

Supporting People with Additional Needs in the Nottingham Diocese

SPANNED

The Story

A project of work for 2011-12

Basis of an approach – Aims of the project

1)

We are trying to link the work of the Climate Justice Project (2010) with that of this year so that the concepts of “life-giving”, “destructiveness” and “saving” can be further explored. We have seen how God created the world for us all to live in and that the trees and vegetation were an essential part to the planet providing us with enough oxygen to live; then we reflected on how we had systematically destroyed much of the planet through the greed of the richer nations, deforestation, over-use of fossil fuels, stealing of natural resources from those to whom they belong etc.; finally we looked at ways of preserving and saving this world in which we live – living more simply and less selfishly, recycling waste, cultivating less dependence on forestation and fossil fuels. The image of ‘the tree’ was a key element in all this work – providing us with food and air to breathe – and we wish to continue this notion a little further into the coming year.

Past experience has shown us that ‘discussion’ and attempting to understand these concepts purely ‘intellectually’ may not always work for many of our group members, so other approaches are preferable – craft and art work, visual displays, songs and music, and of course, interactive drama where everyone gets involved. So we suggest the notion of “the story” might be a useful way of linking all these thoughts together. Story ‘depicts’ human emotions very graphically – the things we do right and wrong, anger, jealousy, resentment, joy, delight and happiness – and enables us to ‘see’ what we are really like once it is held up before us. We can compare people in the story with ourselves, often in a humorous way, identifying with particular characters. Some DVD’s of TV comedy series might be a useful way of doing this in addition to someone ‘telling’ the group a story – eg. “Dad’s Army”, “Porridge”, “Allo! Allo!”, “One Foot in the Grave” etc.

Interactive drama pieces when everyone gets involved will be particularly helpful. You can use a prepared script or adapt one, or even make one up yourselves. Flash cards and noises and simple but outrageous costume are good props to have. The interesting thing is that when we present a ‘story’ like this, people usually remember it. This is particularly the case when it comes to the Bible, which is no more than a very large collection of stories which tell us about God and our lives with him. There is a huge fund of stories from the Old Testament and New Testament which could be used, possibly at the end of the evening when the group is praying together, and David Kossoff’s “Bible Stories” or “The Book of Witnesses” and Alan Dale’s “Winding Quest” and “New World” are especially useful resources here.

We can then look at the stories that Jesus told himself – the parables - with which we are all familiar as we have been miming them for so many years! So a schedule for Bible Stories during our evenings might be:

- the story of the beginning
- when things went wrong – the story of the tree of knowledge
- how God put things right – eg. Noah’s Ark
- how things still went wrong
- how God tried again – the story of Joseph (*with appropriate music from the show- a sing-a-long to some of the songs might be a good idea or DVD*)
- stories of disobedience (*DVD of “Don’t reject me” from “Mother Mary”*) and forgiveness – Abraham, Moses, King David, the prophets and God’s other friends
- the story of Jesus – birth, childhood, beginning of mission
- what was Jesus trying to do
- people who wanted to meet him – eg. Zacchaeus climbing a tree
- what happened to Jesus – he was put to death on a tree – we could repeat our ‘Passion Mime’ of some years ago if necessary.
- what happened because Jesus died – the ‘tree’ gave us life

History – stories of special people who followed Jesus and what happened to them – eg. the saints

Eventually we will move to the ‘story’ of “Faith and Light”, how it came to be and what it means. This is because 2011 is the 40th anniversary of the movement. We will intersperse funny or ‘make-believe’ stories with our Bible stories, as well as true stories of modern people who followed Jesus – eg. Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko, Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Bro. Roger Schutz. At the beginning, we cannot tell how it will all work out, as clearly ideas and news plans will emerge in the course of the project which may significantly alter what we are thinking of doing at the beginning!

Session 1 Story time

We all like stories – can anyone tell us what their favourite one is and why? How much of it can you remember? What do we think that each story contains?

- “once upon a time”
- “goodies” and “baddies” – the “goodies” always win in the end
- cruelty and possibly violence
- kindness and ‘rescuing’ if necessary
- a little romance possibly!
- “and they all lived happily ever after”

This structure is often in place to help us remember what the story is about and what it is for

Could we make up a story of our own? Perhaps we might have a competition to see which group makes up the best one. Would anyone like to tell us a story about something that happened to them?

Some stories are just make believe; others are actually true; some are jokes – eg. Fr. Frank’s “John Wayne” joke, Eddie’s jokes he tells us with his speech-writer, or Laura’s jokes which take a little time to emerge but are funny when they eventually do.

What do we tell them for?

- to remember something nice that happened to us or someone else
- to show us in a sort of pictorial way what we are like ourselves
- to make us feel better and comforted – everyone loves a happy ending
- to spread a message about something or someone

Interactive drama – the story of Cinderella – see Appendix 1

These stories are meant to be led by a narrator and mimed without practice. If you can find any ‘costume pieces’ or flash cards (‘Boo’, ‘Hiss’ etc.) or some music to liven them up that would be good.

What did we notice about that story? Did we like it? What was the best bit?

Stories about God – this is what happens in the Bible – we learn about God through the stories of the things he did and what happened to him. Read again David Kossoff’s ‘story of creation’.

This is the story of the beginning of everything, before anything and anyone ever was., when there was only God on his own, a quiet, thoughtful God, full of love to give and with no one to give it to. God had been by himself for a long time. Perhaps he felt a bit empty, even bored, looking out into nothing. Sitting, silent, still. Then suddenly he thought, I need something to do, something to live for; I know, I’ll make a world.

Mind you, before God started to make the world, he gave it a lot of thought. Big job, not much to go on, no previous experience of such a thing; and no good materials either. 'Right', said God, 'first things first. Some light to work by. Let there be light,' and there was. 'Pleasant effect,' God thought and turned it on and off a few times. Sometimes more dark, sometimes more light, 'and I'll call them night and day,' he said. God then looked at the endless water. 'Too much,' he thought, and decided to halve it. But where to put the other half, nowhere to empty it. So he pointed upwards and the water lifted into a gorgeous roof with every colour and every kind of cloud. God looked up. "I'll call that 'heaven'," he said, "it looks like a nice place to live." So he moved in.

God drew on the waters below with his finger and the land came up – "the earth and the seas" – he said. It looked a bit bare so he covered it with plants and all kinds of vegetation, each with its own seed. Then God thought of a way to improve on his day and night invention, which was a bit harsh on the eyes with its sudden change. He hung outside his home two globes of light – a large one to look after the day (the Sun) and a smaller one for the night (the Moon). Nice effect. Then he made a million smaller moons, which he called stars. God was enjoying himself. "Next," he said, things that fly and move and crawl and swim and walk." He used every colour and shape that came into his mind to make huge sea monsters and birds, tiny insects, delicate dancing creatures and slow heavy ones. Nothing was forgotten. "Multiply", he said, "fill the seas and the land and the sky; there's plenty of room." And so they did.

God was pleased with his work, but he still had an odd feeling of loneliness, of something still to do. He sat looking down into a calm lake, down at his own reflection. Then he smiled. "That's it," he said, "I'll make someone to talk to. A man. He can look like me." So God took some dust and wet it. He moulded it into a shape, like a statue, lying on the ground. Then he bent over it and gently blew into its nostrils. Very slowly, it began to move and got unsteadily to its feet. And they looked at each other. God said, "at last I have a friend...I'll call him Adam."

Session 2 More stories

What can you remember about last time? Can anyone tell us a ghost story or spooky story? Eg. Fr.Frank's "Dracula" joke, Jayne's ghost story or Laura's "Yeti" joke

Interactive drama - Jack and the Beanstalk (*note the reference to a 'tree'*) – see Appendix 2

Some discussion to take place on what a 'wassack' is!

Stories that happened to me – can anyone tell us a tale or two about something funny that happened to them or something really nice. Ghost stories or jokes here. We will make props, cards and costumes now for our story of Robin Hood next time

Story from the Bible – God's first friends:

David Kossoff's version is as follows:

When God made his first friend, he took him into a beautiful garden where the trees and plants were not only lovely to look at but would provide him all he needed for food. "You will be in charge," God said, "to look after everything and to grow things for yourself. Keep things tidy. I am very fond of this garden. I often walk here in the evenings. I hope you'll be very happy." and then God said, "oh and one more thing: there are two trees in the garden that you must not touch in any

way. Fruit trees. Right there in the middle.” Then God left and Adam settled in. A sort of gardener but with no one to learn from. God gave him all the skills he needed and visited him from time to time. One day, God said: “I have a new job for you. Before I made you, I made all the animals and birds but I didn’t give them any names. I will bring them to you for you to name them and to look for a suitable companion to help you. Sometimes you seem a bit lonely and we don’t want that, do we?” Adam named all the animals as God asked him but he did not feel he could make a real friend of any of them. So God put Adam into a deep sleep and while he was asleep, God removed one of his ribs and made a new sort of creature – not an animal or a bird, but more like Adam with little differences, softer, rounder. Then he woke Adam and showed him. Adam was astonished. “It’s called a Woman,” said God, “I named it myself as a companion for you. All I told you about the garden you can tell her” Adam was very pleased to have someone to talk to at last. “I will call you ‘Eve’”, he said, “and the first thing you must know about this garden is that you must not touch the fruit of those two trees in the middle. Anything else but not those.” Time passed and Adam and Eve enjoyed each other’s company. They lived in the sun, quite naked, like babies on the beach. Neither of them touched the two trees.

This is one story of how life began and one explanation for the way we often feel when we are out of sorts with ourselves and God. From the beginning a life with God was always seen to be what was essential so what do we think about our lives with God now when we look at his first friends.

Session 3 The man who lived in the trees (A)

The legend of Robin Hood – we act this out using the ‘props’ that we made last time, perhaps using some DVD footage if necessary. The story will take up three sessions, and we will tell you the first one now.

See Appendix 3

Now we’re going to have a drink and then think about how we can help people who are poor and hungry by listening to another story about the first time anyone was ever greedy and selfish

Story from the Bible – God’s first friends and the tree – a story written over 10,000 years ago to try to explain why we are sometime moody and selfish, greedy and difficult.

