questions are designed to establish some connections with the everyday lives of your pupils, so should help you to make this time appropriate and inclusive for all. You might want to ask a child to lead this.

Date	Character/Story 	Bible Reference 	Video Source All on YouTube 	'Wondering' Questions..... 
1 st	Introduction	None	https://youtu.be/xNQ-xH_FOc0?si=adpgBPNluXfYa-B2 Flickering candle flame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today, as you look at the candle flame flickering, what do you think about? Why is light so important to us? Talk together about your thoughts.
2 nd	Creation Light	Genesis 1:1-27	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V365a5ZrjQ Creation narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think God's first words were 'Let there be light?' • Which worldviews share this story? Which don't? • What do you think God most enjoyed creating? • What are <i>your</i> views about the concept of Creation? • Looking at the image, how has the artist created light?
3 rd	Noah	Read Genesis 6:9- 8:12	No video today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is the 'light' in this story? • Why might a rainbow be a good way to remind people of a promise? • Why do you think it has become a symbol of hope for many people? • Does the scientific explanation of how a rainbow is made decrease the sense of wonder that people might feel seeing one? Or its symbolism?
4 th	Abram & stars in the sky	Genesis 18:1-15 and 21:1-7 22:17&18	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEAtAyH1Rf0 Time lapse view of the night sky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think God used the picture of stars in the sky to illustrate his promise to Abram? • What image might you have used? • How did this promise come true in the Bible narrative? • Think about a time when you have looked at the starry skies. What did it feel like? What did you think about? • What did you think about as you watched the video?
5 th	Elijah and the widow	Read 1 Kings 17:1-24	No video today, but a link to a PowerPoint to tell the story if you wish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you spot who is being a light to whom in this story? • Why do you think the woman shared her food with Elijah? • Would you share you last bit of food with a stranger? • What challenges does this story present to us today?

6 th	Naaman and the servant girl	2 Kings 5:1-14	<p>Karuna Mobile Clinic delivering free healthcare in the Mumbai slums - YouTube</p> <p>Note: contains some challenging images and an appeal for donations at the end. You could stop before this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you spot someone being 'light' to another person in this story? • Why do you think the servant girl told her mistress about Elijah? Was that an easy thing for her to do? • What might you have done in Naaman's place? Or in the servant girl's place? • Watch the video from The Leprosy Mission: how is this Christian charity 'bringing light' to the people of Mumbai?
7 th	Lights in the dark		<p>https://youtu.be/tSIN3aD8NkA?si=dHRVbeziV0b5ALW9 Shawna Edwards song Be a Light</p> <p>https://youtu.be/rMnZBtWGyIE?si=PZ7k8CITC6qB6M-t Shawna Edwards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does it make you feel when you see the lights shining from the windows of your home? Or lights in the windows of other people's houses? • How is light comforting? • What do you think the writer of this song meant by the words 'The Star Still Shines'? Does it? How? • How might the words of the song bring comfort in a different way?
8 th	Light to warn of danger		<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reAlJKv7ptU My Lighthouse, Rend Collective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of a lighthouse? • Why might this Christian band have chosen the image of a lighthouse for this song? • What does the 'lighthouse' represent?
9 th	I am the light of the world	John 8:12	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW2vtrcNGVM Light of the World resource from Bible Society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think Jesus meant when he said he was the 'light of the world'? • Can you think of a part of the Bible where Jesus was 'the light of the world' to a person or people? • Lots of artists have tried to show Jesus as 'light of the world'. Why do you think this is? • What other things did Jesus say about himself?
10 th	You are the light of the world	Matthew 5:14-16	<p>https://youtu.be/8fUme1GA8BM?si=dYCPbEv1PEzRAH-K Harvest Christian Church</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think Jesus meant when he said 'You are the light of the world'? • Who has been a light to you? • How could <i>you</i> be a light to other people? • What might it mean for you to '<i>shine your light</i>' for others to see?

