



# CARLTON-IN-LINDRICK METHODIST CHURCH



December 2021

## A message for Advent

*O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,  
Come and behold him,  
Born the king of angels*

*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

STF 212

As we begin Advent, we have said our farewells to one liturgical year and with the first Sunday of Advent we turn to Year C in the liturgical calendar and we begin the seasonal cycle once more.

Christmas trees will be coming out of storage and baubles will be dusted and lights checked to see if they are still working. In our churches we are getting our head around physical Christmas services, a far cry from where we were last year. Although we have had to be Covid careful and we must continue to respect one another when in large groups as we know Covid is still very much active and still devastating families.

We reminisce of Christmases past. I know it often takes me ages to decorate our Christmas tree, a 7ft white artificial one which I have had so long now, each year I wonder if it will last one more year. The Christmas carols and songs playing out in the background as hopefully this year the grandchildren may be able to help me. Our tree is over 25 years old, each bauble holds a memory or at least triggers one, especially the handmade ones that our children made when they were small, and in a disposable world our grown up kids always ask, "why have you still got those?" Along with the happy memories we have, these can cause great sadness of loved ones who are no longer with us and for many people the financial impact can make it a hard, difficult time. Some churches will be having memorial services in the coming weeks and months to think about and remember loved ones.

For me as a minister my most favourite service is Christmas Eve Communion. In my time in London, very often I would have had a Christingle in the afternoon and if Christmas Eve was on a Sunday, a morning service too. Then that wait in between till 11 pm when we would head off to take a service for half 11. The atmosphere, the reflection, the quietness and then sharing the first communion of Christmas always left me with emotional tears in my eyes. I would often wonder how I would get all the services done in time, let alone take them, but last year on reflection I missed that busyness.

As we enter this time of Advent let us remember:-

**Love** – The love of God who gave us his Son, a love that knows no bounds, is there for all to seek. A love we are called to live our lives by.

**Joy** – "Joy to the world", joy that Christ's birth brings as we reflect, "The Lord has come." The joy in our families of the gatherings not allowed last year.

**Peace** – "The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always." The peace he brings to our lives. May there be peace where there is war and conflict.

**Hope** – May we enter a new year with Hope, for without Jesus in our lives there is no hope.

*Yea, Lord we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given:  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing*

*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas,  
and may God shower you with his blessings

Rev Angela



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Please note the different times for some of our services.*

DECEMBER		
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship – Rev Angela Pothecary
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	* Morning Worship – Rev Alan Hindmarch – Carol Service
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	* Own Arrangement – led by the Stewards
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm	Christmas Eve Communion – Rev Angela Pothecary
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Christmas Day Worship – Rev Angela Pothecary There will be a retiring collection for Action For Children
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>		<b>No service</b>
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>		No Coffee Morning

\* See below



### Carol Services

Do you have a favourite Christmas carol? We'd like to include it in the service on either 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> December. Please let Alan, Helen or Eddie know by **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** December at the latest. If you would like to tell the congregation why it is your favourite, that would be great, or you can tell us, and someone else will read it out. If there's no particular reason, please still feel free to choose a carol.

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### Christmas Cards

For those wishing to send cards to church friends, a reminder that the post box will be in church on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. Cards will be distributed on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

JANUARY		
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3.00 pm	Sunday Worship – Rev Julie Coates
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		No Coffee Morning
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am – 1 pm	A Time of Prayer (please see separate article from Rev Angela)
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship – Own Arrangement – Rosemary Hall
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am 6.00 pm	Morning Worship – Rev Bob Heathcote Circuit Service at The Crossing – Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	12 for 12.15 pm	Events Group Meeting – bring lunch (C&C)
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship – Rev Angela Pothecary Covenant Service with Holy Communion
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship – Own Arrangement – Rosemary Hall

## Books



The books which were on sale at the Christmas Fayre, will remain 'on display' upstairs until Christmas, and can be accessed during coffee mornings. Please put your money in the coffee morning donation pot.

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## Gift Day

The Gift Day brought in almost £2,500. We are grateful to Rev Angela for giving her time to receive the gifts. It was a marvellous effort at comparatively short notice. Many thanks to those who made up the total.

I am less fearful about the immediate future of our Church as money begins to come in through the offerings, the coffee mornings and from other sources like the Christmas Fayre and for Christmas greetings in lieu of cards. We still need to pray about the future because we are not bringing people to Jesus. That is the command that Jesus gave us just before His ascension to be with His Father. If that does not happen then we are heading for a precipice. We therefore come together for a time of prayer on 6<sup>th</sup> January. Please see Rev Angela's article below.