Do I ever get grumpy? Why might that be? What happens when I do?
 Am I ever really selfish? Why might that be? What happens when I am?
 Has it always been this way for human beings? What can we do about it to put it right?
 How did we understand this experience in the beginning – the story of Adam and Eve eating of the tree of the knowledge of ‘good and evil’.

“Now when God made all the animals, he also gave them different levels of intelligence, or cunning or craftiness. Some more, some less. and one of the creatures who seemed to get a double share of cunning and craftiness was the serpent. It lived in the garden and it used to watch Eve looking up at the two forbidden trees. “The fruit is delicious”, it said to her one day, “delicious; try it”. Eve looked at the serpent and said: “if we eat or even touch it, we will die.” “Nonsense,” said the serpent, “the tree is magic, and if you eat some of the fruit, not only will you not die, but you will be much wiser in every way. “ He had a smooth tongue, that serpent, and eventually Eve picked some of the fruit and talked Adam into eating it too. Then they waited to be wiser. Poor Adam and Eve. The wisdom in the tree was the knowledge of right and wrong. So straight away, with their new wisdom, they knew that they had done wrong and they were ashamed. They looked at each other

and no longer saw each other as innocent, like the babies on the beach, but guilty and naked. They hid their bodies from each other and they hid themselves from God, who walked often in the garden. But God knew what had happened. "Where are you, Adam?", he said, "why are you hiding?" Adam came out and God saw him. "Why are you wearing those leaves?" he asked. "Well," said Adam, "you can't go round naked; it's not right." God said, "how did you know you were naked or what 'naked' means, or what is right and wrong?" Well, Adam blamed Eve and she blamed the serpent. God listened. So soon disobedience, so soon the need to punish. "You will leave the garden," he told them, "and never comes back. Because of your disobedience, life will be harder for you and for all who come after you. and in the end you will all return to the dust from which I made you." God was not angry. He was sad. It had begun to go wrong. There was worse to come. A whole Bible full!

How we can help the poor – Lent is coming up and is a time for sacrifice and giving. We will take a CAFOD box into our homes and each day try to put some money in that we have saved by denying ourselves a little pleasure. In this we can feed some hungry people with CAFOD

Session 4 The man who lived in the trees (B)

Narrator 1 You remember last time we told you the story of Robin Hood, the man who lived in the trees, nearly 800 years ago

Narrator 2 And how he became an outlaw because Prince John's wicked barons had killed his father, stolen his castle and put all the blame on him

Narrator 1 And then how the sheriff of Nottingham.....

"Sheriff" enters in cowboy gear

...no not that sort of sheriff...we told you that last week....

He goes off sulking and disappointed

.....how the sheriff of Nottingham put a price on his head and he was forced to live in the forest, where he soon met others in the same situation and became their leader

Narrator 2 And then how Robin and his friends would waylay rich people coming through the forest

Outlaws You're waylaid!

Narrator 1 All right, all right!

Narrator 2 Invite them to a splendid supper and then relieve them of their money to feed the poor people roundabout who had nothing because wicked Prince John had stolen all their money in taxes

All Boo!

Narrator 1 Now this is the story of what happened next.

See Appendix 4

Here's another beautiful story to think about – the most beautiful story of all. It is sad but ends happily. It is the story of the sufferings of Jesus. We're getting near to Easter now and we all know what that means – it's not just eggs and bunnies, but the time when we remember Jesus dying on the cross and rising to new life for us all. Many of you will remember 11 years ago when we all spent a year learning to dance – “elephants' dancing” – to show people the meaning of the story of Jesus, right from the time when God made the world, as we have been hearing about. This evening, we are going to look at the DVD of that never to be forgotten night when 170 of us performed the “Dance of the Light”

Session 5 The man who lived in the trees (C)

See Appendix 5

Robin Hood was presented as a full 'play' for the public by the Hinckley and Nottingham groups twice each and was very well received. This was part of an exercise to tell more people about the work of SPANNED. After one evening in Hinckley the next club night was devoted to an archery demonstration by real archers who encouraged the group members to try out their bows. In other sessions, different groups presented the 'stories' below according to the time of the year and the feast of saints, and some Hinckley group members took part in “Ksiadz”, a full-length play about the life and death of Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko.

After the interlude of Easter, we spent many sessions preparing the liturgies that accompanied the project. The first – in May – to summarise the work of Sessions 1 and 2, and the second, in June, to summarise what happened after Session 4 – namely the history of the Old Testament. The September liturgy was a special 'story' to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 'Faith and Light' movement, and then we returned to the story of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, by concentrating first on the figure of his mother, Mary, the lady who had been seen in Lourdes by Bernadette, and the reason for the first 'Faith and Light' pilgrimage.

Session 6 “When nothing could be done....”

Can you remember what we have been doing together over the summer – apart from 'Robin Hood' that is! Let's see what we can remember. In Scunthorpe, we told the story of the Old Testament, everything that happened before Jesus was born, and became a sort of 'reduced Bible company'! Then in Hinckley, we told the story of 'Faith and Light', reminding ourselves that our faith could bring light to others, and thinking of Lourdes and how a beautiful lady – Mary – appeared to St. Bernadette there over 150 years ago and asked for people to come there on pilgrimage.

In Scunthorpe we saw on the film an extract from 'Mother Mary' and heard the song: “When nothing could be done, He sent His only Son, His life, His love, the only One”. After all the warnings God had given his people, and all the rejections he had endured from them, the only thing left for him was to send them Jesus, his only Son. But how did he do this? He chose a very special person called Mary, to be the mother of Jesus, and sent his angel Gabriel to tell her the message. Let's listen to St. Luke's story of how this happened:

God sent his angel, Gabriel, to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to bring a message to a young woman who was engaged to a man called Joseph, and the woman's name was Mary. The angel went in and said to her: “Rejoice, Mary, you are God's friend, and the Lord is with you.” Mary was very frightened by these words and asked herself what it all meant, but the angel said to her. “Mary, do not be afraid; something wonderful is going to happen to you; you are going to have a child, a

son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High.” Mary said: “But how can this happen to me? I am not married.” The angel replied: “God’s Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be filled with God’s power. The child will be holy and will be called the Son of God. And to prove that nothing is impossible to God, your cousin, Elizabeth, though she is old, is going to have a son too.” Mary said: “I am God’s servant; let what you have said be done to me.”

Now we are going to watch the DVD of “Mother Mary”, which tells the story of what happened at Christmas because she said ‘yes’ to God’s request.

Session 7 – The Servant of the Lord

We are going to spend a little time thinking about Mary, the mother of Jesus. What sort of woman do you think she was? How old was she when Jesus was born? Was Joseph really her husband? What did he think about marrying someone who was going to have a baby that wasn’t his? What was the first thing she did after the angel left her? She went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, and said the most beautiful prayer, called the ‘Magnificat’. Tell the story of the visitation.

Here is a new hymn which we can learn – Mary’s prayer (*sung to tune of “All ye who seek a comfort sure”*)

1. My soul will glorify the Lord’
my spirit will rejoice;
He’s done such wondrous things for me,
His praises sing my voice.
2. His mercy is for evermore
on those he calls his friends;
his strength it scatters all the proud,
his goodness never ends.
3. The strong and mighty he casts down,
the humble lifts up high;
he feeds the hungry with good things
the greedy passes by.
4. His people he protects in love
as promised long ago;
His word he kept all through the years,
his power and grace to show.
5. I’ll be your servant from now on,
to do your holy will;
whate’er you ask I will accept,
your purpose to fulfil.

We all know the Christmas story, and we will tell it once again of course, when the time comes, but for now, let us think about other times when Mary is mentioned during Our Lord’s life:

Jesus is presented to God in the temple and meets Simeon and Anna
The family moves to Egypt because of King Herod

Jesus in the temple with the doctors
 The wedding at Cana
 With the disciples
 On the cross

What do these episodes mean and what do they tell us about Mary?
Let us see if we can learn this song from "Mother Mary" (Music: Mamma Mia)

You were chosen by God,
 For a very great task;
 Willingly you agreed,
 When eventually asked.
 Look at you now,
 Mother of his Son,
 Holy and proud,
 You're the only one
 To show us how
 To celebrate Christmas now.

Change your lives just because Jesus came,
 All you do should be done in his name

Mother Mary, when the angel came,
 My my, how could you resist him?
 Mother Mary, with some news to tell,
 From God, he was so insistent.
 You gave the world its Saviour,
 Changed us in our behaviour;
 You, you taught us how to live and love.
 Mother Mary, now we really know,
 You, you taught us how to live and love.

For a Saviour to come
 we've been waiting so long
 Trying to get things right,
 But we've got it all wrong;
 Selfish and proud,
 Not the humble way,
 Raucous and loud,
 from his path we stray every day,
 In all that we think and say.

Give away everything that you have,
 Living's not about what you can grab

Mother Mary, when the angel came,
 My my, how could you resist him?
 Mother Mary, with some news to tell,
 From God, he was so insistent.
 You've shown the truth in living,
 Is to be found in giving,
 Now, now, how we love and honour you

Mother Mary, when the angel came,
 My my, how could you resist him?
 Mother Mary, with some news to tell,
 From God, he was so insistent.

Mother Mary, when the angel came,
 My my, how could you resist him?
 Mother Mary, with some news to tell,
 From God, he was so insistent.
 You've shown the truth in living,
 Is to be found in giving,
 Now, now, how we love and honour you
 Mother Mary, now we really know,
 How much we should love and honour you.

