

LivingWay



Message from the Vicar Revd Kingsley Yeboah

The Wise Of Heart



The wise of heart will heed commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

(Proverbs 10:8 NRSV)

In the eleventh century, King Henry II of Bavaria became tired of his responsibilities as King, the pressures of international politics, and the mundane worldliness of the court life. So, he made an application to the Prior Richard at a local monastery to be accepted as a contemplative, to spend the rest of his life in prayer and meditation there.

Prior Richard responded, “Your Majesty, do you understand that the pledge here is one of obedience? That will be hard for you since you have been a king.”

“I understand,” Henry said. For the rest of my life, I will be obedient to you, as Christ leads you.

Prior Richard responded, “Then I will tell you what to do. Go back to your throne and faithfully serve in the place where God has put you.

After King Henry died, this statement was written in his honour: “The King learned to rule by obedience.”

Each of us ultimately obeys either the righteous commandments of the Heavenly Father or the “rule of lawlessness” we must willingly choose to put ourselves under authority, including the authority of God. To fail to do so is to have “no law” other than our own whim, an unreliable source at best!

‘The wise of heart will heed commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin’.

(Proverbs 10:8 NRSV)

He who has learned to obey will know how to command.

God Bless, Revd. Kingsley

Cover Photos courtesy of London Southend Airport Air Traffic Control.

Credits: Ross Day and Luke Baker.

Thank you.

Christmas Message

Dear Friends,

I am continuously praying for St Laurence Church, our congregation and our parish particularly in this difficult time when we are in Tier 4 of the Covid regulations. Although the Government is allowing organised communal worship, the Archbishop of Canterbury and our own Bishop Peter have given strong advice that it is most prudent to hold our services online. Considering the high number of infections being recorded in Southend, I have decided, reluctantly, that we will not hold the 11.30 Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve or our 10.30 Communion on Christmas morning in church. They will be replaced by Online Christmas Services which will be available on Facebook and YouTube. (<https://bit.ly/38b6yqr>)



For many people this 2020 has been painful, scary, worrying, fearful, with loss of income, and unemployment amongst others. My stand has always been this;

The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but life without a purpose and reason. It is dangerous to be alive and not know why you were given life.

During these challenging times pray for God to reveal to you why you were born in other words your purpose. You see, once you know your purpose then you are confident that until that purpose is accomplished, you are not going to die.

God has a purpose for you, your life has a reason and meaning. I assure you that that purpose will be accomplished in Jesus name as we approach Christmas in what has been a challenging year;

The Lord says, "I will give you back what you lost
Once again you will have all the food you want,
and you will praise the Lord your God,
who does these miracles for you.

Never again will my people be disgraced. (Joel 2:25-32)

Merry Christmas
Revd. Kingsley Yeboah

Our Church Hall

Our attractive, fast growing in popularity, Church Hall offers fantastic facilities: a large main hall with a large kitchen with great amenities; a newly renovated smaller rear hall with a small kitchen attached.

We are proud of our regular hirers who praise our hall for its attributes. Our Tai Chi Group leader commented, “We enjoy the peace and quiet and we can keep the rear hall doors open and hear the birds singing outside.” We also had a hirer who said, “The facilities are amazing, so much to offer and an excellent size.”

The Honey Bees parish parent and toddler group, church fundraising events, cubs and scouts, Mencap and many more groups use the hall. We have a rewarding family feel and we all work together to provide the best facilities and experiences for the community. The hall continues to be a big support to the church financially.



Yes, this is our hall beautifully set out for a wedding. Apparently it is a similar size to a wedding marquee and here you see it decked out with the internal decor for a marquee.



The two halls are connected by a passage way to the side of the stage but both do have their own entrance and exit doors enabling the halls to be booked independently or together. The main large kitchen is accessed from both halls.

The hall has good parking and additional parking is available a short distance away at the church except during service times.



50th Birthday Party



Christmas Market

The main hall is a very good size to accommodate a wide variety of events and occasions. On Monday evenings we have a dog training group. To protect the floor of the main hall they have brought a large tarpaulin.

Honeybees, our mum, gran/grandad and toddler group fill the hall with all sorts of soft play equipment.



Dog Training



Honeybees



Celebration of Marriage

Many of you reading this article will have watched the St Laurence Players perform on our stage, the hall is their regular weekly meeting venue for rehearsals. The Vox Choir also rehearse at the hall. Friends of Saint Laurence have also used the hall for their exhibitions of Eastward, their celebration of Marriage was a very colourful display.



The main kitchen was completely refitted the summer of 2017. We now have a kitchen which is more suited to big functions with high demands for catering and its first 'outing' was a wedding reception. The bride and groom were thrilled with the new facilities.

The new kitchen is well equipped. The wide oven is suitable for very large trays and the hob has six burners. There is a tall larder fridge with ample storage space. A wall mounted water boiler takes the hassle out of boiling an urn to make the tea. Work surfaces are clear and easy to clean. The double sink copes well with all the washing up. The kitchen is very light and bright to work in.

Martin and Glen worked tirelessly to strip out the old kitchen and start from scratch.



This year M & G Installations (Martin and Glen) have again been busy in the hall. This time it was the turn of the main toilets and have they done another great job, yes indeed. We proudly present the results of their hard work. A big thank you from all of us.

Booking the Hall

To book the hall or just to make an inquiry please contact our Hall managers Cheryl and Holley.

Telephone: 07396360109 or email: info@hall.st-laurence.org.uk

Message from the Hall Managers

St Laurence Church Hall has had some transformations happen with our new toilet facilities being fitted by our church wardens. Which look both beautiful and fresh and really gives the hall that little bit extra for our hirers and visitors. We have a lot of care and time given by volunteers and close relatives to keep our hall to a high standard.

We continue to offer fabulous facilities for our hirers both long term and short term even through these uncertain times and offer a safe COVID-19 secure premises to keep all of our hall users safe and reassured with the what is currently a big challenge for us all.

We thank all our volunteers, church members and hirers for their continued support and help.

Best regards

Holley and Cheryl

Prayer Diary 2021

Please join us as we pray for our community. If you would like to add any groups or organisations to the Prayer Diary please contact:

Veronica Newman 01702 545790 .

The roads included are:

January: Shepard Close, Winchester Close, Brendon Way, Bideford Close.

February: Collins Way, Rayleigh Road, Green Lane, Eastwoodbury Crescent.

March: Heycroft Road, Neil Armstrong Way, Fulford Drive, Western Approaches, Whitehouse Meadows.