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### **A TIME OF PRAYER**

**"What is God calling us to here in Carlton?"  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
10.30 am – 1pm**

Prayer is where all our planning and thinking should begin.

In God,  
For God,  
and of God.

To enable us to focus on the growth of the kingdom then, we have to begin by taking time to ask God "What is your will for us in this place?" How might we grow and rekindle the spirit in the village of Carlton? 'The Church' is one body in Christ. We are all part of that body even though we may think what we are able to do is of very little significance.

There is a tiny bone in the ankle called the talus bone and it has a microscopic blood vessel that runs through it which feeds the life-giving blood to the foot and ankle. Without that supply the foot dies. There are many other tiny bones in the body in our fingers, toes and ears that without them we would have limited hearing and flexibility in our hands and feet. And so are we all important parts of God's church in Carlton. One part is reliant upon another to enable a fully functional body with Christ at the head.

We are holding a time of prayer on January 6<sup>th</sup>, Epiphany, to focus on God and his will at Carlton for those who are the Methodist Church here. There will be time for individual prayer, we shall share lunch (please bring your own) and then end with a final time of united prayer as we gather together what God has placed upon our hearts.

This will be a united moment for us all to focus upon our calling and decide what the next steps will be. So in preparation for this day, I urge you all to seriously consider, and ask God in your daily prayers, this question:

"Why are we here in Carlton?"

Anyone with an interest in the future of our church is welcome to join us.

Rev Angela Potheary

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Prayer should always be our first response to every situation.  
Joyce Meyers

Where God guides,  
he provides.

## Garden Party in aid of Singing with Dementia

On Saturday 23rd of October Connie McPhun hosted a garden party at her house in Carlton-in-Lindrick to help raise funds for a local group, Singing with Dementia.

The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed hot drinks and home-made cakes and scones. There was a "Prize Every Time" tombola and Christmas cracker and decorations stall.

Many thanks to all who came and helped or donated in any way. The Singing with Dementia group meet monthly and the next meeting is the Christmas Party on Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>. This will take the form of an Old Time Music Hall.

Denise

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### GIFTS (Yvonne)

Since the Wise Men gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ child, gifts have been a special tradition at Christmas.

Most people love books - about hobbies, cooking and gardening, history or true life. You can escape with books of romance, mystery or detective thrillers. Books are a great gift for children. Reverend Awdry's Thomas the Tank Engine and Beatrice Potter's Peter Rabbit have stood the test of time – also Enid Blyton stories and Harry Potter. Paddington Bear said 'I'm sure you did your best and you meant well. These are two of the most important things of life.'

The Bible is the most read book in the world. On 'Desert Island Discs' the Bible and complete works of Shakespeare are given to guests. They can then choose 8 pieces of music, a book and a luxury item. Popular choices are 'Robinson Crusoe' and a telescope!



Yesterday's history, tomorrow's a mystery.  
Today's a gift. That's why they call it the present.

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### RECIPE CORNER (Yvonne)



#### Fudge (A gift for a treat)

397g can of condensed milk.  
150g milk (full fat if possible)  
450g demerara sugar  
115g butter.  
Cherries, nuts or chocolate can be added.

Put ingredients in a large pan (preferably non-stick). Melt over a low heat until sugar dissolves. Boil for 10-15 minutes stirring continuously (careful – VERY HOT!). Drop a small amount into a cup of cold water. If it forms a ball, it's ready! Add fruit, nuts or chocolate. Spread into a tray to cool.

#### Mincemeat and Pear Flan

Make or buy a 23cm / 9" flan case  
400g can of pear halves  
450g mincemeat

##### Streusel topping

30g plain flour  
20g light soft brown sugar  
30g butter

Mix flour and sugar, rub in butter until like breadcrumbs. Set aside.  
Spread mincemeat into case and spread evenly. Drain pears. Pat dry with kitchen towel. Cut each pear-half lengthways into 1/4" slices (keeping slices from each half together). Arrange in circle on mincemeat, fanning slices slightly. Spoon streusel over pears. Bake 15-20 minutes at 180°/Gas 4. Serve warm or cold.



## After 1 Corinthians 13



If I bake a Christmas cake and dozens of mince pies, but have not love,  
I am just another harassed housewife.  
If I decorate my house with outdoor fairy lights and a twinkling Christmas tree, but have not love,  
I am just wasting electricity for no reason.  
If I write a hundred Christmas cards and stick a newsletter in each one, but have not love,  
I only gain writer's cramp.