Session 8 The story of Christmas

Very shortly we are going to celebrate once again the beautiful story of Christmas, with Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, angels, shepherds and kings. It is such a lovely story that inspires and cheers us up every year. We think of how and where Jesus was born and what happened that night to so many people, how the innkeeper took pity on his parents and gave them the only room left – a stable – and how the baby was born and laid in the manger with the animals to keep him warm. And how he had all those visitors – shepherds and kings. But what does this all mean? It means that God, who has lived for ever, since before the beginning of time, has come to live with us, has made his home with us by sending Jesus his Son to be one of us and one with us for ever. So Christmas is about home – about Jesus having no home, only the hearts of all of us to welcome him and make him comfortable. We also know that Christmas, the feast of the birth of Jesus in a stable, poor, and homeless, can be the time for the greatest indulgence of the whole year – eating and drinking too much, wasting food, spending too much money on things we do not need, creating rubbish and thereby spoiling our world. It is the time when we try to think about others who do not have what we have, but not always about why they have to live like that. So what can we do about it? Let us think about the “AlterNativity” project once again:

- Reader 1 Today is the (*give date*) Very soon, too soon, we will begin our annual period of stress which is called Christmas shopping
- Reader 2 I saw Christmas items in a shop at the beginning of July
- Both Ugh!
- Reader 1 And we will be thinking what can I get for so and so or so and so
- Reader 2 And don't forget so and so – there's too many so and so's
- Reader 1 And we will stretch our minds and go to great lengths to find that something just a little bit special that nobody else has bought them
- Reader 2 Something that no one else would possibly have thought of
- Reader 1 And so, today, just to show that we are really prepared and ready for the big feast

Reader 2 And that we have gone to a lot of trouble to find something very special for some very special people

Reader 1 That nobody else will have bought – we are certain

Reader 1 But what do you give to the man / woman who has everything?

Reader 2 How could you possibly find something suitable for him / her....well we have

Someone gives them a box wrapped in Christmas paper but easy to open which is in fact empty

Both Happy Christmas,

Reader 1 It is such a problem isn't it?

Reader 2 Such a problem

Someone is gradually loaded up with all sorts of presents until they can't hold any more

Reader 1 So what do you do when you've got all the clothes you need?

Reader 2 Shirts, jumpers, trousers

Reader 1 Ties, socks, handkerchiefs

Reader 2 And all the gadgets you want for your room

Reader 1 And chocolates and biscuits....

Reader 2 And smellies...don't forget them

Reader 1 When you've no room for any more

Reader 2 And you don't want any more

Both What do you do?

Reader 1 AlterNativity

Reader 2 Alter what?

Reader 1 Alternativedifferent.....Nativity.....Christmas.....AlterNativity, get it?

Reader 2 So what's that?

Reader 1 You want to give me a present for Christmas...you do want to give me a Christmas present, don't you?

Reader 2 Oh yes....of course

- Reader 1 But I've got all I need or want....so you give my present to someone else
- Reader 2 What?
- Reader 1 You give my present to someone else who really needs it
- Reader 2 But it's not your present then, is it?
- Reader 1 Yes, it is, because you give me a card like this telling me what you've bought for me and given to someone else
- Reader 2 But what have you bought them?
- Reader 1 Ah, well, it could be any number of things

These are acted out...presents given to people who then thank the donors

Bedding for a young homeless person moving into a flat
 A hamper of food for a local family in need
 Tablets or medicines for people in Africa
 Chickens for a family in Bolivia
 A goat for a family in Bangladesh
 A baby pack for special care babies in Leicester
 Bandage packs for a hospital in India

- Reader 2 You're not bothering with the chocolates and smellies then?
- Reader 1 No
- Reader 2 No booze?
- Reader 1 No
- Reader 2 That's a pity
- Reader 1 Look here, there are people who do not have enough food to live on or clothes to keep them warm...giving them those things is better than giving us things we don't need and luxuries that will only make us fat
- Reader 2 Well, if you say so
- Reader 1 I do say so, and that's what AlterNativity is all about – if you want to change the world then change your life...change yourself...how you think...what you eat....what you waste. We've got to change ourselves first and realise that we are all brothers and sisters and our brothers and sisters are in need not just at Christmas but every day all the time
- Reader 2 You're right...so how do we do it?
- Reader 1 Well, you can collect an order form, then you pick what you want, order it and buy cards to go with each present, and you also get an explanation of what each present

does and where. Fill it in today or send it in to the address in Hinckley before December 5th and we will return your cards and gift leaflets. Couldn't be easier could it?

Reader 2 No it couldn't...I get an order form then?

Reader 1 Yes you do, and don't go home without one...Christmas is a time for giving but it's what you give and to whom that really matters

Both If you want to change the world, then change your life

The session ends with Christmas carols

Appendix 1 – The Story of Cinderella

- Narrator Once upon a time there was a beautiful young lady called Cinderella. She was beautiful but she was also so sad
- All Aaah!
- Narrator She was sad because her beloved mother had died
- All Aaah!
- Narrator What made her especially sad was that her father had married again not too long afterwards, and so Cinderella gained a step-mother who was not one bit nice
- All Aaah!
- Narrator And things got worse. Her step-mother had two daughters who were ugly, vain and proud, and they hated Cinderella because she was beautiful
- All Boo!
- Narrator And they treated her cruelly and said horrible things to her because they were jealous of her
- All Boo!
- Narrator The two sisters spent loads of her father's money trying to make themselves look beautiful – finest dresses and shoes, lavish hair-do's, and lots of make-up. But it didn't make any difference because they were still ugly
- All Hooray!
- Narrator So there was no money to buy nice clothes for Cinderella and her step-sisters treated her like one of the servants
- All Boo!
- Narrator She had to work hard all day and sleep by the fire at night when it had virtually gone out, when only the cinders were left. That was why she was called 'Cinderella'
- All Aaah!
- Narrator Then one day when Cinderella was sweeping the entrance hall, she heard a knock at the door. It was a royal messenger with an invitation to a ball at the castle. The king had invited all women who were not married to the ball in the hope that his son the prince would fall in love with one of them and marry her. The two ugly sisters were full of it; it was all they could talk about. They were sure that the prince would choose one of them because they were so beautiful – not! They ordered Cinderella to make ball-gowns for them, and spent hours in front of the mirror complaining at her because she couldn't make them beautiful. Cinderella wanted very much to go to the

ball, but her step-mother gave her such a long list of jobs that she knew she could never be finished in time, and also that she had nothing to wear; all her clothes were rags. The step-mother and sisters set off for the ball leaving Cinderella crying at home

All Aaah!

Narrator She had always dreamed of marrying a prince and being happy for ever, and now her dream could never come true because she could not go to the ball to meet him. Then something wonderful happened. Outside she heard a noise, a sort of fluttering. She went out and saw a kind old lady with a stick in her hand. Cinderella was amazed. "I am your fairy godmother," said the kind lady, "and because you are so good and loving, I have come to make your wish come true. You shall go to the ball." "But I have no clothes and no shoes", said Cinderella, and the kind lady waved her stick, a magic wand, and instantly Cinderella was dressed in the most beautiful ball gown with glass slippers. She looked so lovely and happy. "But how will I get there?" she asked. In the yard there was a pumpkin with some mice around it and a dog running around. Another wave of the wand and the pumpkin became a glass coach, the mice horses, and the dog a footman. Cinderella was overcome with joy

All Hooray!

Narrator She could go to the ball after all!

All Hooray!

Narrator But the kind lady said to her: "remember that at midnight all this magic will disappear and you will be back in your old clothes with no coach, horses or footman, so whatever you do, make sure you are back home by then." Cinderella agreed and set off in her glass coach. When she arrived she saw all sorts of beautiful women dancing and enjoying themselves. A handsome young man came over to her and asked her to dance. She thought he was so wonderful that she virtually fell in love with him on the spot.

All Aaah!

Narrator He never left her side all night and she never knew that he was the prince. She was having such a lovely time that she didn't notice the clock getting near to midnight. When she heard the first chime....

Clock Bong

Narrator She knew she had to leave at once before she turned back into a girl in rags again, so she rushed out and left the prince staring at her. He had no idea why she left. She was in such a hurry that she lost one of her glass slippers as she ran away. The prince found it and picked it up. "The person to whom this slipper belongs," he said, "is the lady I will marry. I will search the whole kingdom if I have to until I find her." The very next day, he set out and went all around the kingdom trying the slipper on the feet of countless young ladies, but it was too small and delicate and fitted nobody. When he arrived at Cinderella's house the sisters were preening themselves to welcome him and trying to make their big feet smaller. They tried on the slipper and of course, it didn't fit. "Are there any other ladies here?" asked the prince

kindly – for he was secretly rather glad that the slipper did not fit either of those very ugly women. “No,” they said, “there are no more ladies here”. As he was leaving, the prince suddenly noticed Cinderella sweeping the courtyard. “I thought you said there were no other ladies here”, he said. The sisters replied, “she’s no lady; she’s just a servant”

All Boo!

Narrator Cinderella was embarrassed and dare not look up into the face of the prince, but there was something about her that made him know that she might be the girl he was looking for. He gently lifted up her head, looked into her eyes and knew it was her. His heart was throbbing with delight as he asked her to try on the slipper. It was a perfect fit

All Hooray!

Narrator And so the prince married Cinderella and her dream came true

All Hooray!

Narrator They lived happily ever after of course, but as for the two ugly sisters, the last we heard of them was that they were still looking for husbands and still ugly!

All Boo!

Narrator And Cinderella, the beautiful young lady whom they treated so cruelly was now a real princess, with her own prince to love her and be kind to her for ever.

All Hooray

Appendix 2 – The Story of Jack and the Beanstalk

Narrator Once upon a time there was a young man called Jack (*Jack appears*) who lived with his mother (*mother appears*) and they were very poor. They had only a small vegetable garden and a cow (*two people pretend to be the cow*)

Cow Moo! Moo!

Narrator But one day, the cow stopped giving them milk

Cow Moo-oo!

Narrator Jack asked his mother

Jack What shall we do now?

Mother We have no choice but to sell the cow

Cow Moo-oo!

All Shame!

Narrator Jack's mother told him to take the cow to market and to make sure that nobody tricked him. So he set off with the cow and on his way he met a man who was going the same way, who asked him

Man Where are you taking that cow?

Jack I'm taking her to market to sell her because she isn't giving milk any more

Man I will swap her for this bag of seeds, they are magical and will make your fortune

Narrator So Jack went home, pleased with his magic seeds., But his mother was very angry

Mother You great irresponsible, cowardly, conniving little wassack

Narrator She said, as she gently bashed him about the ear

Mother You're useless! What are we going to do now without a cow or any money?

Narrator Jack told his mother that the seeds were magic

Jack They're magic!

Narrator So she bashed him again. But, undeterred – now there's a good word, 'undeterred', he planted them in the vegetable garden straight away. Then something really magic happened. During the night, a plant appeared from the seeds, and it grew and grew and grew. Jack was delighted and shocked when he saw it

Jack I'm delighted and shocked!

Narrator Now, don't start all that again! We had enough of that nonsense last year!