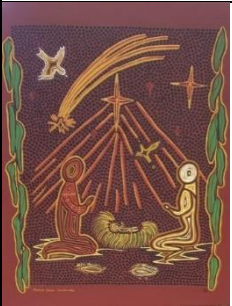

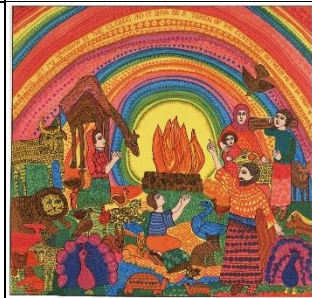

11 th	Zechariah and Elizabeth	Luke 1:5-24 & 57-80	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= OLezoUvOEQ&t=36s Bible Project video – this story in the context of Luke’s Gospel and the prophecies about Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you think Zechariah felt when the angel told him he was going to be a father? • The angel told Zechariah that his son was to prepare for the Lord; what do you think he might have to do? • Have you ever been told something that was difficult to believe? What was that? Did you change your mind? • Who brings the light in this story? <p>If you use the video, talk about the story from the perspective of Zechariah and Elizabeth.</p>
12 th	John the Baptist	Mark 1:1-8	https://www.youtube.com/shorts/-zS8Gyz16BQ Bible Project, John the Baptist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whose visit would you want to prepare for in some special way? • How was John preparing the way for Jesus, the ‘light of the world’? • What did John say about Jesus? • Where is the ‘light’ in this story?
13 th	Mary and the Angel	Luke 1:26-38	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT_cHi8QJMw Excerpt from The Nativity Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a good look at this picture: where are the main characters in this part of the story? • Why do you think the artist chose to paint so many things happening rather than focus just on Mary and the angel? • How did the angel's visit bring light to the world?
14 th	Light to guide the way		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNcNPwHlfMw Darkness to light	<p>Choose a section of the video to watch (it's quite long!)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on how light comes in different ways in the section of the video that you choose. • How might this make someone feel hopeful? • Have you ever been in a dark place and wanted/needed a light to shine? • Look at the image of the book: what do you think the artist is saying? • How might a book be like a light in the darkness?
15 th	Lights to celebrate		Lights in Trinidad and Tobago https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBMCgBSBeho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is light a recurring theme across celebrations from different religions and beliefs? • Watch a short section of the video: does culture influence the way that people in Trinidad and Tobago decorate their houses? What surprises you? • In the section of the video you watch, how visible is the Nativity story? • Why might this be?






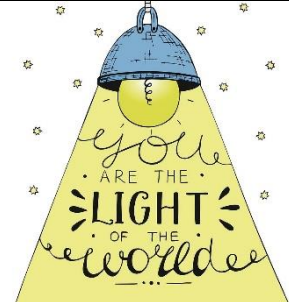


16 th	An Angel Visits Joseph	Matthew 1:18-25	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmgW-LloLsc An angel visits Joseph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think dreams can sometimes tell people things? • What do you think Joseph might have been worried about? • What do you think persuaded Joseph that this was no ordinary dream? • Who do you think the people at the back of the picture are?
17 th	Journey to Bethlehem	Luke 2:1-7	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKnCAiN4k-w Posada – a Mexican tradition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the 'light' in this part of the story? • Posada is a Mexican tradition based on the journey of the Holy Family (Mary & Joseph) to find somewhere to stay. Families travel around, re-enacting this search, one family being given the honour of hosting a welcome. • Why do you think this particular part of the story is so important in this tradition? • Who do you think most benefits from taking part in a posada? • How might welcoming others be like light in the darkness?
18 th	Jesus is Born	Luke 2:8-20 & Matthew 2:1-12	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE Pentatonix sing 'Mary, did you know?' which picks up on the themes across the calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the song in the video - what links are there with the theme of light in the darkness, and this part of the story? • What are the different questions that are asked as part of this song? • What do you think about the ideas that are expressed here?
19 th	Shepherds visit Jesus	Luke 2:8-20	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbJjWeRwseM An insight into being a shepherd in the hills of Bethlehem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this video help you to understand what it was like to be a shepherd in Bethlehem? • Why do you think the shepherds were chosen to be the first visitors to the stable? • How might this good news have been like light in the darkness for the shepherds? And for others who would hear them tell the story? • How might this story still be like a light in the darkness?
20 th	Visit of the Wise Men and the Journey to Egypt	Matthew 2:1-14	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdUJISxRZKc An introduction to the celebration of Three Kings' Day, the festival of Epiphany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think a star might be a good sign for the birth of a King? • What do you think about the gifts that the Magi brought? Or about their hidden meaning? • How are the traditions of Three Kings' Day linked with this part of the story? • What tradition might you create to symbolise this part of the story? • How might you 'bring light' to others this Christmas, maybe especially to your family?

