



#FollowTheStar



A journey through Christmas to Epiphany with thoughts and family activities




A gift from the Nene Crossings Benefice



A blessed Christmas and happy New Year to you

Please receive this little booklet as our gift to you this Christmas. For each day of the holidays it gives a suggested thought or activity, even the odd game to play as a family, as we journey through Christmas and remember and discover what Christmas is about .

Just remember..  #FollowTheStar

With Love and Prayers

Fr. John and everyone at the Nene Crossings Churches

24th December

Christmas Eve



#FollowTheStar



GOD WITH US

Matthew 1: 18-25

On the way home from the service, can you find the stars of the Great Bear? Can you find Sirius? Or Orion? We often look at the sky and expect God to be there, far away. The Star of Bethlehem is a sign that God has come near to us in Jesus.




**25th December
Christmas Day**

MAKE ROOM

Luke 2 11-7

There was no place for them in the inn.'

Maybe you have friends or friends coming to see you today, for Christmas Dinner or to stay the night. Maybe you are guests in somebody else's home. Help your family get ready and think what it is like to get ready to meet somebody new.



**26th December
Boxing Day**

Invitation

Luke 2 8-18

See I am bringing you good news of great joy
**Are you going to a Christmas party this week?
Maybe to see family and friends you couldn't
see on Christmas Day? How does it feel to be
invited to something special?**

27th December



LIGHT OF LIGHT

John 1.1-5

'The light shines in the Darkness'

When it gets dark this evening, make it light. It is easy. Just flick the switch and it is light. The only way to make it dark is to block out the light. In our darkest times it is just as easy to ask God and he promises he can overcome the dark.

28th December

FINDING THE WAY 38 m Matthew 2 1-9

'There ahead of them went the star they had seen at its rising'

Maybe this week you have been or will be travelling by car. How do you know the way? Do you just know it or did someone help you find the way? A Map A Sat Nav, or did somebody share some guidance for you. Sometimes its hard to remember the way by ourselves and we need a bit of help. What do we use to help us find the way in life?





29th December

HEROES

Matthew 2:10-12

'Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod they left by another Road'

Heroes come in many forms. Maybe you had a superhero toy for Christmas. Maybe somebody you know and love is a hero to you for what they do for you. Sometimes these heroes look like everyday people but we know their great powers. Just imagine what the Wise Men saw in the baby Jesus that made them know he was their hero!

30th December



REFUGEE GOD

Matthew 2 13-15

'Get up take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt'.

A little told part of the story of Jesus birth is his escape to Egypt to avoid King Herod killing him. Hopefully we have enjoyed our Christmas with family and friends in our homes. But have you seen or heard of folk who have not been so lucky. Remember to pray for them. Is there anything practical you can do as well?

31st December



END OF THE OLD

'Behold I make all things new'

Revelation 21:5

As Big Ben strikes midnight a new year begins with new hopes new dreams. The old can be let go of. Have a resolution to forgive and let go. Fresh starts is what God is about.



1st January



COMMUNITY

Luke 2:22-32

'When the parents brought in the child Jesus... Simeon took him in his arms'

Our community is made up of men and women, old and young, rich and poor. All are equally loved by God, and are needed for our community to thrive. Say happy New Year to someone different today. Who knows, you might just have made a new friend.

2nd January



God's Home Luke 2 41-52

'Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'

Jesus called the Temple in Jerusalem his father's house and we often think of Church buildings as being God's House. Where else and with whom do you find God to be close to you?



Trev Earl
Photographer

3rd January

Unconditional Love

Mark 1 4-5;7-11

'You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well

Adverts, social media and the world we live in give out the message we must reach a certain standard to be liked, let alone loved. The Christmas story reminds us we are not loved because of what we have done but because we are who we are. Let somebody know they are loved today. Ask God to show show you who this might be.



4th January

FOLLOWING JESUS *John 1 35-42*

"He said to them "come and See"

We don't always know the where the journey might take us. Faith is about taking one step at a time, not always being certain about the step ahead until we have taken it. As you follow the star, journeying with God, what might your next step be?

5th January



KNOWING AND BEING John 1 43-51

‘Where did you come to know me?’

Its hard to judge what is true and what is fake news nowadays. The only way is to find the source and then make a judgement. How can you find out if everything said of the ‘Star Child’ Jesus is true? Judge for yourself find a church. Find a Christian. Read a bible. Download a prayer app. Just do it!

6th January
Feast of the Epiphany

CELEBRATION

John 2 1-11

'You have saved the best to last'

Epiphany is when the wise men found Jesus. Epiphany also means to discover something new. What have you discovered new about yourself and about Jesus this holiday? Why not come and join the celebration in one of our churches today?

Irthlingborough's Own Star Trek

Over the Christmas Holiday we invite you to 'boldy go' and.....

#FollowTheStar

Hidden around the town in windows and displays are 12 stars. Record the location of each star you find.

Bring them back to church for Messy Church on the 13th January at 10:30am in St Peter's Church to win a prize.

Free Melissa



#FollowTheStar

Where are the stars displayed? Bring the list back to Church on 13th December to get a prize.

Location



On the Church Notice Board





#FollowTheStar

Location



The Nene Crossings Group of Churches (Irthlingborough, Great and Little Addington and Woodford) gratefully acknowledges the inspiration for this booklet from the Archbishop of Canterbury's #followthestar initiative

Christmas Eve 24th December

Christingle Services 4pm

10pm First Mass of Christmas 10pm Little Addington

Midnight Mass 11pm Woodford; 11:30pm Irthlingborough

11:30pm Midnight Mass

Details of all our other Services can be found at:

www.nenecrossings.org.uk



St Peter's Church, Irthlingborough

Follow
The Star

A dark blue background with a starry night sky. A bright, multi-pointed star is positioned at the top center. Below it, the text '# Follow The Star' is written in a yellow, hand-drawn style. The word 'Follow' is on the top line, 'The' is on the bottom line, and 'Star' is on the middle line. A vertical line connects the top of 'Star' to the bottom of 'The'.