Jack Sorry!

Narrator He was delighted and shocked and went to call his mother and his mother..... whacked him round the ears again

Mother You great irresponsible, cowardly, conniving little wassack! How is this plant going to be any use to us as it hasn't got any flowers or fruit. All it does is just grow

Narrator Jack was undeterred – yes, there's that word again. He had spent much of his life being undeterred. It had helped him each time his mother bashed him and called him a useless wassack

Jack I'm going to climb up this tree and see what's at the top

Narrator Then his mother got a bit frightened. She knew he was a bit of a useless wassack, but he was her son and all she had got. But he was undeterred

Jack I'm undeterred!

Narrator Stop it, I said! So Jack bid his mother a fond farewell, ducking as she tried to bash him around the ears again and started to climb. He went up and up and up and up and

up and up – that’s enough up’s for now, don’t you think? And when he finally reached the top...

Jack I’ve finally reached the top...

Narrator Jack....what did I tell you?

Jack I know, but you’ve got all the best lines. I want some for myself as well

Narrator Jack.....

Jack OK, OK!

Narrator When he finally reached the top, he found a door, and a woman standing outside it

Woman Who are you? Don’t you know that a terribly cruel person lives here?

Jack No, I don’t I really don’t...no I really don’t know

Narrator Jack..... really didn’t know, but he told her that he had to climb the plant because he and his mother had nothing to eat, so he asked the lady

Jack Could you possibly give something that we could live off

Woman Come in and choose what you like, but hurry because my husband may come back

Narrator When Jack went in he was absolutely astonished (*Jack goes to speak but she stops him with a look. He shrugs*) There was gold and riches all over the floor, more than he could ever have dreamt of and the kind lady was going to give him some until they heard this loud, deep voice

Giant Is there a person here? I’m sure I can smell someone

Narrator The woman was petrified and hid Jack in her skirt

Woman No, there’s no one here only me

Narrator Then all of a sudden a huge giant entered, with a big club in his hand. Jack hid behind the woman and she turned around so her husband couldn’t see that she was moving him over to the door and to the beanstalk, so that he could climb back down to safety with a few coins in his pocket to help him. He shinned down the beanstalk – look, here’s another good word, ‘shinned’ and ran back to his mother, who, after she had cuffed him as usual, gave him a big hug because she really was delighted to see him, particular as he had brought back some money with him. And so they lived happily ever after.....no of course they didn’t because the money eventually ran out and they were as poor as they had been before. Jack decided that the only thing to do would be to climb back up the beanstalk to see if the woman could give him some more money

Jack It’s the only thing to do

Narrator Jack....

Jack Sorry

Narrator So the next morning, Jack climbed right up the beanstalk again and knocked on the door of the kind woman's house

Woman Is that you again?

Narrator She whispered, because her husband was asleep in the next room. She told Jack not to make any noise and he asked her quietly.....quietly, if she could possibly give him some more coins because he and his mother had used up the ones she had given him before

The giant is sleeping on the floor making lots of snoring noises

Woman Go and take what you want

Narrator He saw a beautiful golden hen there and thought this might be better than coins, so he went to pick it up and as he was picking it up, the giant stirred, and sensed the presence of another person

Giant Who's there?

Narrator He bellowed

Woman There's nobody here; you must have been dreaming

Narrator His wife said as she hid Jack in her skirt again and moved him towards the door. So Jack shinned down the beanstalk again carefully holding the golden hen and returned to his mother who greeted him in the usual manner

Mother whacks him then hugs him

Jack Mother, I am not a useless wassack after all; I have brought you this beautiful hen that lays golden eggs

Narrator And sure enough, every day, the hen laid an egg of pure gold. At last Jack and his mother would never be poor again. But Jack grew a bit restless

Jack I'm a bit restless

Narrator Now then....

Jack Sorry

Narrator When he had been in the giant's house, among the beautiful treasures he had spotted a golden lyre which he would loved to have had to play. So one day, when he could resist the temptation no longer, he climbed up the beanstalk again to find the golden lyre. He did not want it because he was greedy but because he thought it would sound as beautiful as it looked if he could manage to play it. But this time when he got there, the woman was surprised to see him

Woman My husband has found out that the golden hen is missing and he is very angry

Jack I only want the golden lyre; I promise I won't come back again for anything else

Woman Take it then

Narrator The woman said, because she was very kind-hearted. But just then the giant heard the sound of Jack's voice, and he appeared

Giant I'm appearing now

Narrator Yes, you are so get on with it!

Giant So it is you who are the thief. Now you will get what you deserve. I'm going to eat you!

All Ugh!

Narrator And with further ado – that's another nice word, isn't it – ado? – and not even bothering to find out if he had enough ketchup and mustard to make Jack taste even better, the giant came after him.

All Boo!

Narrator But Jack ran very fast and managed to reach the beanstalk before the giant could catch him. He started to shin down the beanstalk but the giant came after him

Giant I'm going to teach you a lesson

Jack Mother, mother, get the axe

Narrator He shouted to his mother as the giant was catching him. Jack got to the bottom of the beanstalk first and because the giant was so heavy he was till on the tree when Jack took the axe and began to chop it down. The tree split and the giant fell from a great height and was killed

All Hooray!

Narrator Jack said to his mother

Jack You see this plant has made our fortune after all and there is no more giant for us or the kind lady to be afraid of

Narrator So Jack started playing his lyre and the music was just as sweet as he imagined it to be. And from that day on, thanks to the golden hen, they were never poor again. Jack's mother finally had to admit that he wasn't such a useless wassack after all , and they all lived happily ever after

All Hooray!

Appendix 3 - The Story of Robin Hood – Part 1

Narrator 1 This is the story of Robin Hood, the man who lived in the trees. That is, of course, not the place where Kay, Adrian, John and Lorraine live in Hinckley – that’s a house called ‘The Trees’. These were real trees, just like the trees we’ve been thinking about for the last year only much much bigger. Once upon a time, a long time ago, nearly 800 years ago in fact, there was a king of England called Richard. He was strong and good and kind, but he spent a lot of time far away fighting and so his wicked brother Prince John tries to steal his throne. He was really wicked

Enter Prince John

All Boo!

Narrator 2 I mean seriously wicked

John shakes his fist

All Boo!

Narrator 1 He got money from people by raising their taxes again and again

John pretends to steal money from people in the audience

All Boo!

Narrator 2 So the poor people became much poorer and couldn’t even afford to eat

All Boo!

Narrator 1 And when they couldn’t pay any more taxes, many of them were put into prison

John takes one or two people away then exits

All Boo!

Narrator 2 So some of them ran away and became outlaws. They lived in the trees and the forests and dreamed of a time when they could go back to their homes and live happily with their families again. Even landowners had their homes and castles stolen from them by Prince John, so that he could give them to his favourite barons and friends

All Boo!

Narrator 1 Now just outside Nottingham there was a beautiful forest

Narrator 2 You drive out past Orla House and Loreto Cottage, ignore Mansfield and head up towards Doncaster on the A614. Eventually you get to Ollerton and then....to Sherwood Forest. If all else fails, you can put it in the SatNav – NG22 9PP – that’s the priest’s house in Ollerton and he’s a very nice bloke who’ll show you where it is if you get stuck...Alternatively, you could always ask someone in a pub or a garage....

Narrator 1 (*coughs*) Excuse me, there were no cars then...it was 800 years ago

Narrator 2 I know but I was just trying to put a bit of local colour into it, you know, so that we could all find it if we wanted to.....sorry!

Narrator 1 As I was saying, there was a beautiful Forest, deep and green with lots of big trees that you could hide in and live in.

Narrator 2 Has anyone here ever had a tree house? It's really great...you climb up a ladder and get in your house and you can see for miles. The only thing is you have to come down to boil the kettle or go to the toilet and as for having a shower....well, I'll leave that to your imagination

Narrator 1 Excuse me...!

Narrator 2 Sorry...I'm only trying to bring it up to date!

Narrator 1 And in this beautiful forest 800 years ago (!) a lot of outlaws came to live and the most famous of them all was Robin Hood

Narrator 2 He wasn't always called Robin Hood of course...in fact his name was Robin of Locksley. His father has a big house called Locksley Hall, and lots of land. An evil baron wanted it so he killed Robin's father and put the blame on Robin

All Boo!

Narrator 1 And the wicked sheriff of Nottingham...

Narrator 2 (*imitates sheriff from the Wild West with guns*)

Narrator 1 No...not that sort of sheriff, silly! And the wicked sheriff of Nottingham gave the order

Sheriff Arrest Robin of Locksley and hang him

Narrator 2 So he had to flee...to run away and hide...in the forest

Narrator 1 Now Robin was an expert archer

Music from "The Archers"

Narrator 2 No, not that sort of archer...a bowman.. He could hit a target from a hundred yards with his bow and arrow

Narrator 1 Anyway, when he was hungry, he had to shoot a deer for its meat and that was not allowed. The deer belonged to the king and anyone shooting them would be hanged. So Robin shot the deer for his tea....in fact for several teas, and dinners and even breakfasts. And when the word got out

Chinese whisper round the room of "Robin's shot a deer"

Narrator 2 When the word got out, the sheriff sent his men to look for him so that they could arrest him and hang him

Narrator 1 But...in the meantime...Robin had made some new friends. Very soon, he found he was not alone in the forest. He met lots of other outlaws, who were very suspicious of him at first

Outlaws We were very suspicious of him at first

Narrator 2 Until he beat them all in an archery context
(Robin raises his bow and shouts "Bullseye")

Narrator 1 They were so impressed with him....

Outlaws We're very impressed with you

Narrator 1 ...that they made him their leader. They dressed him up in Lincoln green

Narrator 2 Why did they do that?

Narrator 1 So that he couldn't be seen among the trees, silly

Narrator 2 Oh yeah...

Narrator 1 And called him Robin Hood

All Hooray!

Narrator 2 Now Robin was a good man and he hated injustice of any kind. He knew Prince John was wicked

All Boo!

Narrator 2 And that he stole money from people in taxes that they couldn't pay

Narrator 1 So some people were getting richer and while most of the others were getting poorer and this wasn't right

Robin That's not right

Narrator 2 So Robin thought up his very own social security system

Narrator 1 What?