Church News

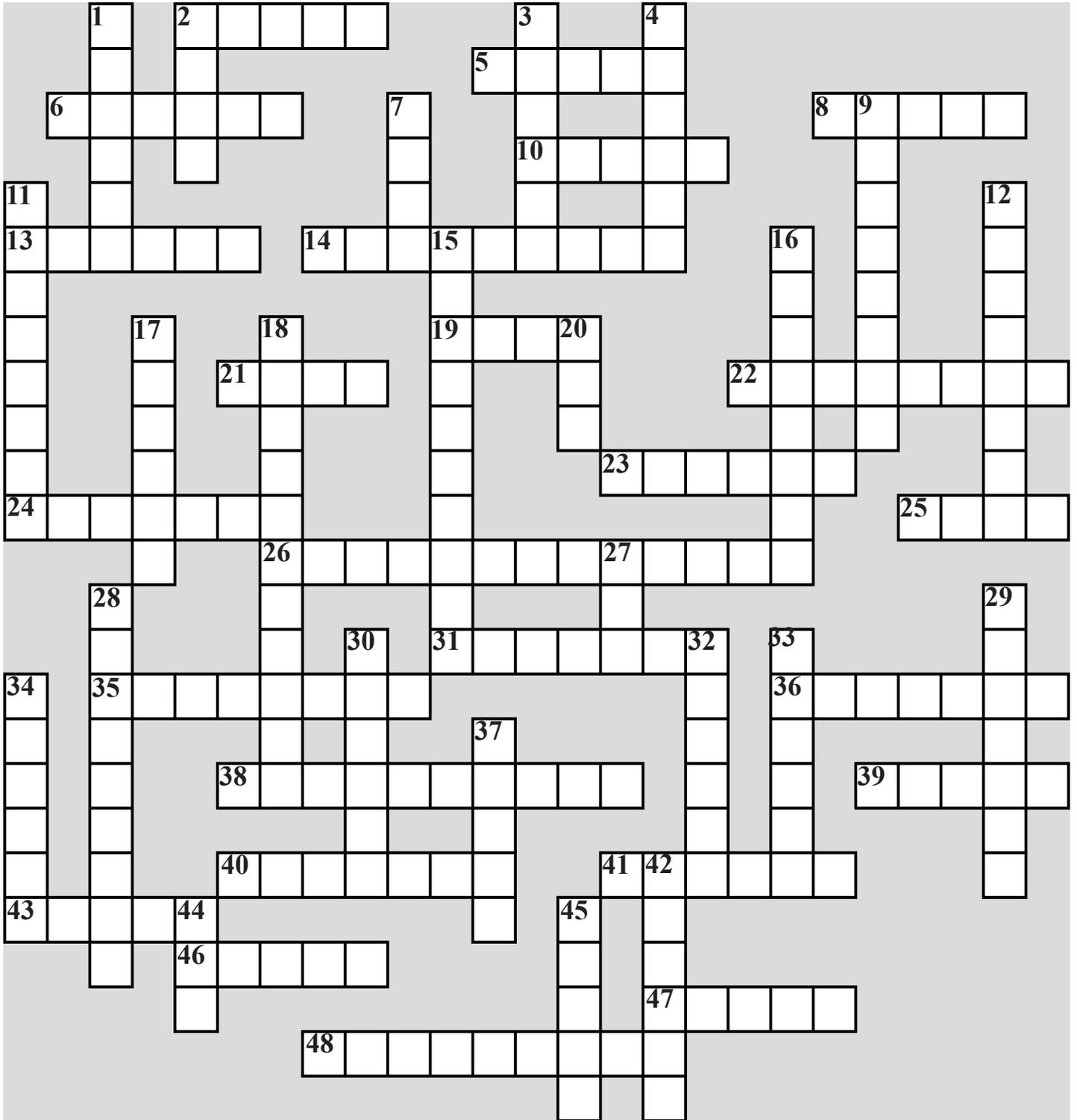
This has been an extraordinary year for all of us. We have experienced this pandemic in so many different and difficult ways. At St Laurence we only just got our new vicar installed when Corvid19 came into our lives with a bang, sending us all into lockdown. We are very lucky to have a vicar who is savvy with technology so we were quickly swept into a whole new experience. Services on Line, what a difference that was/is for all of us. Kingsley quickly enlisted the assistance of Revd Mark James, who is retired and come back to join us and also Sarah, who is studying to become a member of the clergy. This meant there was something for everyone all week. All of this activity online attracted many people from near and far to join these services. When we re-opened after the lockdown we where pleased to welcome people to our congregation, some new to our church and some who were returning. It was great to see the life of the church bloom again albeit with restrictions. We do miss the singing.

Sadly we have now had to shut the doors temporarily to keep everyone safe. We hope it won't be too long. We have to celebrate Christmas at home but we do have our services online to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have managed to hold some of our special services. In September we held our Harvest Festival and donated all the food brought in to Storehouse. We have packed 81 Samaritan shoe boxes which will go to children in countries where they are needed. Our Toy Service was well supported with many gifts of new toys, which again went to Storehouse which is one of our nominated charities. Last Sunday we managed to get in our Carol Service. For now its back online, why not join us? Stay safe.

Judith, LivingWay Editor

Coffee Time

Bible Crossword/Matthew



Scribble Box

Across

- 2 ----- for we do not know the hour that the Son of Man is coming. (Matthew 25:1- 13)
- 5 Jesus told the woman that her ----- made her well. (Matthew 9:18-22)
- 6 And the ----- will be preached in all the world. (Matthew 24:3-14)
- 8 Jesus told His disciples, “You are the ----- of the world.” (Matthew 5:13-16)
- 10 Your what will be where your treasure is? (Matthew 6:19-21)
- 13 The Son of Man came to serve and give His life as a ----- for many. (Matthew 21:20- 28)
- 14 Jesus said to His disciples, “All ----- has been given to Me, in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:16-20)
- 19 Jesus cast demons into a heard of ----- . (Matthew 9:28-34)
- 21 Jesus told His disciples to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the ----- Spirit. (Matthew 28:16-20)
- 22 At the LORD’s supper, Jesus said that the drink is the blood of the new ----- . (Matthew 26:26-30)
- 23 Jesus and His disciples fed 5,000 men plus women and children with 5 ----- and 2 fish. (Matthew 12:13-21)
- 24 Take heed that no one ----- you. (Matthew 24:3-14)
- 25 At the LORD’s supper, Jesus blessed the bread and said that it is his ----- . (Matthew 26:26-27)
- 26 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for ----- ,for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:1- 12)
- 31 The Son of Man is Lord of the what? (Matthew 12:1-8)
- 35 Jesus answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be -----.” (Matthew 15:12-14)
- 36 Jesus ----- a demon and healed a boy. (Matthew 17:14-21)
- 38 John the Baptist told the Pharisees to bear fruit worthy of what? Matthew (3:1-12)
- 39 Jesus said, “My ----- shall be called a ----- of prayer.” (Matthew 21:12-17)
- 40 What did Isaiah prophesy that Jesus would declare for the Gentiles? (Matthew 12:18- 21)
- 41 Simon Peter answered Jesus, “You are the ----- Son of the Living God.” (Matthew 16:13-20)
- 43 The wise men did not return to Herod because they were warned in a ----- . (Matthew 2:1-12)
- 46 The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will gather His ----- from the four winds. (Matthew 24:29-31)
- 47 Jesus’ yoke is easy and His burden is ----- . (Matthew 11:25-30)
- 48 When Jesus was tempted by Satan what did He quote 3 times? (Matthew 4:1-11)