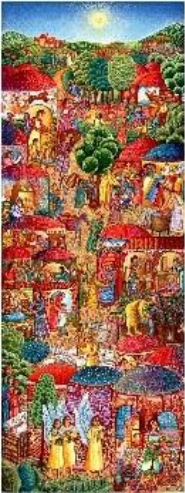



We reserve the right to change the videos because, our experience is that people release new Christmas materials in December so if we come across something exciting, we may insert that video!

Have fun waiting for Christmas together
Jane and Rachel

Images and source

1 st Introduction	2 nd Creation of Light	3 rd Noah	4 th Abram & stars in the sky
			
<p>Aboriginal Art Martina Parry https://indigenousjesus.blogspot.com/search?q=nativity</p>	<p>Nepal Creation by Binod Ghising 6 Days of Creation, Nepal Thangka – @globalworship on Tumblr</p>	<p>USA The Rainbow John August Swanson Rainbow: Art in the Christian Tradition</p>	<p>USA Covenant with Abram Michael Winters Covenant-With-Abram-Michael-Winters.jpg (450x563)</p>

<p>5th Elijah and the widow</p>  <p>United Kingdom photo from the Lumino Project A Widow feeds Elijah FreeBibleimages :: A widow feeds Elijah :: Elijah travels to Zarephath to meet a widow (1 Kings 17:7-16, 1 Kings 18:1)</p>	<p>6th Naaman and the servant girl</p>  <p>Manuscript from Germany in 1360 Art in the Christian Tradition:</p>	<p>7th Lights in the dark</p>  <p>ArturGór eck Snow Winter Mountains - Free photo on Pixabay Snow Winter Mountains - Free photo on Pixabay</p>	<p>8th Light to warn of danger</p>  <p>TheOtherKev user_id:9436196 Lighthouse Night Tower - Free photo on Pixabay Lighthouse Night Tower - Free photo on Pixabay</p>
<p>9th I am the light of the world</p>  <p>United Kingdom I am the light of the world art4prayer </p>	<p>10th You are the light of the world</p>  <p>United States of America You are the light of the world Textile by American Sundays You Are The Light Of The World Tapestry - Textile by American Sundays - Pixels</p>	<p>11th Zechariah and Elizabeth</p>  <p>India The visitation Sister Claire Global Christian Worship Global Christian Worship</p>	<p>12th John the Baptist</p>  <p>German Icon Nikola Saric Witnesses – Nikola Saric Witnesses – Nikola Saric</p>

<p>13th Mary and the Angel</p>	<p>14th Light to guide the way</p>	<p>15th Lights to celebrate</p>	<p>16th Joseph and the Angel</p>
 <p>USA The Visit John August Swanson A Visit: Art in the Christian Tradition</p>	 <p>United States of America Lance Brown Light my path Paintings of Jesus Christian artwork Paintings of Jesus Christian artwork</p>	 <p>Michelle_Raponi Church Decoration Christmas - Free photo on Pixabay Church Decoration Christmas - Free photo on Pixabay</p>	 <p>Native American Indian An Angel Visits Joseph Fr Giuliani Fr. John Giuliani's iconography - U.S. Catholic</p>

<p>17th Journey to Bethlehem</p>	<p>18th Jesus is Born</p>	<p>19th Shepherds visit Jesus</p>	<p>20th Visit of the Wise Men and the Journey to Egypt</p>
 <p>Image United States of America Everett Patterson</p> <p>Jose y Maria</p> <p>EverettPatterson - Etsy UK</p> <p>The Story Behind the Viral 'José y Maria' Common Good Magazine</p>	 <p>Congo</p> <p>Nativity</p> <p>Joseph Mulamba-Mandangi</p> <p>Stunning Nativity Art from Around the World - Cultivated Learning</p>	 <p>Cameroon</p> <p>The shepherds Visit Jesus</p> <p>Jesus Mafa</p> <p>Art in the Christian Tradition</p>	 <p>China</p> <p>Visit of the Wise men</p> <p>John Lu Hung Nien (Lu Hongnian)</p> <p>Stunning Nativity Art from Around the World - Cultivated Learning</p>