Narrator 2 You know how to help people in need like social services are supposed to do

All *(everyone laughs)*

Narrator 2 Only they don't always...isn't that right?

All Yes!

Narrator 2 You see it's very topical this story...we're bringing it right up to date

Narrator 1 Do you mind?

Narrator 2 So Robin thought up his very own social security system – rob rich people and give the money to the poor –sort of even things out a bit, if you know what I mean

Narrator 1 But the rich people weren't happy

Rich person I'm a banker and what about my bonus?

Narrator 2 See, I told you it was topical this!

Narrator 1 Will you stop...? They rode into the forest and got waylaid

Outlaws You're waylaid!

Narrator 2 Now, I don't know if any of you have ever been waylaid before and it really can be quite a nasty experience!

Narrator 1 (*coughs*)

Narrator 2 Now Robin and his friends weren't just ordinary thieves...in fact they were good thieves

Narrator 1 Excuse me, how can you be a good thief? I mean if you're stealing something from somebody, how can that be good?

Narrator 2 Well, you see, Robin would invite the rich people to come for dinner as his guest in the Forest and then he would give them a splendid meal, which of course they had to pay for by giving him all their money...just like going to McDonald's really

Narrator 1 Will you get on with it?

Narrator 2 Then he would send them off home, poorer and well-fed, before taking the money to poor people living round about and feeding his men...very good, that, don't you think?

All Hooray!

Narrator 1 But I wonder what you would say if someone came in here now and took all your money, or your phone, or your I-pod? How would you like that?

Narrator 2 See, now you're getting up to date as well at last

Narrator 1 All right.....All right

Narrator 2 Now that's all from Robin for this evening. Next time, we are going to learn about some of the friends he made....who can think of their names...? Little John, Friar Tuck, Alan a Dale, Will Scarlett and of course his true love, Maid Marian ...and some of the things they got up to

Appendix 4 - The Story of Robin Hood – Part 2

- Narrator 1** One day, Robin was walking through the forest when he came to a river. The only way to get across it was to balance on the dead tree that had fallen across it like a bridge.
- Narrator 2** Robin started to walk very carefully across the tree when suddenly he saw a huge man on the other side wanting to come across as well. They met in the middle and could not get past each other. So Robin said:
- Robin** Step back friend; I'm in a hurry
- Narrator 1** But the huge man refused
- Little John** I refuse!
- Narrator 2** He was not going to be dictated to by this squirt of a little man
- Little John** I'm not going to be dictated to
- Narrator 1** So they started to fight each other with their sticks. Robin whacked the stranger with all his might
- Narrator 2** I thought he hit him with the stick
- Narrator 1** Don't be silly...you know what I mean. Robin whacked him with all his might and the stranger did not budge, then he whacked Robin back
- Narrator 2** Well they went on whacking for quite some time and eventually.... *(pause)*
- Narrator 1** Yes?
- Narrator 2** I'm just pausing here for dramatic effect
- Narrator 1** Will you stop messing about and get on with it!
- Narrator 2** Eventually....the stranger whacked Robin round the legs and knocked him into the water
- All** Ouch!
- Narrator 1** It was cold....so cold...but the stranger laughed and hauled Robin out
- Narrator 2** Robin wasn't too pleased....
- Robin** I'm not too pleased
- Narrator 1** but he had to recognise he had been in a fair fight, so he laughed as well and asked the stranger his name
- Narrator 2** The stranger told him his name was John Little and that he had come into the forest looking for Robin Hood

Robin Well, you've found him now!

Narrator 1 So John Little became Robin's right-hand man and the outlaws nicknamed him Little John because he was so big!

Narrator 2 Now in the next house to Robin's old home lived a lady, the most beautiful lady, called Marian. They had been childhood sweethearts.....

All Aah!

Narrator 1 ...but were separated when Robin became an outlaw

Narrator 2 Marian's father wanted her to marry a horrible man called Sir Guy of Gisborne

All Boo!

Narrator 1 He was a friend of the Sheriff of Nottingham so that meant he couldn't possibly be good!

Narrator 2 When Sir Guy came looking to woo Marian

Guy Woo! Woo!

Narrator 1 No, no...that's the noise of a train....this gets worse!

Narrator 2 When Sir Guy came to woo Marian...that is to court her...to try and make her like him

Narrator 1 Fat chance....he was greasy and slimy....ugh!

Narrator 2 She dressed herself as a boy and covered her face with a hood before she escaped and ran into the forest

Narrator 1 Now who should she meet but Robin, whose face was also covered and was out looking for some rich people to waylay. He thought she was a rich boy and told her to give him her money

Narrator 2 But she drew her sword and challenged him....it's not very nice, you know being challenged, especially in the middle of a forest with nobody around

Narrator 1 Get on with it!

Narrator 2 So they set to....I don't know if any of you have ever set to but that's not nice either

Narrator 1 glares at him

Narrator 1 In case you're too thick to notice, I'm glaring at you

Narrator 2 OK! They fought and fought with their swords until they were exhausted and dropped down next to each other.

Narrator 1 Robin was really impressed

Robin I'm really impressed

Narrator 1 Now then....not you as well! He was really impressed and decided to reveal who he really was

Narrator 2 When Marian saw Robin she was overjoyed

Marian I'm overjoyed!

Narrator 1 And they hugged each other and told each other how much they had missed each other and loved each other

All Aah!

Narrator 2 They decided that Marian would come to live with the outlaws and that they would get married as soon as King Richard came home and gave them his blessing

Narrator 1 And Robin gained another sworn enemy in Sir Guy of Gisbourne....the man who had been jilted

Narrator 2 Have you ever been jilted? It's not very nice, you know

Narrator 1 Stop it, I said! Anyway, when Marian went to live with the outlaws, she told Robin she had a friend called Friar Tuck and that he might come to join them as well

Narrator 2 So Robin set off one day to find him. The Friar lived near the river a quiet life with little disturbance

Narrator 1 After much searching in the places Marian had told him, Robin eventually saw the friar on the other side of a river but didn't realise it was him. He thought it was the ferryman and called to him

Robin Hey there! Will you ferry me across the river?

Narrator 2 The friar was not too keen but thought it was his Christian duty to help a stranger and the only way he could do it was to wade through the cold water and pick up the stranger on his back to bring him across the river

Narrator 1 Robin thought this ferryman was exceedingly kind until he felt a knife at his throat and the man wanted to be paid for his services

Narrator 2 Even friars have got to make a living you know!

Narrator 1 That's quite enough of that, thank you!

Narrator 2 But Robin had no money with him and no credit card

Narrator 1 That's enough, I told you!

Narrator 2 *(mutter)* I was only trying to bring it up to date! So the friar made him take him on his back to the other side of the river

Narrator 1 Well this went on for a while and eventually they got fed up of it – and tired

Robin & Friar We're tired now

Narrator 2 So Robin summoned help by whistling and very soon loads of outlaws and Marian appeared

Narrator 1 Then the Friar whistled and five large dogs appeared – this could be difficult

Narrator 2 But Marian saved the day – you see it always takes a woman to solve things when men are so stupid!

Narrator 1 She gave the friar a hug and then Robin and told them both who each other really was – the ferryman was Friar Tuck and the stranger was Robin Hood

Robin Oh, that's all right then!

Friar 'Course it is!

Narrator 2 So they had a mug of ale and a bit to eat and all became friends

All Hooray!

Narrator 1 And Robin asked the friar to join the outlaws and he was delighted

Friar I'm delighted

Narrator 2 I never said anything! And Marian was pleased that they had found a priest, to make sure they didn't do nasty things and get into too much trouble. That's not in the original story of course, but things being as they are, here, I thought you might appreciate it!

Narrator 1 So Friar Tuck became Robin's friend and joined the outlaws. And after that more friends came along – Much, the Miller's Son, whose father was shot by the sheriff's men because he wouldn't tell where Robin Hood was

Narrator 2 Will Scarlett, who liked to dress in red till he found it didn't match with the trees

Narrator 1 Allan a Dale – a minstrel – whose wife Ellen was rescued from the altar by the outlaws having been nearly forced to marry an old man

Narrator 2 And all the time that Robin was getting new friends and rescuing people, stealing money from the rich to give it to the poor, the sheriff of Nottingham was getting madder and madder, so resolved – that's a good word, isn't it – he resolved to set a trap for Robin Hood to catch him and hang him in front of all the people

Narrator 1 And that's what we'll hear about next time

Appendix 5 The Story of Robin Hood – Part 3

Narrator 1 Now one day Robin was practising his archery, shooting arrow at a tree and along came the sheriff of Nottingham, who was out looking for him.

Narrator 2 He did not recognise Robin because he had his shirt off, that is Robin, not the sheriff, if you know what I mean, but the sheriff did notice his skill and offered him a job

Sheriff Oi' Bowman; I need a good archer. Come and work for me

Robin Very good sir

Narrator 1 said, Robin and then went off with the sheriff to Nottingham, where he was given a grand supper in the kitchen of his castle

Narrator 2 The sheriff's cook was not a happy person – he hated working for the sheriff who could be moody and difficult, especially when he heard that Robin Hood had robbed more of the barons and killed the king's deer for food

Narrator 1 He quickly struck up a friendship with Robin.....hey what are you two doing?

Robin and the cook are 'high fiving'

Robin & Cook We're striking up a friendship!

Narrator 1 ...you know this just gets worse!. He quickly struck up a friendship with Robin and said to him

Cook If I had my way, I'd rather be working for Robin Hood....now there's a great man

Narrator 2 Robin told the cook who he really was....

Robin You shall have your way...I'm Robin Hood...

Narrator 2and they made a plan to escape, but not before they filled a huge basket with the sheriff's cups and plates, and knives and forks, and lots of his very best food and took the lot off into the forest

Narrator 1 When the sheriff found out, he was not very pleased

Sheriff I'm not very pleased

Narrator 2 In fact, he was downright angry

Sheriff I'm downright angry!

Narrator 1 Will you stop!

Sheriff I was only saying that I was downright angry...you'd be downright angry if someone came along and took your cups and plates, loads of food and the bloke who cooks it as well

Narrator 1 OK, you've made your point. But.... and there's always a but....but Robin himself had sent the cook off to the forest and had stayed behind himself. He could hear the sheriff shouting and bawling all night, because there was no one to cook his tea

Narrator 2 Next day, the sheriff decided to go into the forest to find Robin Hood and to take his new archer with him.