DOWN

- 1 Many are called but few are ----- . (Matthew 22:1-14)
- 2 Peter ----- when he realized that he denied Jesus 3 times and remembered that Jesus told him he would.
- 3 The one who does the will of the ----- are Jesus’ mother and brothers. (Matthew 13:46-49)
- 4 Judas betrayed Jesus for ----- pieces of silver. (Matthew 26:14-15)
- 7 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was ----- . (Matthew 18:10-14)
- 9 Translated God with us (Matthew Chapter 1)

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- 11 Jesus was ----- in Gethsemane. (Matthew 26:47-56)
 - 12 Jesus said, “Blessed is he who is not ----- because of Me.” (Matthew 11:4-6)
 - 15 Jesus said, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, -----!” (Matthew 23: 1-36)
 - 16 Pray that the Lord of the harvest send what into His harvest? (Matthew 9:35-38)
 - 17 Who knows the things we need before we ask Him? (Matthew 6:5-8)
 - 18 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief ----- . (Matthew 21:33- 46)
 - 20 The ----- of Man will judge the nations. (Matthew 25: 31-46)
 - 27 Jesus calmed the winds and the ----- . (Matthew 8:23-27)
 - 28 Jesus was ----- . (Matthew 27:32-56)
 - 29 ----- is He who comes in the name of the LORD! (Matthew 24:37-39)
 - 30 What did Jesus preach to do because the kingdom of heaven is at hand? (Matthew 4:12-17)
 - 32 Jesus is a great ----- . (Matthew 4:23-25)
 - 33 You will know a tree by its what? (Matthew 7:15-20)
 - 34 Jesus was spat on, -----, and struck. (Matthew 27:27-31)
 - 37 Jesus gave Peter the ability to walk on ----- . (Matthew 14:22-33)
 - 42 Jesus ----- the mute, the lame, the blind, and the maimed. (Matthew 15:29-31)
 - 44 Jesus told Peter and Andrew that He would make them fishers of what? (Matthew 4:18- 22)
 - 45 After the angel told the women that Jesus had risen, ----- met them on their way to announce the news to the disciples. (Matthew 28:1-10)

Scribble Box



It has been along time since we could all meet and enjoy exploring the Bible stories through our craft activities. We are looking forward to when the time is right and we can get together once more. Until then here is an activity for Christmas that we hope you will all enjoy creating. It reminds us that 'Jesus is the reason for the season'

We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas.

God bless

Judith, Mandy and the Team

Nativity Ornaments



To Make these tree ornaments you will need:

White paper or card stock to print the characters onto.

Colouring - pencils, crayons, markers, paint etc.)

Scissors - adults please supervise young children with scissors or cut the characters out for them.

Glue Stick

Decorative yarn, ribbon, or cord



1) Colour the ornaments.



2) Cut out all the parts.



3) Cut a length of ribbon, yarn or cord, 20cm in length. Bring the ends together and knot so that it forms a loop. Place the loop on the underside of the body of the ornament so that the loop points out the top and the knot is about an inch from the edge. Secure with glue or tape.

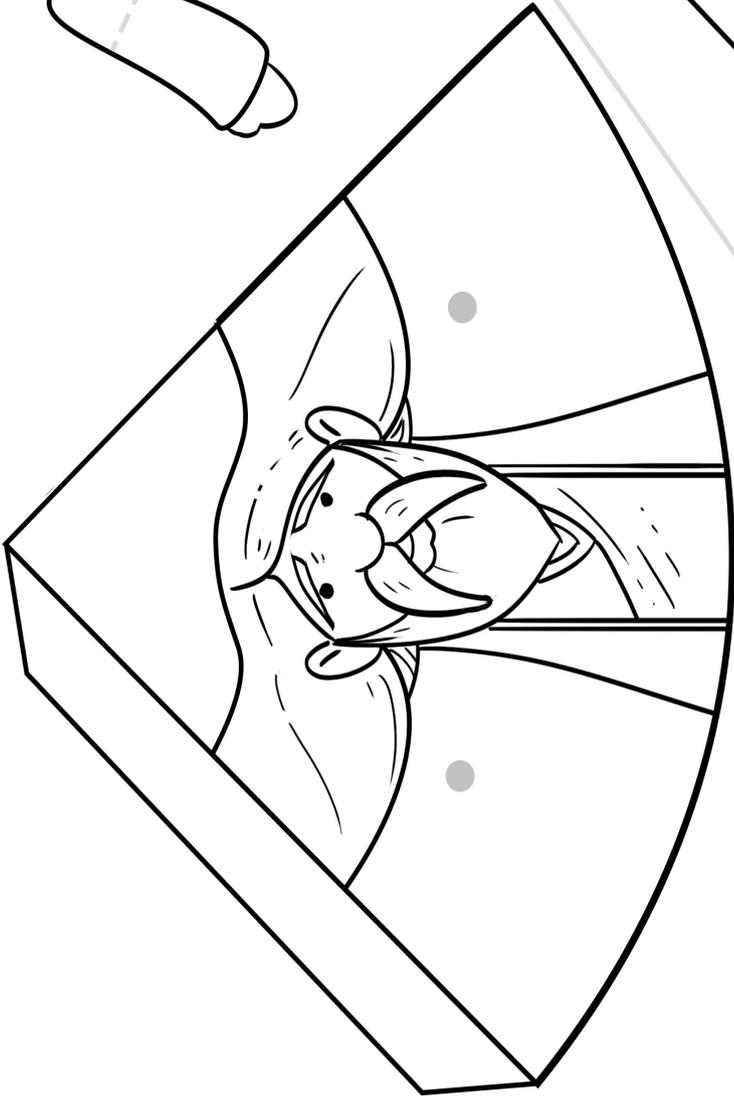


4) Glue the flap, shape into a cone and glue the cone. Glue the body parts to the characters as shown in the top picture