Love stops baking to phone a friend in need.  
Love stops decorating to hug a child.  
Love stops shopping to visit a lonely neighbour.



Love does not envy the colour co-ordinated Christmas decorations in another's house,  
Nor envy the neatly wrapped presents under a neighbour's tree.  
Love does not write vain Christmas letters boasting of this year's achievements.  
Love does not just send cards to those who will send one back.  
Love does not only buy presents for those who can return the favour.  
Love does not work out how much a friend will spend on your gift and then seek to spend not a penny more. Love knows the joy of giving without counting the cost.  
Love is patient when faced with a seasonal queue at the post office  
and smiles at those sharing the experience.  
Love does not get angry and shout at the kids to stay out of the way, it keeps no record of wrongs.  
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.  
Computer games break, chocolates soon vanish,  
Christmas trees drop their needles, but the gift of LOVE endures for ever.  
Love is not just for Christmas: it lasts the whole year through.  
Christ is not just for Christmas: he wants to stay with you for ever.



Judith Merrell, Leprosy Mission

One Christmas, the Sunday School heard the story of the shepherds visiting Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the stable, and then they all drew pictures. One little boy included a dog in his nativity picture. When asked why, he explained that it was a German Shepherd.



Christmas is really quite bizarre.  
When else would you sit around a  
dead tree in your living room  
eating sweets and satsumas  
out of your socks?

A woman queued up for her Christmas stamps.  
"What denominations would you like?" asked the assistant.  
"Goodness, has it come to this? Give me five Methodist,  
30 Church of England and 15 Baptist please."



A vicar was putting up a banner across the front of his church. In individual letters it spelt out GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST. Overnight, one of the letters fell down, so it read GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGH ST.  
The vicar was going to replace the missing letter, until he realised that the banner spelt out a message that needed to be heard.

## NATIVITY PLAYS



Gervase Phinn, in his books telling of his life as a Schools' Inspector in the Yorkshire Dales, recalls many a story of infant children's nativity plays. Here are parts of a few of them.

As he was walking up the path to a school, to watch a nativity play rehearsal, he met some children apparently on their way home. He told them he was there to see the nativity play, to be told bluntly, "It's off." "It's off?" he asked. "Aye", came the reply, "Virgin Mary's got nits!"



A young boy dressed as a soldier, acting the part of the Little Drummer Boy, was extremely enthusiastic banging the drum. The little girl playing Mary was getting more and more annoyed. As she placed a large pink doll, representing the baby Jesus, into the manger, she turned and shouted, "Will yer shurrup. I'm trying to gerrim off to sleep and you're doin' mi 'ead in."



At the end of the nativity play all the children were gathered on stage in a tableau. The teacher began to play 'Away in a Manger' and Mary rocked the baby Jesus (another large pink doll – but this time one that talked!) It started to cry and ask to be changed. Mary shook it hard to try and stop the noise, without success, and in desperation handed it to Joseph saying, "You 'ave im, I can't shut im up." Joseph shook the doll with such force that the head fell off and bounced down the stage, just as they were singing, "The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head."



The little boy looked like an angel, dressed in his white costume with silver trim. He peeped through the curtains, looking at the audience, then turned to his friend and said, "If miss thinks I'm being a flipping snowflake again next year, she's got another think coming."

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## FAMILY LIKENESS

'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father ...  
Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me' ...  
(John 14: 9 and 11)

One of the many stories surrounding school nativity plays is the one in which the small shepherds, in dressing gowns and tea towels, and leading sheep covered in hearth rugs, stumble onto the stage to kneel around the baby Jesus. The shepherds, encouraged by their teacher in rehearsal to use their own words to act out the story, are quiet for a moment. They shuffled and looked at each other. Then they looked at the baby. One speaks. "Oh! He does look like his dad", he says. A phrase he'd heard his mother say as she admired a neighbour's new baby. The audience smiled, but behind the fun and giggles there was a real truth. Jesus did look like his dad.

His whole life, his words and actions, were meant to show us what God was like. To tell us that God isn't way above the clouds in some divine shopping centre, which is as near to heaven as some of us can imagine, but down here on earth with us, waiting to enter our lives. Looking at Jesus we can learn a lot about love and forgiveness, and a complete commitment to other people. And when we change the looking at to following, he offers us the strength to live more positively and become more 'like his dad'.

Thanks to Rosemary for this story.