Narrator 1 He disguised himself and left his men at home in case he might be spotted

Narrator 2 Little did he know that the man he had with him was in fact the very same Robin Hood whom he was looking for

Narrator 1 Robin led him deep into the wood and he had no idea where they were, until Robin said

Robin I know where we can get a good supper

Narrator 2 Since there was no McDonald's or Burger King, the sheriff was quite perplexed

Sheriff I'm quite perplexed

Narrator 1 How many times do I have to tell you to stop messing about!

Narrator 2 It was the smell that the sheriff noticed first...the smell of cooking meat. Mmmh!

Narrator 1 But how could that be in the middle of the forest?

Narrator 2 Robin led him to a shady spot in the trees where there was a camp fire and a huge deer cooking over it

Sheriff That's the king's deer...someone has killed it....they should be found and hung

Narrator 1 But the smell got to him and he was beginning to feel rather hungry

Narrator 2 Then all of a sudden the outlaws appeared out of nowhere. The sheriff was absolutely petrified

Sheriff I'm absolutely petrified

Narrator 1 Then Robin revealed his true identity

Robin Welcome to my mansion, your honour. My name is Hood, Robin Hood. You may have heard of me. Do stay for supper, won't you? Our new cook has prepared it specially for you

Narrator 2 Then the cook appeared....the sheriff's own cook who had run away. So this is where he got to. He was inwardly seething.....no you can't say that because you are inwardly seething you see....no one's supposed to know about it

Narrator 1 So the sheriff had to sit and eat his dinner off his own plates....it was so humiliating and infuriating

Sheriff You have stolen my cook and half of my kitchen, Hood; you will pay for this

Narrator 2 But Robin corrected him....it's not very nice you know, being corrected

Robin On the contrary my liege....you will pay for this

Narrator 1 And so Robin took his wallet and relieved him of all his money

Narrator 2 And his credit cards as well

Narrator 1 Stop it, will you?

Narrator 2 Then they put the sheriff back on his horse with his empty purse and full stomach and sent him on his way home

Narrator 1 The sheriff vowed revenge on Robin Hood for making a fool of him even though he had to admit secretly, that he had actually enjoyed the dinner very much

Narrator 2 When he got home late that night, he began straight away plotting how to catch Robin and he enlisted the help of the evil Guy of Gisborne – you remember him; he's the one whom Marian jilted, and no man likes to be jilted does he?

Narrator 1 They thought that they would appeal to his vanity...Robin Hood thought he was the best archer in Britain

Music

Narrator 1 No, not that sort of archer; I told you before! But he had to prove he was the best archer so that everyone would know

Narrator 2 So the sheriff sent out a decree

Chorus Send out a decree.....send out a decree....decree...decree

Narrator 2 There was to be a great archery contest in Nottingham and the prize would be a golden arrow

Narrator 1 The sheriff was sure that Robin couldn't resist such a challenge and was sure to come....and when he did....he would take him and hang him at last

Narrator 2 Robin, of course, was not stupid. He wasn't just going to walk into the middle of Nottingham without being disguised...Have you ever walked into the middle of Nottingham? It's really quite a nice place you know...the castle's still there and there's lots of shops and amusements, a great day out for all the family

Narrator 1 Excuse me, you're a narrator, a story-teller, not the agent for the Nottingham tourist board, so keep your mind on the story

Narrator 2 Well, I was only trying to encourage people to visit Nottingham. The bishop lives there as well you know, and he's quite a nice chap. Shame about the football team, though; still you can't have everything can you?

Narrator 1 All right, all right...can we please get back to the story?

Narrator 2 OK, well Robin and his men disguised themselves as farmers and Robin dressed as an old beggar in rags

Narrator 1 The best archers in the land were there but no sign of Robin Hood. The sheriff was beginning to think his plan had failed

Narrator 2 The oldest of the archers seemed to be particularly good and managed to impress the judges and get through the early rounds

Judge I like your style and your accuracy...you've definitely got the X Factor, even though you're much older than the rest. What do you think, Cheryl?

Cheryl Yeah! I think he's great

Narrator 1 In the end, there were just three archers left in the final. The first to shoot was the sheriff's man, Gilbert. His arrow landed a hair's breath from the centre of the target – what a shot!

All Hooray!

Narrator 2 The next man to shoot was Adam O'Dell the champion of England. He stretched back his bow and shot long and true....right into the centre of the target!

All Bullseye!

Narrator 1 The old beggarbeggar I said! was to shoot last, but there was no point in him having a go because O'Dell's arrow was plum in the middle of the target...but the judges allowed him to shoot nevertheless

Judge You can shoot nevertheless

Robin But I want to shoot at the target

All Oooh!

Narrator 2 Robin drew back his bow and shot...his arrow flew through the air and split O'Dell's arrow in two, landing right in the centre of the eye. He was the winner!!

All Hooray!

Narrator 1 The sheriff couldn't believe it

Sheriff I can't believe it

Narrator 2 How could this old beggar shoot so well and defeat the champion of England? But he had

All Hooray!

Narrator 1 The sheriff reluctantly parted with the prize....the magnificent golden arrow

- Narrator 2** He was perplexed and annoyed that his plan to catch Robin Hood had failed
- Sheriff** I'm perplexed and annoyed
- Narrator 1** But at least he would have the satisfaction of putting it around that Robin Hood was a coward and dare not even come to take part in the context
- Narrator 2** He might not have caught Robin but he had ruined his street cred....or so he thought
- Sheriff** I've ruined his street cred now.....no one will follow him any more
- Narrator 1** But Robin wasn't satisfied....he wanted the sheriff to know that he had been outwitted so that evening while the sheriff and Sir Guy were having supper an arrow flew straight through the window and landed right in the middle of the table
- The noise of the arrow is accompanied by the Narrator 2 putting a bottle of Strongbow cider on the table*
- Narrator 1** What is that?
- Narrator 2** Strongbow cider....it's what people drink when arrows fly through their window and land on the table. You can't beat a little product placement now, can you?
- Narrator 1** Take that bottle away and let's get on with the story. Attached to the arrow was a note
- Narrator 2** The sheriff read it with trepidation...I thought he might have been better off reading it with his glasses, but I'm not responsible for this rubbish script
- Narrator 1** The note said: "thank you for the golden arrow...not bad shooting for an old beggar was it? Yours sincerely, Robin Hood"
- Narrator 2** Thwarted again! Have you even been thwarted? It's quite painful you know
- Narrator 1** Will you please stop this? We're getting to the end of our story and all this lot are fed up of your jokes, aren't you?
- All** No!
- Narrator 2** See, I told you they liked a bit of modern!
- Narrator 1** One day, not long afterwards, with the sheriff still seething and looking for ways to catch Robin, a hooded figure rode through the forest
- Narrator 2** Robin's men stopped him and invited him to lunch in their customary manner
- Narrator 1** He obviously wasn't rich but even though he kept his hood on they could see he was a gentleman
- Narrator 2** After the meal, he was asked for his purse and the outlaws were puzzled
- Outlaws** We're puzzled

Narrator 1 Will this nonsense ever stop?

Narrator 2 Very soon, as we're near the end now. Why would a man with no money ride into the forest where he must have known that he might have been waylaid

Narrator 1 When they asked him what he really wanted the stranger said

Stranger I have come to find Robin Hood...I've heard so much about him and his friends and wanted to see for myself if it was true

Narrator 2 Robin was intrigued

Robin I'm intrigued.....to see if what was true?

Stranger To see if he really did rob the rich and help the poor, if he really was loyal to the king and not his wicked brother, Prince John

Narrator 1 Robin stood up and said

Robin We are all the king's good servants here, but have been outlawed by Prince John and his barons, who stole our property and wanted to put us in prison for not paying his taxes. We look forward to the day when Richard will return and we will all be free men again

Narrator 2 At that point the stranger took off his hood and revealed his true identity...it was King Richard himself!

Narrator 1 Robin and his friends were overjoyed and they all knelt to ask for his pardon, which he gladly gave to them

Narrator 2 Robin asked the king for a blessing on his marriage to Marian and the king gave it

Narrator 1 Right there and then in the middle of the forest, Robin and Marian were married by Friar Tuck with all their friends and the King of England looking on

All Aaah!

Narrator 2 Then they had the most sumptuous feast and the king didn't seem to mind eating his own deer because it tasted so nice

King Anybody got any ketchup? And what's for afters?

Narrator 1 So there we can leave Robin and Marian happily married and living with their friends

Narrator 2 When King Richard caught up with the sheriff, he had him put into prison for the rest of his life and all the wicked barons too

All Hooray!

Narrator 1 Some of the outlaws joined the king's army but most of them stayed with Robin and Marian, and Little John and Friar Tuck in the forest

- Narrator 2** And they all lived happily ever after....I love that line
- All** Hooray!
- Narrator 1** And the legend has it that when Robin was very old and dying, he asked his friends for his trusty bow
- Narrator 2** With all the energy he had left, he shot an arrow right into the middle of the forest and told his friends
- Robin** Wherever that arrow lands is the place where I want you to bury me
- Narrator 1** So when Robin died they buried him there and an oak tree grew on that very spot; it grew and grew and grew until it became the largest tree in the forest. It's called the Major Oak, and you can still go up to the forest to see it today
- Narrator 2** You go up past Orla House on the A614, to Ollerton, where there's a nice priest who will help you....
- Narrator 1** Look, I'm fed up of you interrupting this beautiful story and ruining it with your jokes
- Narrator 2** But this time it's got to be modern hasn't it? You've told them all about the Major Oak and how you can still see it and I'm telling them how to get there....so there!