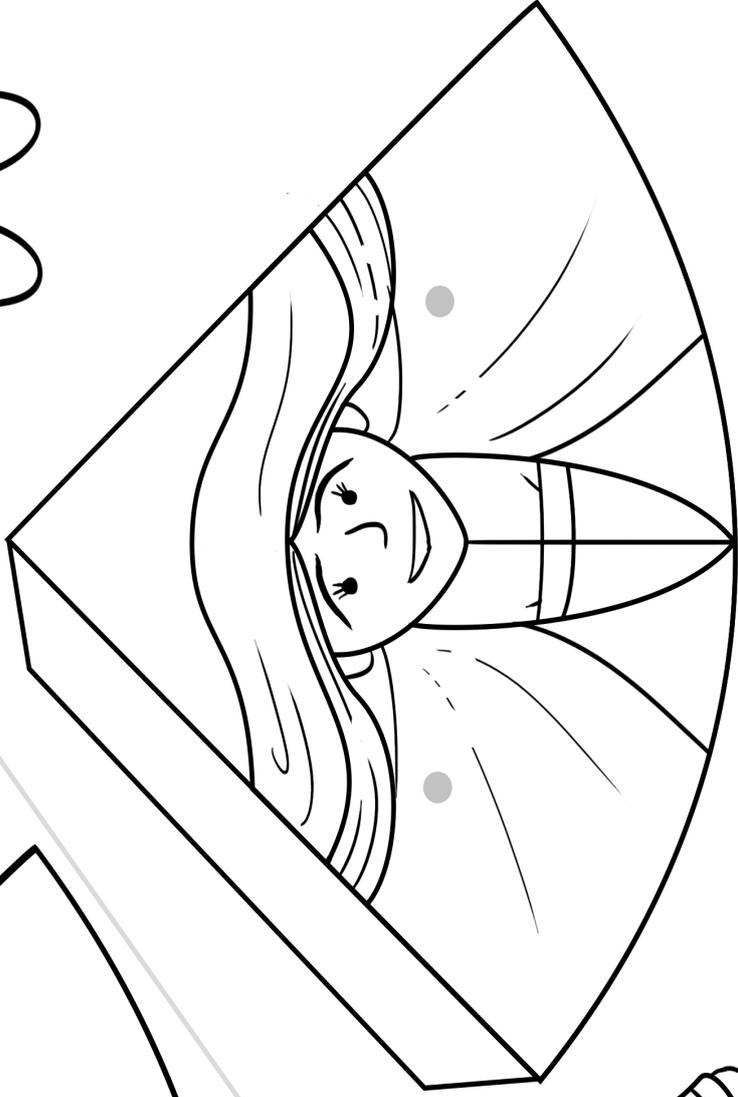
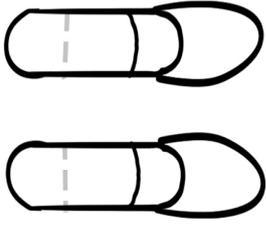
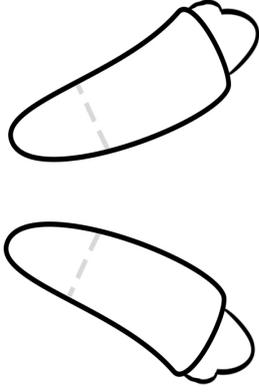
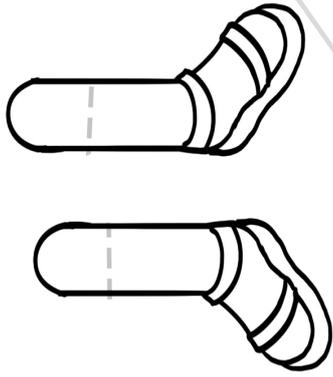


5) Hang on your tree or on some branches to make a separate decoration.

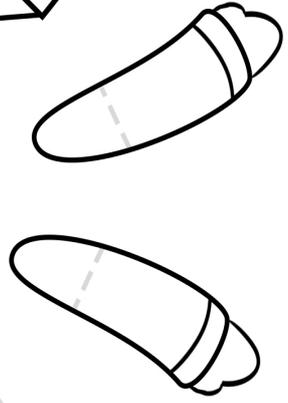
We hope you enjoy this activity for Christmas.

