

Advent

As week 3 of Advent begins, we light the 3rd candle on our wreath, the **pink** one which represents our **joy** that Christmas is getting closer.

Our **Jesse Tree** has changed too: it has extra symbols. (See 'The Advent story continues' for an explanation of what a Jesse Tree is).



You will find these extra symbols on our **Jesse Tree** this week:



A ladder from the story of Jacob's dream (Book of Genesis)

A shepherd's crook from the story of how God chose the shepherd David to be King (Book of Samuel)



A Harp for King David, the composer of many of our psalms (Book of Psalms)

A coat of many colours, from the story of Joseph and his brothers (Book of Genesis)



A crown representing King Solomon known for his gift of wisdom which he received from God (Book of Kings)

FOR YOU TO DO:

If you have a Bible at home or a book of Bible stories, you could read these stories for yourself.

John the Baptist

The Gospel story for next Sunday and for last Sunday is all about John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus. In both Gospels, John is acting as God's Messenger, telling everyone to get ready for the coming of Jesus. You might notice that the people asked John if he was a Prophet.



What is a prophet?

A prophet is someone who listens to God and understands God's ways. Then he/she explains God's ways to the people and helps them come closer to God.

There were lots of other prophets before John the Baptist. You can read all about them in the Bible. They were people who were very close to God and so they knew what was important. They often told people to **stop and pay attention**. They knew that something really incredible was going to happen in Bethlehem. We know that too! We are journeying to Bethlehem now with Mary and Joseph, knowing that something incredible will be happening there. Now that we have lit the pink candle on our wreath, we know we are getting closer. The manger is ready.....