They walk off chuntering to each other as the music from "Robin Hood" plays – everyone joins in the singing

END

Appendix 6 – The Hinckley Sunshine Club – The story of Lourdes *(in between Session 2 and 3)*

Art work – make a picture of Lourdes then of a rosary, with our names on the beads

- Narrator 1** Our story begins nearly a hundred and fifty years ago in a small town in the mountains of southern France, called Lourdes. There was a poor family called the Soubirous - mother, father, two boys, two girls, and the eldest daughter was called Bernadette.
- Narrator 2** On February 11 1858, Bernadette went with her sister and a friend walking along the banks of the river, looking for dead wood so that they could make a fire to cook the lunch. They arrived at a little spot or grotto, and Bernadette was just taking off her shoes to cross over the stream, when she heard a noise like a gust of wind.
- Narrator 1** She looked up and in the rocks she saw a lady dressed in white with a rosary in her hands. She couldn't believe what she saw. She rubbed her eyes again but she could still see the same lady. She took her rosary from her pocket and was shaking with fear as she tried to pray. The lady made the sign of the cross and Bernadette tried to do the same. All the time she was praying, Bernadette could see the lady, who beckoned to her to come closer and then suddenly disappeared.

- Narrator 2** Bernadette gathered up the wood and found the others. She asked them had they seen anything and they said 'no'. She thought she must have been mistaken but eventually told them what happened. When they got home, the others blurted it out to her parents, who were angry with her
- Mother** Bernadette, you mustn't go back to that grotto again
- Narrator 1** By the next Sunday, though, Bernadette felt she had to go back. It was as if something was telling her to do this. She went back with her sister and a friend and took with her a little flask of holy water from the church to sprinkle on the vision if it happened again. They knelt down at the grotto and began to say the rosary. Very soon, she saw the same lady appear again. She sprinkled her with water and begged her to say if she had come from God or not. The lady simply smiled and bowed her head. When Bernadette finished her rosary, the lady disappeared again.
- Narrator 2** They all went home and she told her mother
- Mother** Bernadette, you are not to go back there
- Narrator 2** But she did go back the next Thursday and took some adults with her and also a sheet of paper to write down anything the lady might say to her. The lady did speak to her and said
- Lady** There is no need to write down what I have to say to you. Will you do me the favour of coming here every day for two weeks?
- Bernadette** I will if my parents give me permission
- Lady** I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the next.
- Narrator 1** Then she disappeared. So Bernadette went back every day and each day more people went with her, hoping to catch a glimpse of the lady as well, but only Bernadette saw her.
- Narrator 2** Many people did not believe Bernadette and said she was mad. Doctors and scientists examined her at the grotto but they could find nothing wrong with her, only that her face changed when she was seeing the lady; sometimes she would be radiantly happy and other times terribly sad and crying.
- Narrator 1** On the 24th of February, the lady spoke a message to Bernadette:
- Lady** Kiss the ground and pray to God for sinners
- Narrator 1** The next day the lady told her to drink from the spring, but Bernadette could not find it, only a pool of muddy water. Eventually, she scooped away the mud and the water was clear; she could drink and the stream began to flow on that spot.
- Narrator 2** Bernadette kept going back to the grotto every day; sometimes the lady was there and sometimes not. More and more people heard of it and came with her. The local town officials were angry that so much attention had been drawn to the place, and threatened to put her in prison if she did not stop going to the grotto.

- Narrator 1** On the 2nd of March a very special thing happened. Bernadette went to the grotto as usual with her two aunts. The lady appeared and gave her a message for priests. Bernadette went to her parish priest to tell him:
- Bernadette** The lady I saw asked me to go and tell you to have a chapel built here at the grotto. She also told me she wants people to come here in procession.
- Priest** What is this lady's name?
- Bernadette** I don't know; I have asked her but she just smiles at me
- Priest** Well you ask her again. I think she's making a fool of you. If you want my advice, I wouldn't go back to that grotto again if I were you.
- Narrator 2** But Bernadette did go back and eight thousand people with her. She asked the lady her name, but the lady simply smiled. When she went back to tell her parish priest this, he said:
- Priest** If this lady really wants a chapel, let her say her name and provide the money for it to be built.
- Narrator 1** Bernadette went away downhearted and for twenty days she did not go back to the grotto. She did not feel as if she could. But on the 25th of March, she felt drawn to the grotto once more. When she got there she saw the lady again and was overjoyed. She knelt down and said:
- Bernadette** Madame, will you be so kind as to tell me who you are
- Narrator 2** But the lady was silent. Bernadette repeated the request three times so that she could get an answer for her parish priest, but there was still no reply. But when Bernadette asked her the fourth time:
- Bernadette** Please tell me who you are
- Narrator 1** The lady raised her eyes to heaven, joined her hands in prayer and said:
- Lady** I am the Immaculate Conception
- Narrator 1** Over the next two weeks she also told Bernadette three secrets she was not to reveal to anyone. Bernadette went back to her parish priest and told him:
- Bernadette** The lady said 'I am the Immaculate Conception'
- Narrator 1** And the priest was at last convinced that Bernadette Soubirous had truly seen a vision of Our Lady, the mother of Jesus. On the 16th of July 1858, Bernadette saw the lady in the grotto for the last time, and thought she was more beautiful than ever..
- Narrator 2** Six years later after much hounding and threats from the local authorities and police, Bernadette entered the convent of the Sisters of Charity at Nevers. She wanted to give her life to God completely, even though her health was very poor. After much examination and discussion, the local bishop finally declared that the Mother of God

had indeed appeared at the grotto of Lourdes to Bernadette, and that a chapel should be built there, so that people could come in procession as the lady requested.

Narrator 1 Bernadette spent nearly 13 years in the convent, years of much trial and suffering. On the 16th of April 1879, at the age of 35, Bernadette died. her last words were:

Bernadette Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for me, poor sinner, poor sinner

Narrator 2 Since that time, people have gone in their millions to the shrine at Lourdes, to do penance for their sins and to seek health of mind and body. They often bathe in the cold waters of the stream, walk in procession day and night, and celebrate Mass together in one of the many chapels. Many sick people have been cured of their sickness, but all pilgrims leave Lourdes feeling happier and closer to God.

Narrator 1 On December the 8th 1933 in Rome, the Pope declared in the company of his bishops that because of her holiness and simplicity, and of the devotion that had grown to her, Bernadette Soubirous, the shepherdess of Lourdes, would henceforth be known as Saint Bernadette.

Appendix 7 – Loreto Thursday Club, Nottingham - The Story of St.Patrick *(in between Sessions 2 & 3)*

Introduction A great day for the Irish! St.Patrick's Day and what it means

Art Work Everyone makes a 'shamrock' and puts their own name on it

The Story of St.Patrick

Narrator 1 For a lot of Irish people it came as a great shock to know that St.Patrick was not in fact Irish himself! He was British, probably Scottish and it is thought that he was born in a place called Kilpatrtick, near Dumbarton in 387. His parents were Romans, who were living in Britain at the time. His father, Calpurnius was a civil official and a deacon and his grandfather was a priest.

Narrator 2 As a boy of fourteen, he was captured by a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans, but Patrick was a Christian, and in his captivity, he became a man of intense faith and prayer. When he was twenty, he had a dream from God, in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. He escaped his captors and got to the coast where he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, and he was eventually re-united with his family.

Narrator 1 After some time, he had another dream in which he heard the voice of the Irish people calling to him to come and walk among them once more. He began studying for the priesthood and was ordained by St.Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre in France where he had studied. Later on, he was ordained a bishop and sent to take the gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland on March 25 433 at Slane. There were certainly some pockets of Christianity in Ireland before he came, but no great impression had been made.

Narrator 2 Much of his work there was surrounded by legends: that he drove out all the snakes from Ireland (were there any?) and that he converted a local pagan chieftain who had tried to kill him. He began preaching the gospel and gained many followers, building lots of churches all round the country and converting thousands of people including kings and local chieftains to Christianity. In 444 he established a Christian diocese in Armagh, which is still in existence, and towards the end of his life, he made a forty-day retreat on a mountain in County Mayo, which is now known as Croagh Patrick, and has become a world-renowned place of pilgrimage.

Narrator 1 He lived a very poor and simple life, wandering around the countryside preaching for nearly 30 years and died at Saul, where he built his first church on March 17 461. He was a humble, pious, gentle man, who had complete love for God and trust in him. He was not afraid of anything or anyone, and never claimed any credit for himself and said: "I, Patrick, a sinner, am the most ignorant and of the least account among the faithful, despised by many... I owe it to God's grace that so many people through me should be born again to him..." He has left us writings and prayers which inspired his hearers and still inspire us today.

Narrator 2 When trying to explain what God was like to the pagan people, he stooped down and picked up a plant – the shamrock – which was one plant with three leaves. The Irish always claim that it only grows there and not anywhere else! Nevertheless, Patrick explained that this was what the Holy Trinity was like – God is one and three – and he wrote one of the most beautiful prayers of the Christian tradition – St.Patrick's Breastplate, which we will hear later.

Refreshments – Irish Coffee (alcoholic and non-alcoholic!) Irish bread and / or barnbrack cake – someone tell the significance of the bread and cake

Prayer cards - St.Patrick's Breastplate

Reading - The "Confessions" of St.Patrick - No.34, 36-39

Music - "The Deer's Cry" – Shaun Davey - mimed

Prayer - The prayer of St.Patrick

I bind unto myself today, the strong name of the Trinity
By invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this day to me for ever, by power of faith, Christ's incarnation,
His baptism in the Jordan River, his death on the Cross for my salvation.
His bursting from the spiced tomb, his riding up the heavenly way,
His coming at the day of doom, I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself today, the power of God to hold and lead:
His eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to harken to my need;
The wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward;
The Word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself today, the strong name of the Trinity
By invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.
Of whom all nature hath creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, Word;
Praise to the God of my salvation - Salvation is of Christ the Lord. Amen

Hymn - Christ be beside me

Appendix 8 – The Hinckley Sunshine Club – The song as story

We spent quite some time talking about songs and what they were for. Many of them were in fact stories in themselves. We told the stories of four songs and then sang them together:

“Silver and gold” – the story of an unemployed miner who took up embroidery

“I thought you were an A-rab” – the story of the Abscam scandal in the United States

“The Band played Walzting Matilda” – the story of Australian soldiers slaughtered in Gallipoli in 1916

“The Marvellous Toy” – Tom Paxton’s wonderful piece now turned into a book

Liturgy 1 – AGM Mass at Mickleover – May 22 2011

Entry Hymn Christ be beside me

Introduction *Scunthorpe Group*

Reader 1 Welcome to this special Mass in Mickleover and thank you to Fr.Paul and all the parish for having us here once again

Reader 2 This year we have been thinking about the story and what it is for. Here are some of our favourite story books

Two people enter with lots of story books and Reader 1 says what they are

Reader 2 Some stories are happy, some are sad; some are make believe and begin like this:

Reader 3 Once upon a time.....