A mother took her young son to church during Advent. After the service, whilst his mother was chatting, he went for a closer look at the nativity scene near the altar. He was fascinated by it and his mum could see he was chatting away to the characters he saw, particularly to the baby in the manger. On their way home, he asked if they could go back again on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day duly arrived. The child was up early to open his presents and he was delighted with them all. Best of all, he'd got the bike he'd been hoping for. He got dressed, had breakfast

then said to his mum, "Can we go to church now?" He wanted to take his bike with him but he pushed it all the way, and when he arrived at church he went and put it at the side of the crib scene.

When the service was over, he went to fetch his bike. His mum saw him lift baby Jesus out of the manger, put him on his bike and start doing wheelies in the aisle. She rushed up to him saying, "You can't do that." "Why not?" came the reply. "I said to Jesus that if he helped me get a bike for Christmas he could have the first ride."

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### The Sheepdog

After the very bright light,  
And the talking bird,  
And the singing,  
And the sky filled up wi' wings,  
And then the silence,

Our lads sez  
We'd better go, then.  
Stay, Shep. Good dog, stay.  
So I stayed wi' t' sheep.



U A Fanthorpe

After they'd cum back  
It sounded grand, what they'd seen.  
Camels and kings, and such,  
Wi' presents – human sort,  
Not the kind you eat –  
And a baby. Presents wez for him.

Our lads took him a lamb.  
I had to stay behind wi' t' sheep.  
Pity they didn't tek me along too.  
I'm good wi' lambs,  
And the baby might have liked a dog  
After all that myrrh and such.

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## QUIZ TIME



### Answers to The Natural World

- |                              |                |                       |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A Snow Leopard            | 5. Snap-dragon | 9. The Passion Flower |
| 2. Oology                    | 6. The Rowan   | 10. An Otter          |
| 3. Yew, Scots Pine & Juniper | 7. Mauritius   |                       |
| 4. Mussels                   | 8. A Mute Swan |                       |

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### Christmas Quiz

1. The Christmas movie "Holiday Inn" was set in which US State?
2. Which spice derived from the seed of the Myristica fragrans tree is used in the recipe for Christmas puddings?
3. Often eaten at Christmas, what sweetener is used to make the German sweetbread Lebkuchen?
4. With 5.4 million viewers which was the most watched TV programme on Christmas Day 2020 (Excluding the Queen's Christmas message)?
5. In Jostein Gaarder's "The Christmas Mystery", where does Joachim find a story hidden?
6. Which of the gifts bought by the Wise Men to the new born Jesus is also known as Olibanum?

7. Who wrote the 1879 poem popularly known as "Christmas Day in the Workhouse"?
8. Which is the only English county whose name can be spelt without using any letters from the word CHRISTMAS?
9. What was the name of the boy in the TV film "The Snowman"?
10. Which British scientist initiated the first Royal Institution Christmas Lecture in 1825?
11. In which Christmas movie does the town of Bedford Falls feature?
12. Michael Morpurgo's "The Best Christmas Present in the World" features the discovery of an old letter from a soldier fighting in which conflict?

**Christmas Carols and Songs** Can you identify the Christmas carols / songs, eg S N = Silent Night

1.	O C A Y F	
2.	I C U T M C	
3.	T T D O C	
4.	L D	
5.	D H F C	
6.	A F T R O G	
7.	D D M O H	
8.	W T K O O A	
9.	F T S	
10.	H T H A S	
11.	D T K I C	
12.	M B C	
13.	R A T C T	
14.	T F N	
15.	O L T O B	
16.	I T B M	
17.	S H L O A B O S	
18.	M A W	
19.	O H N	
20.	W S G S U T C	
21.	O I R D C	
22.	R T R N R	
23.	W A C I B	
24.	S A T W S	
25.	T H A T I	

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,  
 May the joy of Christmas bring you hope,  
 May the warmth of Christmas bring you love  
 And may the New Year bring you God's abundant blessings.



**Closing date for items for the next Contact – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January**



# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## A VIP ARRIVAL

VIP stands for Very Important Person. Who do you think is the most famous or important person on the planet at the moment? You might think of a footballer, a singer, a world leader, a celebrity, The Queen, or someone who's helping the climate crisis. If the person you're thinking of was going to come to your house for tea next week, what would you do to prepare? Do you think you might put up decorations, put up a sign to direct them to your house, buy a gift, tidy up, dress smartly, roll out the red carpet?

When really important people visit, people tend to 'roll out the red carpet'. This is something that goes back thousands of years and was thought to only be worthy of 'gods'. None of the celebrities or world leaders you might have thought about earlier are gods, but they all get red carpet treatment wherever they go. In fact, there has only ever been one human in the whole of history that has deserved the true red carpet treatment, and that's Jesus.