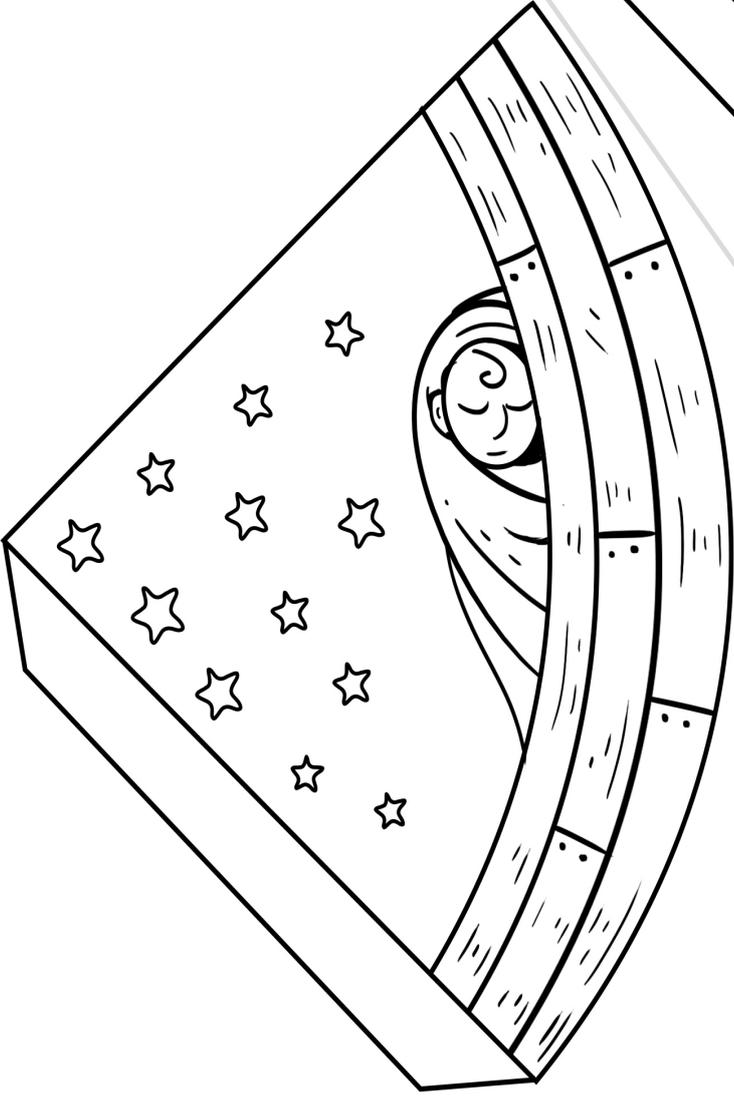


JOSEPH

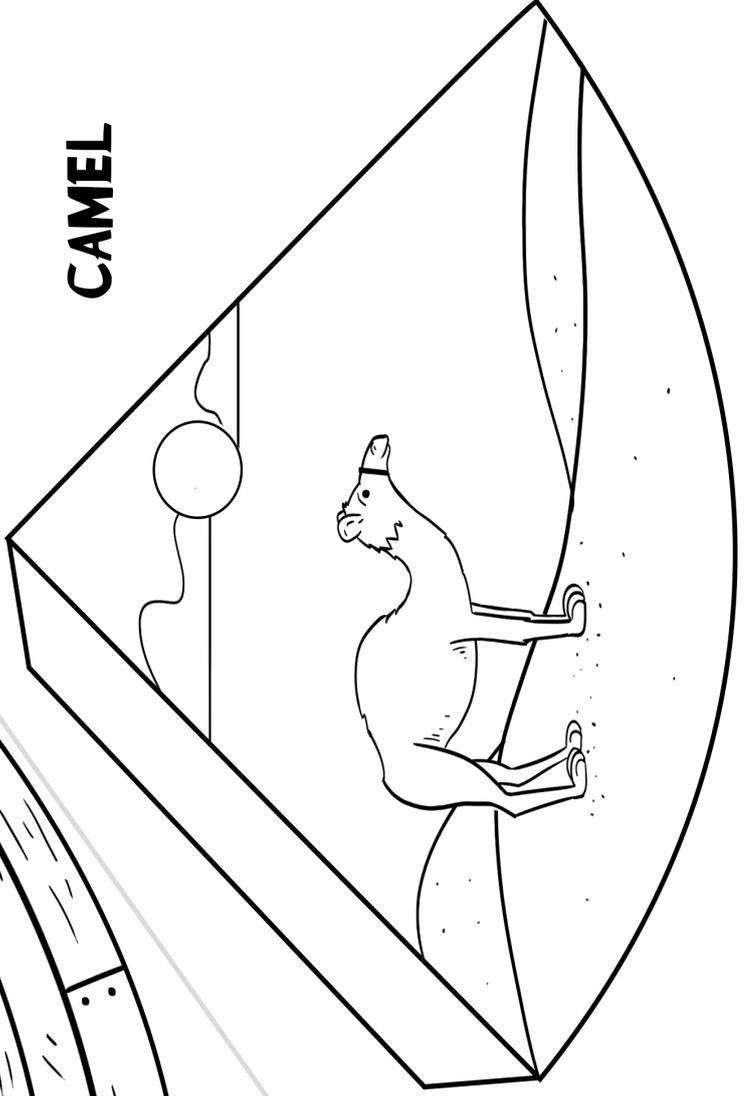


MARY

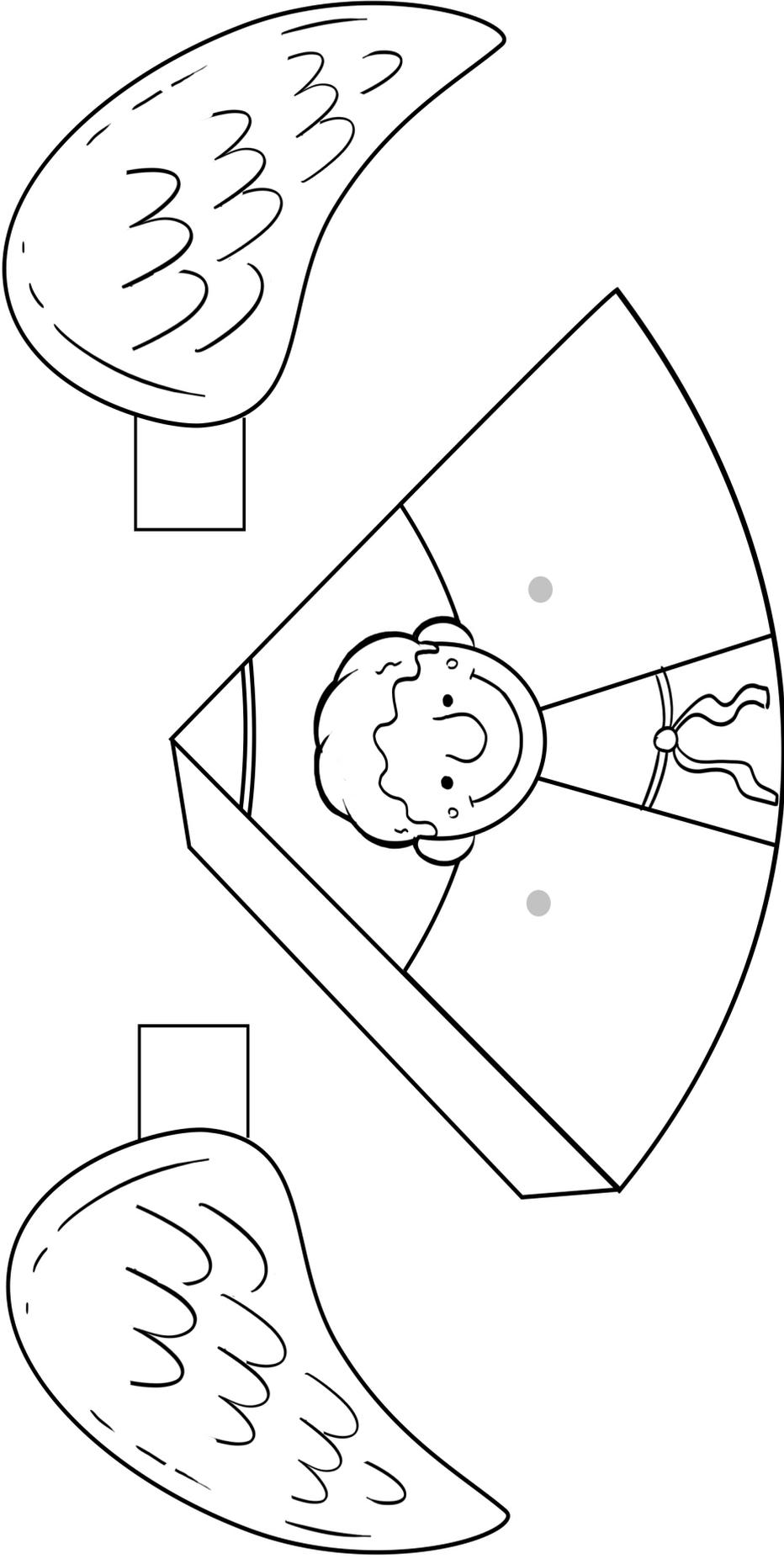




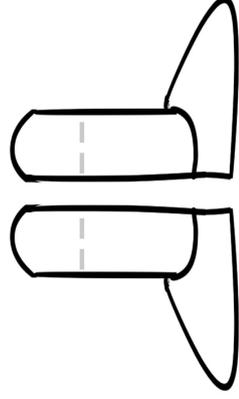
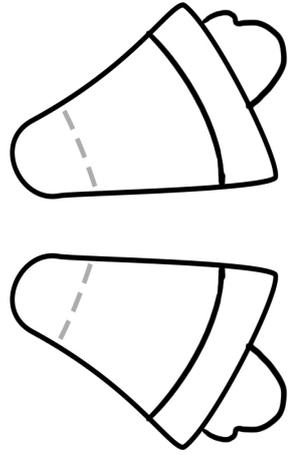
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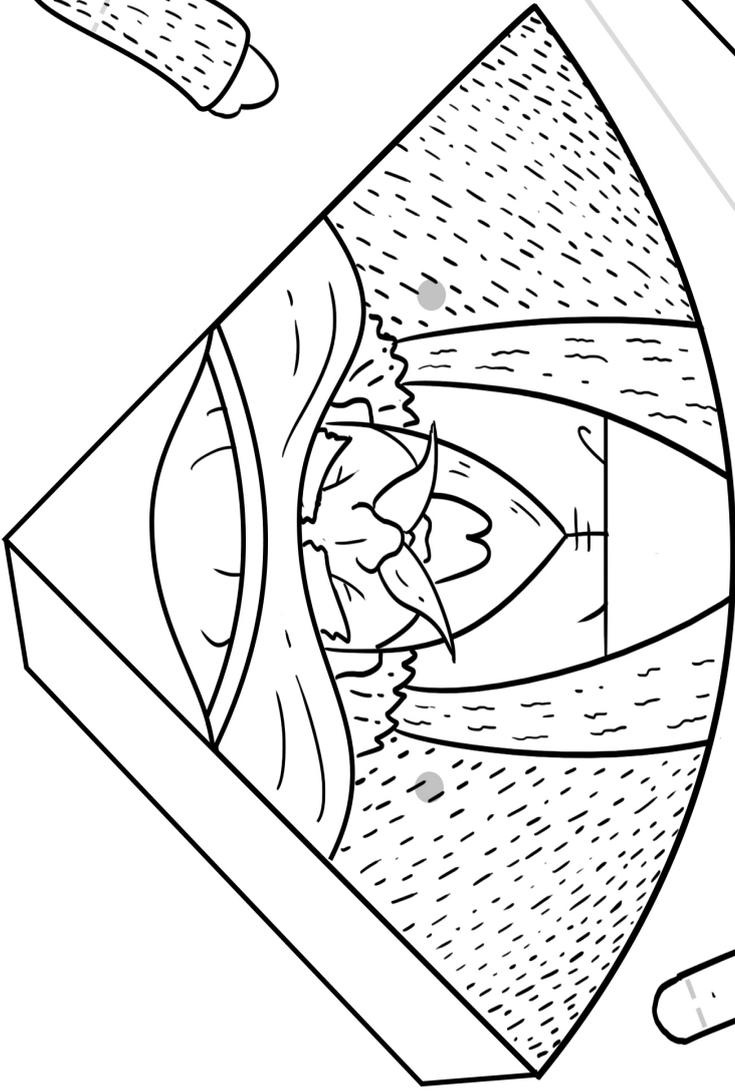


