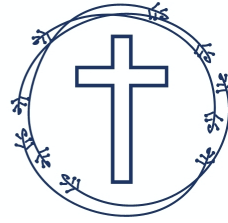


LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Pick N Mix Family Activities The Fourth Sunday of Advent 20th December 2020

Read Luke 1.26-38

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Today's reading is the beginning of the Christmas story – nine months before the birth of Jesus. It tells us that the Angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her that she would be the mother of God's son. It is often called "The Annunciation" because the angel "announced" to Mary that she would have a special baby. But the idea of announcing this news indicates that Mary had no choice in the matter, which was not the case. Imagine what would have happened if Mary had said "No"! It was a big decision and it took a lot of courage for Mary to agree.



How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel Gabriel?
She was an ordinary teenage peasant girl. God chose an ordinary girl to be Jesus' mother. Why didn't God choose someone wealthy and powerful?
What does God's choice of Mary tell us about God's plans?

We expect powerful people to do special things but God seems to turn the world upside-down. How would you feel if God asked you to do something extraordinary?

Sometimes the most unlikely people do extraordinary things. Here are some examples: Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, Stephen Hawking, Rosa Parks. Do you know who these people are and what they have done? If not, look them up on the internet and find out what is special about each one of them. As you prepare for Christmas Day think about the way in which Mary's world was turned upside-down. Think about the challenges she faced when she agreed to be Jesus' mother.

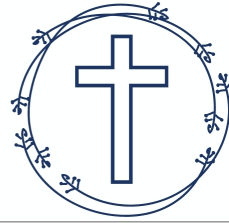
Activities

- Look at the emojis on the next page. Read the story again and choose an appropriate emotion for each part of the story.
- Listen to the song "Mary did you know?" on the internet. There are several versions on YouTube. Do you think that Mary realised what her baby Jesus would become when she said yes to God's plan?

Prayer

God of the upside-down world, we pray for everyone who is facing a challenge at this time. We pray for refugees and those who are persecuted;
for those facing health problems and waiting for treatment;
for those who are frightened about the future.
Lord, protect them and give them strength. Amen

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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE | 20-26 December 2020
Template to use with: *Ordinary emojis!*, p.39

