

'Light in the Darkness' Advent Calendar

Wonder about the various characters waiting for the birth of Jesus' using this online advent calendar.

This link will take you to the Advent calendar.

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


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 in which we ask the pupils to look for light and a video of that story and some questions to wonder about together.

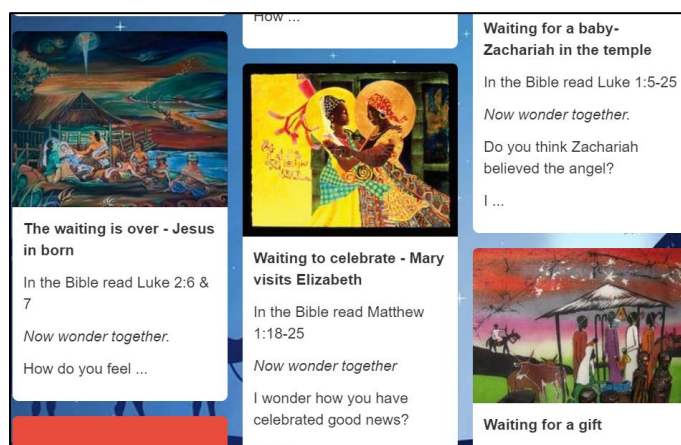
When you click on the door you will find:

 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 Primary

At the weekends we have provided a picture, a video that we hope families may enjoy watching together, 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.





Many videos are aimed at younger children, so you may prefer to read the story from a Bible with older pupils.

There is a separate calendar for secondary 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..

'Light in the Darkness' Advent Calendar 2024 Overview – Primary Version

| 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 | None |
| 2 nd | Creation Light | Genesis 1:1-27 | https://youtu.be/jpiTdf7edec?si=tmJ32bghslttht8xi Bite sized bricks | Why do you think God's first words were 'Let there be light?' What do you think God most enjoyed creating? What do you enjoy most about the world? Looking at the image, how has the artist created light? |
| 3 rd | Noah | Read Genesis 6:9- 8:12 | https://youtu.be/qzYjy6lhRag?si=bE4qI9GMGqTDdfHt Saddleback Kids | Where is the 'light' in this story? What was the rainbow a sign of? Why do you think it has become a symbol of hope for many people? Have you ever seen a rainbow? Or made one?! |
| 4 th | Abram & stars in the sky | Genesis 18:1-15 and 21:1-7 22:17&18 | https://youtu.be/MS0sgcySyt0?si=cz9ULWm1Hso7CQ-T Fishnet Bible Stories | Where is the 'light' in this story? Why do you think God used the picture of stars in the sky to illustrate his promise to Abram? Can you think of another time when a star was important in the Bible? Have you ever been outside on a starry night, what did it feel like? What did you see? |
| 5 th | Elijah and the widow | Read 1 Kings 17:1-24 | https://youtu.be/tSaVwQTjOuU?si=wc2UaVIKXhIvCwit Bricktime Studios | Can you spot someone being light to another person in this story? Why do you think the lady shared her food with Elijah? Would you share you last bit of food with a stranger? Can you think of another Bible story where a little bit of food went a long way? |

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| 6 th | Naman and the servant girl | 2 Kings 5:1-14 | https://youtu.be/aKrhH-sJ03g?si=N61sZAI2jqcc8AsO Saddleback kids | Can you spot someone being light to another person in this story? Why do you think the servant girls told her mistress about Elijah? Was that an easy thing to do? Why do you think Naaman didn't want to go into the river? Have you ever helped an adult? How did you help them? |
| 7 th | Lights in the dark | | https://youtu.be/rMnZBtWGyIE?si=PZ7k8CITC6qB6M-t Shawna Edwards The Star Still Shines | How does it make you feel when you see the lights shining from the windows of your home? How is light comforting? |
| 8 th | Light to warn of danger | | https://youtu.be/JeJvKkBV6rY?si=OrBH_IJvf-g9Rh61 Rend Co.Kids | Have you ever seen a lighthouse light shining in the dark? What other lights can you think of that warn people of danger? Who do you think might be the lighthouse referred to in this song? |
| 9 th | I am the light of the world | John 8:12 | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW2vtrcNGVM Scripture Union | What do you think Jesus meant when he said he was the light of the world? Can you think of a Bible story when Jesus was 'the light of the world to a person or people? How would you draw Jesus as light of the world? |
| 10 th | You are the light of the world | Matthew 5:14-16 | https://youtu.be/8fUme1GA8BM?si=dYCPbEv1PEzRAH-K Harvest Christian Church | What do you think Jesus meant when he said you are the light of the world? How could <i>you</i> be a light to other people? How could <i>your class</i> be a light to other people? Who has been a light to you? |
| 11 th | Zechariah and Elizabeth | Luke 1:5-24 & 57-80 | https://youtu.be/zFH0Ii6Vf0?si=GmArR7r7yvscMK_B Faithkids | How do you think Zachariah felt when the angel told him he was going to be a dad? The angel told Zachariah that his son was to prepare for the Lord, I wonder what he had to do? Have you ever been told something that was difficult to believe? What was that? Did you change your mind? Can you see any light in this story? |
| 12 th | John the Baptist | Mark 1:1-8 | https://youtu.be/t-By920utik?si=eqh3on0bVMTcDtlv Bite sized Bricks | How do you get ready for an important visitor to your school? How was John bringing light to the people who came to listen to him? Why was there a special light as Jesus came out of the water? How are you getting ready for Christmas? |