CAMEL

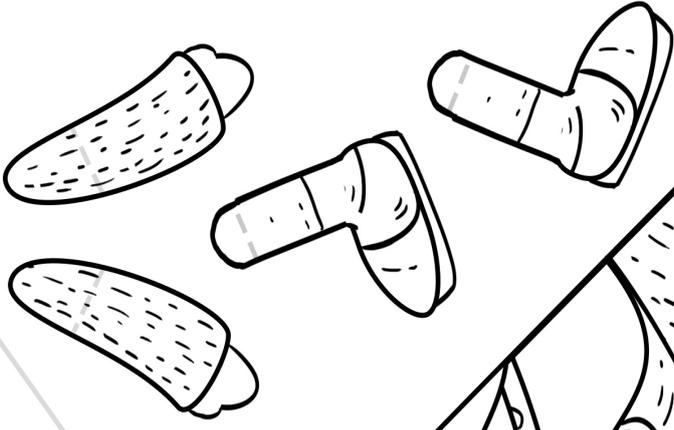
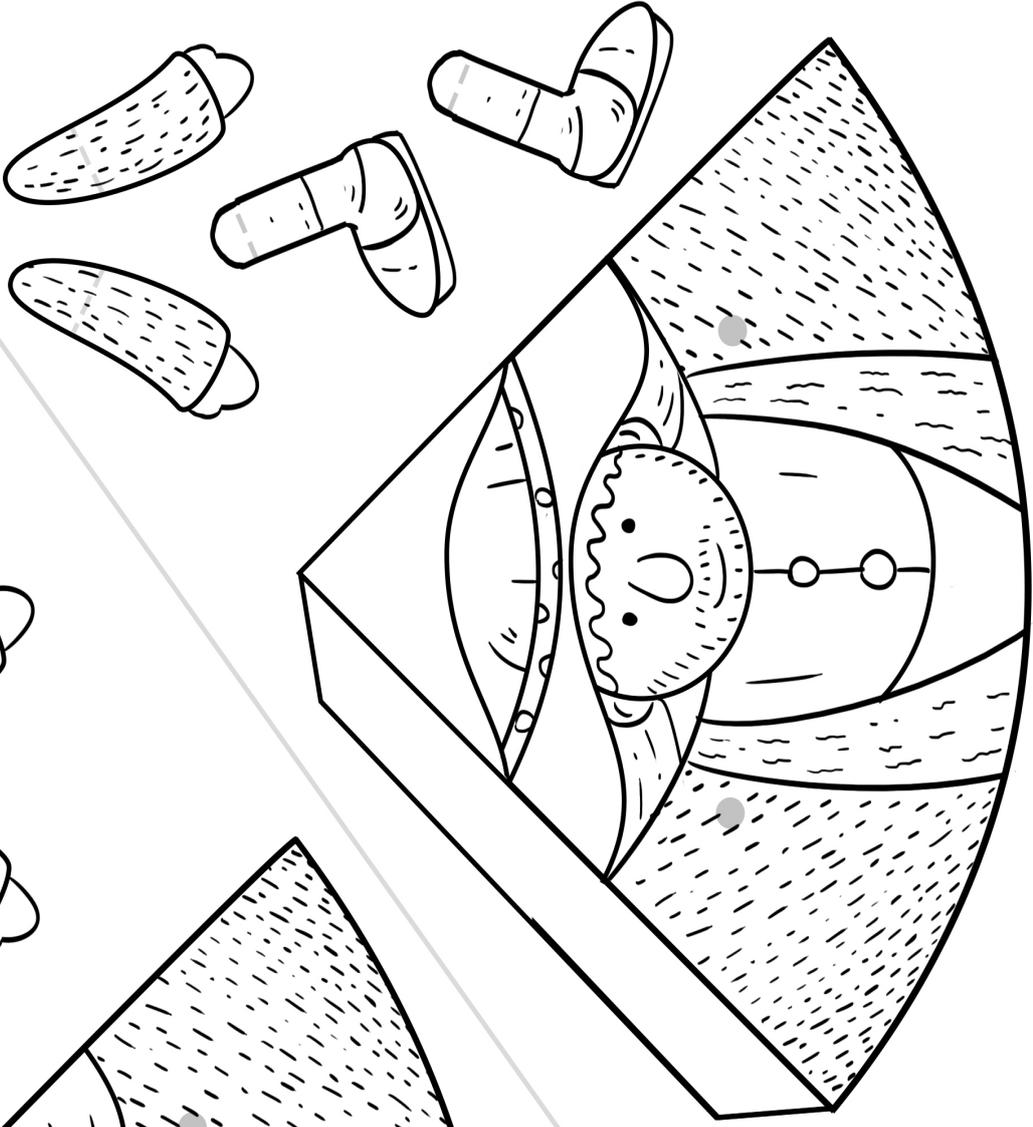
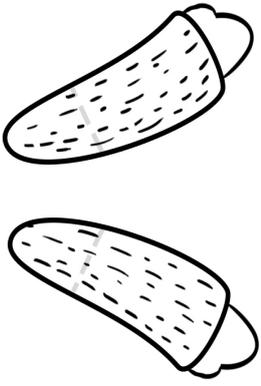
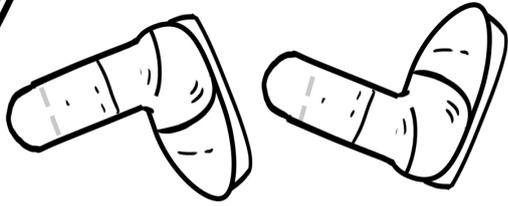


ANGEL

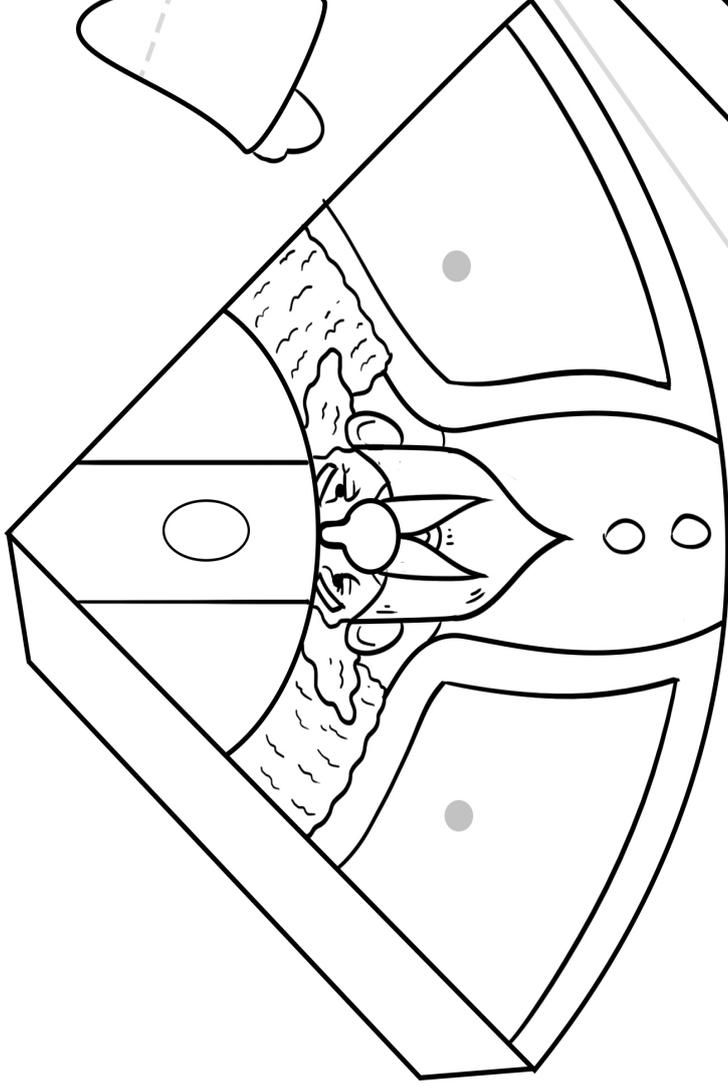




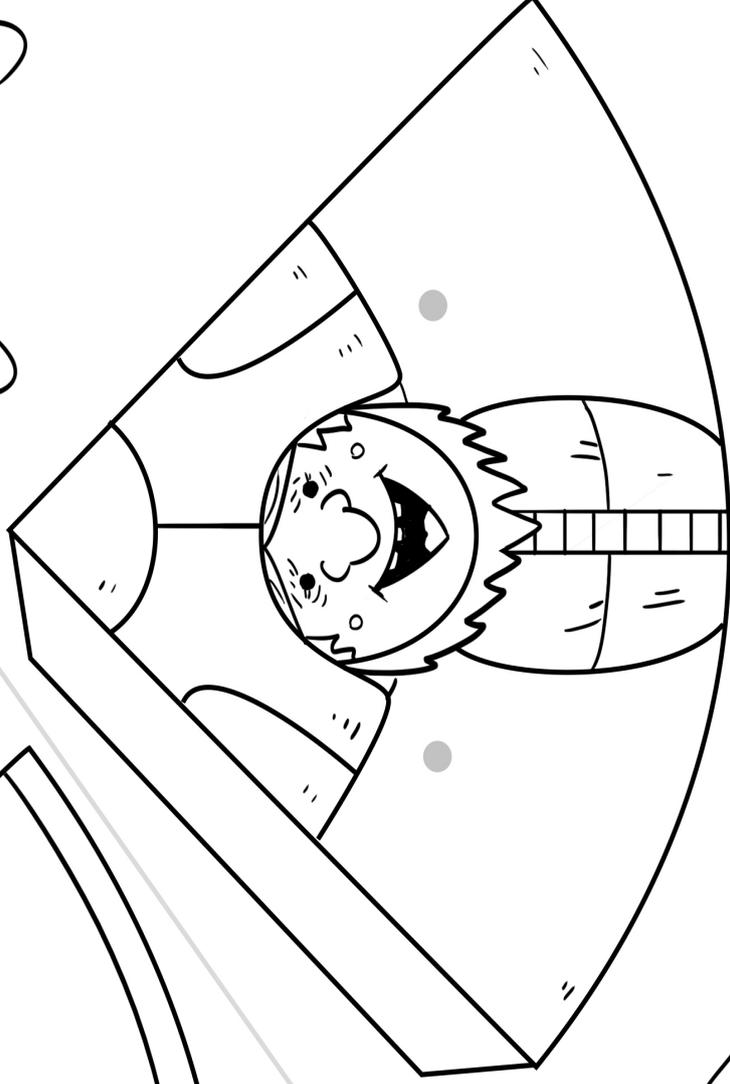
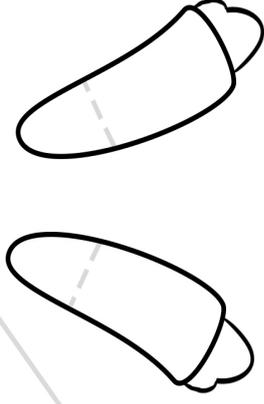
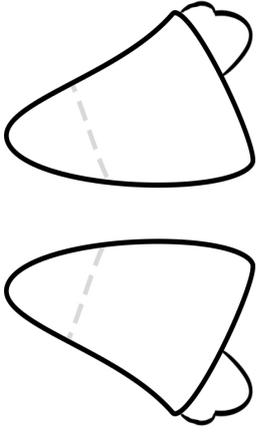
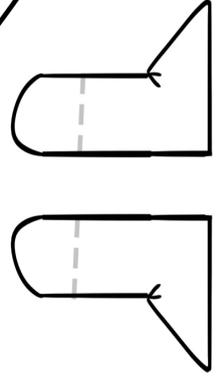
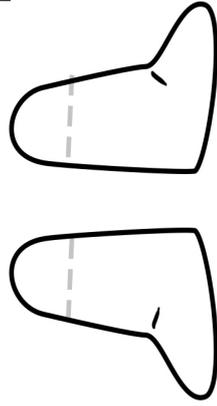
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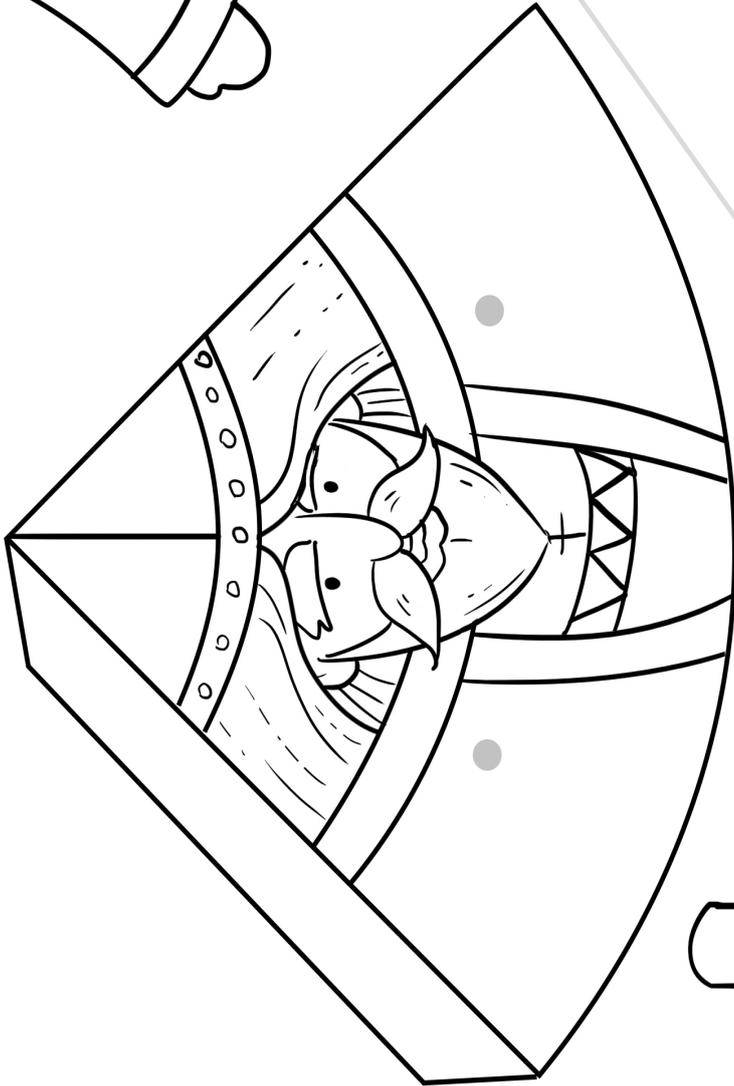
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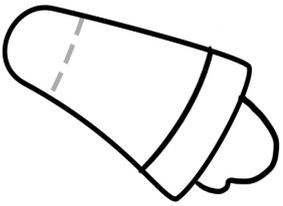
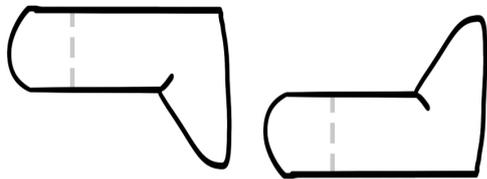
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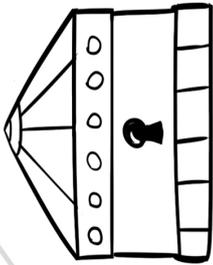
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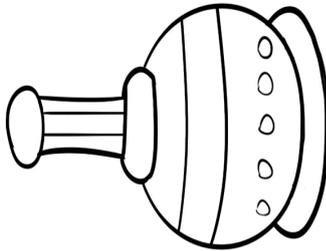
CASPAR