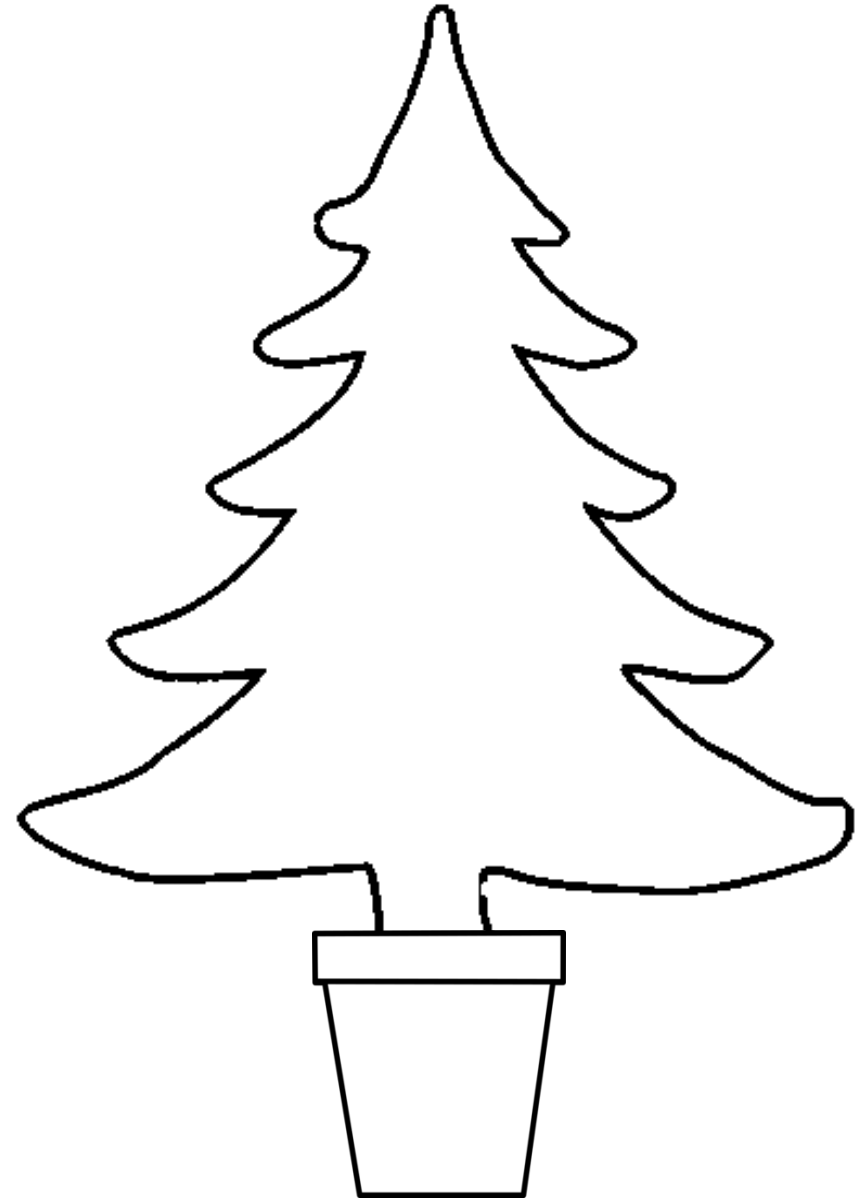
Advent is kind of like getting ready for a VIP to visit us. However, this VIP is Jesus – the ultimate VIP. But do we spend Advent giving Jesus the love and attention that he deserves? Probably not. Thankfully we don't need to roll out a red carpet and put on our best clothes, because Jesus loves us just as we are, but we still need to give him our time and attention. We can start this by opening our hearts and minds and letting Jesus know that we want him in our lives. That's the perfect way of getting ready for a very important arrival this Christmas.

God bless you as you look forward to, and enjoy, a Happy Christmas.

Rev Alan

*There is an activity over the page to help you decorate this  
Christmas Tree*

(Including BB Programme material)



Fill in the missing letters below to show items you might use to decorate a Christmas Tree.

When you've found them, draw and colour them on the tree or use craft items to stick on.

\_\_ T \_\_ R

T \_\_ \_\_ S \_\_ L

B \_\_ \_\_ B L \_\_ S

\_\_ N \_\_ E \_\_

\_\_ I \_\_ \_\_ T S

C \_\_ \_\_ D \_\_ C \_\_ N \_\_ \_\_

A colouring page for the young at heart



HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS