

# ST COLUMBA'S FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS 2020

Hi Families of St Columba's,

What sneaks round the kitchen at Christmas? Mince Spies!

Hope all your preparations for Christmas are well on their way and you have had a happy end to a school term in a most unusual year. It was fantastic to see so many of you back in Church last Sunday. I'm guessing you will soon be internet stars with a viral Away in the Manager <https://www.stcolumbas.org.uk/sunday-school-christmas-2020/>. Maybe not everybody's favourite tune (Noah!) but much enjoyed by members of the congregation.

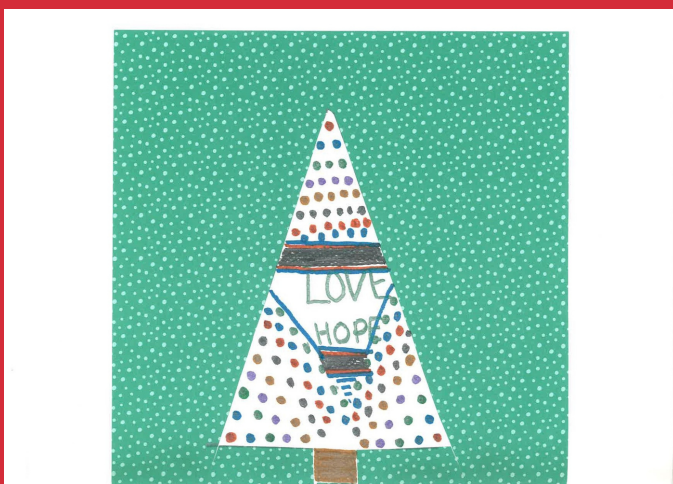
At the end of the year a ginormous thank you to Fiona and Lucy for keeping us going and together through these months and to all our other grown up helpers who have contributed. Everyone gets a well-deserved holiday now so there won't be a newsletter until early January.

We very much hope that we will have another Sunday get together in January, following the great fun of last Sunday.

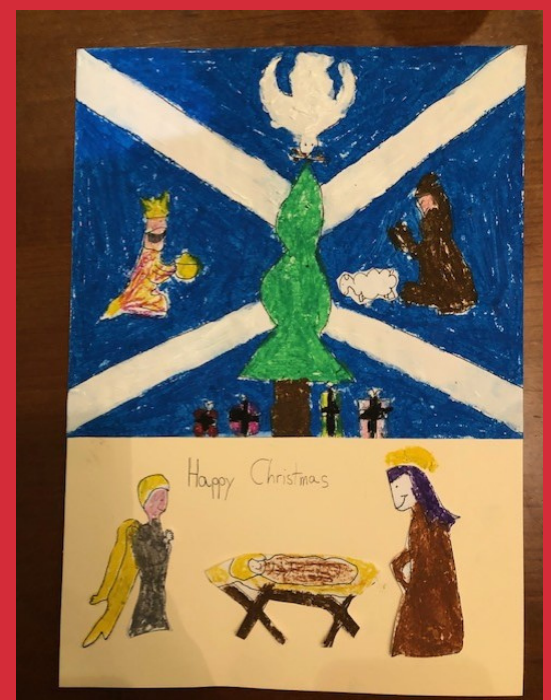
The last two Christmas card designs (by Sebi Williams and Olivia MacLeod) were the ones chosen as this year's congregational Christmas Cards. These designs went out to approximately 900 people - a great example of how Sunday school has kept up the spirits of the congregation.

Wishing you a very happy, peaceful and fun Christmas and magnificent 2021.

From Angus and All Sunday School Team.



Olivia MacLeod's Entry



Sebi Williams Entry

Tuesday 1 December – Link 3:

Pray with all who are waiting for the end of the HIV/ AIDS epidemic. Colour your prayer chain link in red today as you pray with the 38 million people across the world who are living with HIV on World AIDS Day, many of whom are also more vulnerable to the effects of a changing climate.

Wednesday 2 December – Link 4:

Pray with all who are waiting for somewhere to call home, with those who are seeking refuge. We remember each Advent and Christmas how Jesus spent the first part of his life as a refugee in Egypt to escape the violence of Herod's reign (Matthew 2:13-18).

Thursday 3 December – Link 5:

Pray with all who are waiting for the relentlessness to stop, with those living in refugee camps who have also faced the challenges of climate change as well as the coronavirus pandemic. For example, as the first cases of the coronavirus were discovered in Cox's Bazaar refugee camp, Bangladesh was also facing incoming Cyclone Amphan.

Friday 4 December – Link 6:

Pray with all who are waiting for respite, for all who have had to dig down deep to cope with challenge after challenge this year here in the United Kingdom. That may include praying for yourself. Peace to you, if so.

Saturday 5 December - Link 7:

Pray with those who are waiting for rain, for all who have had to dig down deep to find water. 'We pray for rain, but when there's no rain, we have to dig,' Mekonnen, a pastoralist farmer in Ethiopia explains. Digging for water can be difficult and dangerous work. Visit [caid.org.uk/hope](https://caid.org.uk/hope) to see how we are supporting those facing drought in Ethiopia.

Sunday 6 December - Link 8:

'Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.' Isaiah 40:1. Write out or draw something to represent this verse on your prayer chain link. Pray with all who wait for comfort in their grief or longing this Advent and Christmas.

The daily ideas started last Sunday – so it might need a bit of catch-up. I'm going to try and complete the first week's loops and show it on Sunday. Let me know if you are doing the same. For more details see: [https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/J197384%20Christmas%202020%20Prayer%20sheet\\_online\\_eng\\_0.pdf](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/J197384%20Christmas%202020%20Prayer%20sheet_online_eng_0.pdf)

Christian Aid hope that by the end of Advent we will have created a Christmas decoration linking together all our hopes and prayers for God's world and cultivated a sense of waiting with hope as we journey towards Emmanuel, God with us!

### Activities for this Sunday

Thanks to Fiona for providing some additional activities for this weekend. Enjoy.

See you soon Angus & the Families Team

Stephanie Dewar Christmas  
Card Competition