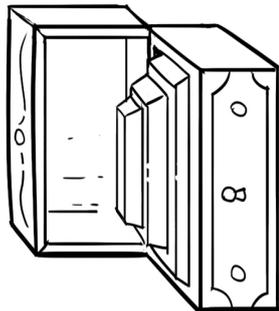
MYRRH



FRANKINCENSE



GOLD



Weekly Services

Sunday All Services will be online until further notice

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Holy Communion,

6pm Evening Prayer (First Sunday only in the 'lighter' months)

Online Services

Tuesday: Reflection with Kingsley

The Thursday Holy Communion Service and the Sunday 10.30a.m. Service are usually videoed for viewing on Facebook.

Booking System for 10.30am Sunday Service

A booking system is in place for the 10.30am service as only 28 people can attend each service. Please note that Face coverings are required for all services.

We are following Church of England guidelines for opening the church and maintaining safety and social distancing measures. Sadly this means we have to restrict the numbers attending services to between 28 - 35 as we can only seat 2 individuals or 1 household per pew. Self-distancing measures of 1 metre are in place, face covering are required.

How to book for the 10.30 service

Please email (for preference) or ring Judith Wiseman. Tell me which Sunday you would like to attend church. I will book your place and email a confirmation or confirm your booking over the phone when you ring. Bookings are taken from Monday a.m. to Friday 7p.m.. You will need to tell me if you are booking for yourself or a household for which you will need to tell me how many people you are booking for.

We are required to maintain a register of attendance for Track & Trace purposes. So you need to provide me with:

Name, Address, Telephone No. for each family or individual attending. This data must be kept for 21 days and then it will be deleted. If you regular member of church you can opt for me to keep your information on my computer until we no longer need to maintain these records at which point all records will be shredded electronically.

My contact details are: Email: judithwiseman@icloud.com Tel: 01702523941

When service numbers are fully booked you will be automatically placed for the following Sunday unless you tell me otherwise.

There is no need to book for Mid Week communion or Sunday 9am HC.

We look forward to being together once more. Stay safe. Judith

Private Prayer Suspended until the church reopens.

The Church is open on Tuesday from 9.30a.m. to 11am. .

This is a lovely time for some quiet reflection and prayer or just time to get lost in your own thoughts. If you are worried about coming back to church or coming to a service for the first time this is a good time to visit.

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Glen Snowdon 522032

Church Gardening

Glen Snowdon 522032

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For Prayer:
prayer@st-laurence.org.uk

Church Website:

www.st-laurence.org.uk

Deputy Churchwardens

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Sarah Rachell 621892

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Holley Barwell
Email: info@hall.st-laurence.org.uk

Livingway Editor

Judith Wiseman 523941

Hall Website:

www.hall.st-laurence.org.uk

Find us on Facebook@stlaurenceeastwood

Weekly Activities

The Church hall is in lock down until it is safe to reopen in 2021. We are taking provisional bookings for dates in 2021, Corvid 19 regulations allowing.

Monday

1.00pm Honey Bees - Monday in the Hall, **This activity has not yet recommenced.**
6.30 - 10pm Timberlog Dog Training in the Hall

Tuesday

9.30am Gardening/DIY Crew, Churchyard, Glen 522032
2.15pm Craft Group, Hall.
8.00pm St Laurence Players, Hall, 545680

Thursday

10-11.30am Coffee Morning - Small Church Hall. **This activity has not yet recommenced.**
All are welcome for a chat, tea or coffee and biscuits.
7.30pm Bell Ringers, Church, 551906. **This activity has not yet recommenced.**

Friday

5 - 6pm Beavers - Hall - 07810505280
6 - 7.30pm Cubs - Hall - 07810505280
7.30 - 9pm Scouts - Hall - 01268 785388