

DEC.

2020

CHRIS CROSS

AT HOME

Christmas

Edition



In the last CHRISCROSS AT HOME there was a photograph of our first birthday cake and one of the people in the picture was Revd. Andrew Pottage who was our Minister at the time and often came to CHRISCROSS. We thought it would be nice to ask him to write something for our Christmas issue.

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From Revd. Andrew Pottage



I had a wonderful surprise the other day when my telephone rang and I recognised a familiar voice from the past, Mike from Radstock! I feel very honoured to guest write a column for your Christmas CHRISCROSS AT HOME. I hope everyone is keeping well. I am now the Minister of Northwood and have been since September 2018 and have been the Superintendent of the Harrow and Hillingdon Circuit since June 2017.

The pandemic has made 2020 a very strange year. Perhaps it has made us realise what matters in life, our friends, family, maybe some things are not as important as we used to think they were. This Christmas may be quite different than your usual celebrations as we cannot see as many people. But let us remember the story of Jesus.

Mary and Joseph, had to go on a long journey from their home to Bethlehem, where Joseph was born because the Roman Emperor (a cross between our Queen and Prime Minister) had decided a census had to be taken. That basically meant everyone had to be counted in their hometowns. That is remarkably like us, having to stay at home but for different reasons! The next problem they found was there was no accommodation so ended up staying in a stable with all the animals, imagine the smell!

Whilst Mary and Joseph were staying at the stable, Mary gave birth to the baby Jesus and they realised what was important. They had each other and the love they shared and found for their new baby. Despite the discomfort, not being with the rest of their family and being quite isolated they discovered what was important.

This Christmas let us celebrate the love we have for each other and the love God has shown us in the baby Jesus by sending Him for us. Jesus really is the best gift in the world!

Star Biscuits

(If you don't have a star cutter, use the template on the following page.)

These biscuits can just be cut out in a star shape, drizzled with a little icing as soon as they are cold, and eaten but you could make a little hole (perhaps with a straw) before you bake them and then they could be threaded with ribbon and hung on your Christmas tree!

If you want to be really adventurous you could make '**stained glass**' biscuits. Cut the dough out in a star shape, place on the baking tray and then make a bigger hole in the middle. Crush some boiled sweets into really small pieces (you may need an adult to do this for you) and using a teaspoon, fill the holes before baking. The sweets will melt and your biscuits will look like this. (You will need to leave them to cool on the baking tray, then lift them gently off the paper and leave on a rack to get cold.)

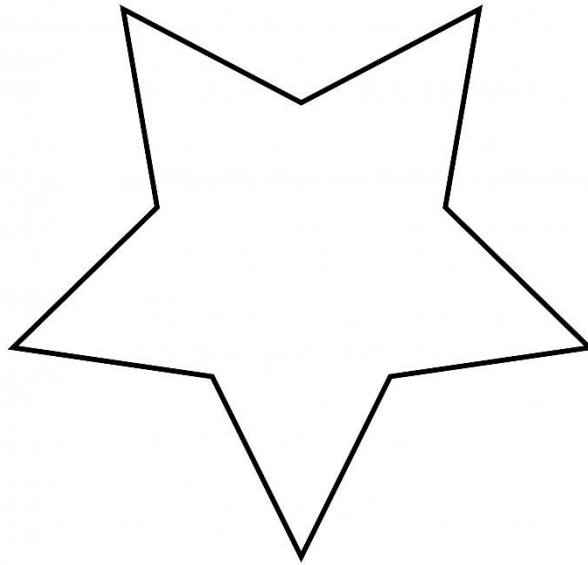


Ingredients: 36g Softened butter
 36g Demerara sugar (or soft brown sugar)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Large egg, beaten
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Vanilla Extract
 88g White flour
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon Cinnamon (optional)
 (Plus icing sugar or boiled sweets if required - see above.)

Method:

1. Mix cinnamon, if using, into the flour.
2. Cream together butter and sugar, add egg, vanilla extract, flour and mix well.
3. Put onto a floured surface and gently use your hands to make the dough into a smooth ball.
4. Put in the fridge for about an hour.
5. Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°Fan/Gas Mark 4.
6. Line a baking tray with baking parchment.
7. Roll out and cut with a star cutter (making holes as above depending on how you are going to use them.) Gather up leftover dough and re-roll.
8. Bake for 12 minutes.

Template for Star Biscuits



Christmas Card for Colouring

In your pack you will find a Christmas Card for you to colour in and give to someone you know, perhaps someone who might not get a lot of cards usually.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at knitting?

Because they drop all their needles!

Why do cats take so long to wrap presents?

Because they want them to be purr-fect!

We were really pleased to have photos, and in some cases videos, from some of you showing the various activities from the last CHRISXCROSS AT HOME. Unfortunately we can't reproduce the videos but here are some of the photos.



From Revd. Martin

What excites you most about Christmas Day? Presents? Christmas Dinner? Seeing members of your family?

For Joseph, the first Christmas Day was filled with wonder at the birth of a new baby. Joseph and Mary had listened to God speaking to them through a dream, and by an angel, and now, what they had told them, had come true. But what did the birth of Jesus mean?

2000 years later we are still celebrating the birth of Jesus, and still thinking about what it means for us. It was such an important event that we even count the years based upon when he was born. This year might be a bit different because we can't meet up with all our family and friends, but we can still remember and give thanks to God that Jesus was born in a stable, many years ago.

"The First Christmas" by Marian Swinger

It never snows at Christmas in that dry and dusty land.
Instead of freezing blizzards, there are palms and drifting sands.
And years ago, a stable, and a most unusual star,
and three wise men who followed it, by camel, not by car.
While, sleepy on the quiet hills, a shepherd gave a cry.
He'd seen a crowd of angels in the silent starlit sky.
In the stable, ox and ass stood very still and calm
and gazed upon the baby, safe and snug in Mary's arms.
And Joseph, lost in shadows, face lit by an oil lamp's glow
stood wondering, that first Christmas Day, two thousand years ago.

Let us pray ...

Loving God, you remind us that the truest gift is the gift of love. Today, giving and unwrapping presents, with joy and maybe even disappointment, we remember your gift to us, Jesus. Help us to love each other, because love comes from you. And love is the best thing worth celebrating, on Christmas Day, and every day of the year. Amen

**God bless
Martin**