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| 13 th | Mary and the Angel | Luke 1:26-38 | https://youtu.be/OiEtuCaOEB4?si=bBYPGF0T9xkoGGES Bible Kids | Have a really good look at this picture, what else can you see happening in the village? Why do you think the artist chose to paint so many things happening while the angel was with Mary? How do you think Mary felt when the angel appeared? How does the angel's visit bring light to the world? |
| 14 th | Light to guide the way | | https://youtu.be/BNcNPwHlfMw?si=KGyTibP8HnCSE2RU Dark to Light Jonathan Besler | Have you ever been in a dark place and had to use a light to guide your way? How did you feel? What would have happened if the light had gone out? Why do you think the artist has shown a book with light coming from it? How do you know what to do? |
| 15 th | Lights to celebrate | | https://youtu.be/EBMCgBSBeho?si=7bfgPSZ5Up26yuYg Trinidad Christmas Houses 2023 | Why do people use lights to decorate at Christmas time? Talk about some of the Christmas lights you have seen this year. Do you have a favourite? Why is it your favourite? |
| 16 th | An Angel Visits Joseph | Matthew 1:18-25 | https://youtu.be/EZdN7btakDE?si=64Kahs7qHBu75qB8 Arkkids | Who do you think the people are at the back of the picture? How do people pass on messages in your school? your family? How did Joseph know that the angel in his dream was giving him a message from God? How does Joseph help bring light in the darkness? |
| 17 th | Journey to Bethlehem | Luke 2:1-7 | https://youtu.be/jSL9KGQ8IA?si=sIJVyS6HqhxLBTJN Bricktime Studios With words | Have you ever been on a long journey? What did it feel like? How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they couldn't find anywhere to stay? Who showed kindness, light, in this story? How can you be light to people who are away from home or in a new place? |
| 18 th | Jesus is Born | Luke 2:8-20 & Matthew 2:1-12 | https://youtu.be/URMtYSvMJys?si=gGiJF40o4WkYVedc Bible Society 2018 | Look at the picture where is the light coming from? How did Jesus birth bring light to the people who came to visit him? In the video how did the visitors change after they had seen Jesus? What would you give to a baby? |

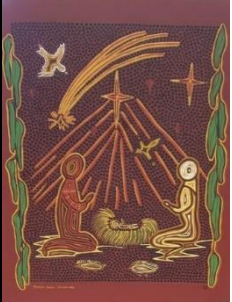

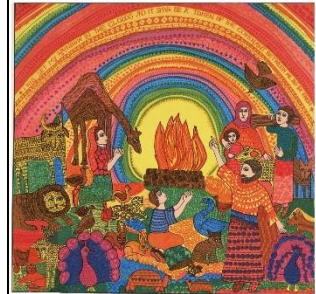
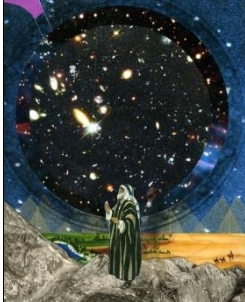




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| 19 th | Shepherds visit Jesus | Luke 2:8-20 | https://youtu.be/mgaKobb-mqg?si=vx61MKn0Y4RS2Z9f Faith kids videos | How do you think the shepherds felt when the sky was filled with angels? Why do you think they rushed off to visit the baby, in the middle of the night? What would you have done? Where can you see light in this story? |
| 20 th | Visit of the Wise Men and the Journey to Egypt | Matthew 2:1-14 | https://youtu.be/0jYo_xYLPu8?si=uSz6-INVd3NmQXAC RLEC Productions | Have you ever seen a really bright star? Why was it a good idea to follow the star? Why was it a bad idea to follow the star? What gift might a king give to a baby nowadays? Where can you see light in this story? |


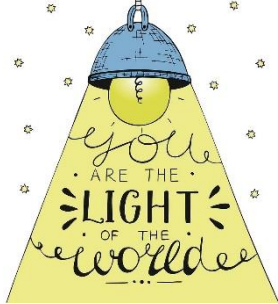






We recommend that teachers watch the videos using the links above before the pupils open the advent calendar to make sure that they are suitable for your pupils. We reserve the right to change the videos because, our experience is that people release new Christmas materials in December so if we come across something exciting, we may insert that video!


Have fun waiting for Christmas together

Jane and Rachel

Images and source

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

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| <p>9th I am the light of the world</p> | <p>10th You are the light of the world</p> | <p>11th Zechariah and Elizabeth</p> | <p>12th John the Baptist</p> |
|  <p>United Kingdom I am the light of the world art4prayer </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>India The visitation Sister Claire Global Christian Worship Global Christian Worship</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</p> |  <p>United States of America Lance Brown Light my path</p> |  <p>Michelle_Raponi</p> |  <p>Native American Indian An Angel Visits Joseph Fr Giuliani</p> |

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| <p>The Visit John August Swanson A Visit: Art in the Christian Tradition</p> | <p>Paintings of Jesus Christian artwork Paintings of Jesus Christian artwork</p> | <p>Church Decoration Christmas - Free photo on Pixabay Church Decoration Christmas - Free photo on Pixabay</p> | <p>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></p> <p>Image Ugandan Heritage Journey to Bethlehem Gloria Ssali Journey To Bethlehem - Joseph and Mary #2 Painting by Gloria Ssali - Pixels</p> | <p></p> <p>Congo Nativity Joseph Mulamba-Mandangi Stunning Nativity Art from Around the World - Cultivated Learning</p> | <p></p> <p>Cameroon The shepherds Visit Jesus Jesus Mafa Art in the Christian Tradition</p> | <p></p> <p>China a Visit of the Wise men John Lu Hung Nien (Lu Hongnian) Stunning Nativity Art from Around the World - Cultivated Learning</p> |