Reader 2 And end like this.....

Reader 4 And they all lived happily ever after

Reader 1 Some have goodies....

Everybody cheers

Reader 2 and baddies

Everybody boos

Reader 1 Some stories are made into songs that we can sing together

Reader 2 Some stories are jokes like Eddie's jokes

Eddie tells a joke

Reader 1 or Laura's

Laura tells a joke

Reader 2 Sometimes Fr.Frank tells us jokes

Everybody groans

Fr.Frank Once upon a time in a very out of the way place called Transylvania...it's nowhere near here in case you wondered...

Reader 1 Excuse me, you can't tell that joke here in the middle of Mass

Fr.Frank Why not? It's a good joke

Reader 2 It's not...it's rubbish...and it's scary

Fr.Frank Well, there's no harm in being a bit scared from time to time...you know...horror stories and all that

Reader 1 Not in church thank you very much and not today

Fr.Frank Well, I thought it was a good joke...it's one of my favourites..I thought people might like to hear it...

Reader 2 Will you stop chuntering so that we can get on with the Mass?

Leicester group

Reader 5 So what are stories for? Why do we tell them?

Reader 6 We tell stories of what happened to us to remind us of happy times or of the silly things we did

Reader 5 How many stories can you tell about what happened in your group? Lots, I bet

Reader 6 Sometimes we tell nice happy stories to cheer us up when we're feeling sad

Reader 5 Sometimes we tell stories to show what people are really like – to make a picture of ourselves and what we do

Reader 6 Sometimes we tell stories to spread a message to tell others

Reader 5 Sometimes we tell stories to help us understand things like where we came from in the first place

Derby group

- Reader 7 This year in our groups we have told lots of stories
- Reader 8 We told the story of Cinderella, the young woman who became a princess even though her two ugly step sisters and step mother tried to stop her
- Reader 7 In Hinckley we got a bit worried about the two blokes playing the ugly sisters because they seemed to like it so much!
- Reader 8 Then we told the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, only in Derby, Gordon knew it well already
- Gordon And the giant came plummeting down
- Reader 7 Then we told the story of Robin Hood, the man who lived in the trees
- Reader 8 In 3 parts if you please and we're going to make it into a play to do for our parishes
- Reader 7 But in Nottingham, David was trying to shoot everyone with his bow and arrow – we'll have to stop that!
- Reader 8 There will be lots more stories to tell and share....but not Fr.Frank's joke!
- Reader 7 All of life is a story – a story of me and what has happened to me, the things that I have done and the things that I did not do. One day we will see God face to face and tell him
- Reader 8 Only he will know it already of course because he knows everything
- Reader 7 So let us begin our Mass by thinking of some of the things in our story that we are sorry for, especially where we might have hurt God and each other
- Reader 8 Then we can tell him we are sorry...

Rite of Penance

Prayer

The Word of God

Hinckley group

- Reader 9 The Bible is the most beautiful story of all and it's true. It is the story of our great and good God and how kind and loving he is. We have learned already this year about how God made us out of nothing and how his first friends turned away from him

This is mimed – God has his arms round a few people and then they turn their backs on him

- Reader 10 How hurt he was when this happened and it happened so often throughout history
- Reader 9 God gave his people lots of chances to come back and sometimes they did but often they just turned away again

He implores them and they turn away

- Reader 10 So in the end he had to send his only Son, Jesus, to bring people back to him
- Reader 9 There are some very wonderful stories about Jesus – how he healed people and made them well again – lepers, those who were deaf, dumb or blind, those who couldn't walk and those who thought they were going mad – he healed them all
- Reader 10 There are other stories too about how Jesus made friends with people and called some of them to follow him
- Reader 9 he asked them to tell his story all round the world so that many more people could come to hear his message
- Reader 10 He gave them himself in the bread of life and he is with us too today when we celebrate the Mass together, because that is what he promised
- Reader 9 But some people did not like him because he told them the truth about themselves
- Reader 10 They plotted against him and then they arrested him and crucified him on a cross
- Reader 9 On Palm Sunday our group presented Jesus' passion from the "Dance of the Light" in church and everyone was deeply moved by our story
- Reader 10 But Jesus rose to life and is now living with us and in us – that is the most wonderful story of all
- Reader 9 We will tell it many times because it is so good and we will also tell more stories about Jesus and some of the stories he told, because we believe that when we tell these stories, they are the Word of God, God speaking to us about himself and his way

Bidding Prayers

Offertory

Nottingham group

- Reader 11 When we offer the bread and wine at Mass, we also offer ourselves to God. This year, on the feast of St.Patrick, the Loreto group told his story
- Reader 12 He was a young man born in Scotland and captured and taken off to Ireland, to work as a shepherd. Eventually he escaped back to Scotland but heard the voice of God calling him to go back to the Irish people and tell them the story of God and Jesus
- Reader 11 So Patrick studied to become a priest and went back to Ireland as a missionary, that is someone sent to tell people who do not know the story of God
- Reader 12 Later he became a bishop and set up communities all over Ireland

Reader 11 To help him tell the story of God to the people of Ireland, St.Patrick used a shamrock to show them how God was three in one and wrote a most beautiful prayer, some of which we sang at the beginning of Mass

Reader 12 As part of our offering, we would like to present that prayer now

Mime to "The Deer's Cry"

Prayer over the gifts

Preface

Eucharistic Prayer No 2

Communion Hymn

After Communion

Loughborough group

Reader 13 A little later this year, our Loughborough group will be going to Lourdes to celebrate the 40th anniversary of "Faith and Light". We will tell the beautiful story of "Faith and Light" when we gather for our annual Mass in Hinckley in September with lots of 'Faith and Light' groups

Reader 14 So what about Lourdes? Why do we go there? Nearly everyone knows the story of Lourdes, how, on February 11 1858 a poor young shepherdess called Bernadette Soubirous went to a grotto in the rocks by the River Gave to collect sticks for the fire

This could be mimed in costume

Reader 13 And how she saw in the rock the vision of a most beautiful lady all in white. She went back there many times and told other people who did not believe her

Reader 14 Eventually the lady told Bernadette who she was and asked her to get people to come there on pilgrimage to pray and honour God

Reader 13 From that day millions of people have made their way to Lourdes, including most of us here and we all know what a wonderful place it is

Reader 14 We still love to tell the story of Bernadette as she is someone we can all be like – simple, holy, kind and prayerful – a wonderful example for everyone

Final Prayer

Blessing

Final Hymn

Liturgy 2 – Retreat Day Mass at Scunthorpe – June 26 2011

This liturgy has a very long pre-amble – the story of the Old Testament – and then the rest of the Mass proceeds simply to its conclusion. The person of ‘God’ is played by the same actor throughout

Entry Hymn Moses I know you’re the man

Introduction *Scunthorpe Group*

Reader 1 Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Scunthorpe once again. We love to have you with us and thank you for making the long journey to be here

Reader 2 This year, as you know, we have been thinking in our groups about stories

Reader 3 We said that some stories were make believe

Reader 4 Some stories are made into songs that we can sing together

Reader 1 Some stories are jokes like Eddie, Laura and Fr.Frank’s jokes

Fr.Frank Once upon a time in a very out of the way place called Transylvania...it’s nowhere near here in case you wondered...

Reader 1 Excuse me, what did we tell you last time?

Fr.Frank Well....

Reader 2 What did we tell you last time? We said you can’t tell that joke here in the middle of Mass

Fr.Frank Well, I know but it’s a good joke

Reader 3 It’s not...it’s rubbish...and it’s scary

Fr.Frank Well...I think it’s a good joke

Reader 4 Well it’s not and you can’t tell it, not in church thank you very much and not today

Fr.Frank Well, I thought the people of Scunthorpe would like to hear it

Reader 1 They wouldn’t, so will you please get on with the Mass?

Fr.Frank *whispering* It’s not fair, why can’t I tell my joke? It’s a good joke ..

All readers Pleasecan we get on with the Mass now?

Reader 2 We’ve told some lovely stories in our groups so far – Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, and now Robin Hood

- Reader 3 And true stories like the story of Lourdes, the story of St.Patrick and the story of a very brave man called Fr.Jerzy Popieluszko, who was murdered by the Polish government in 1984 for speaking the truth
- Reader 4 But today, we're going to tell you the greatest story ever....the Bible
- Reader 3 And the Bible is divided into two halves – the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Reader 4 The Old Testament is lots of stories of what happened before Jesus came along and the New Testament is the story of Jesus and his first friends
- Reader 3 Today, we're going to tell you some of the great stories that happened before Jesus was born
- Reader 4 And then, a little later this year and next year...we will be telling the wonderful story of Jesus and also some of the stories that he told his friends

Derby group - with props if possible

- Reader 5 This is the story of how the world came to be...our loving God made it out of nothing
- Reader 6 Can you remember last year in Mickleover, when we told this story
- Reader 7 All about the sky.....the seas.....the land, the earth..... plantsand trees, of course, we musn't forget our trees, now, must we? Then there were creatures great and smalland finally people – you and me – God made them all
- Reader 8 Look at this film – this is how some of our Hinckley friends told the story during their musical production of “Mother Mary” last Christmas

Film of “Mother Mary”

- Reader 5 So what happened after God made the world and put people in it?
- Reader 6 They turned away from him, time and time and time again
- Reader 7 Can you imagine just how sad and hurt he was?
- Reader 8 Look at our wonderful production of the “Dance of the Light” and remember

Film of extract from “Dance of the Light”

Hinckley group

- Reader 9 The story of the Bible is a long story of how God loved his people, his friends, and how, so many times, they rejected him and turned away from him....

Reader 10 So he had to do more for them and give more of himself to them as we have just seen

Reader 9 And while he did so, he introduced us to some very interesting characters....just look. Now here is Noah

Enter Noah

Reader 10 Noah was a very faithful, even though everybody else was forgetting about God

Reader 9 So God decided to start again from the beginning and he picked Noah to help him

Reader 10 And now our Loughborough friends are going to show us exactly what God did in this wonderful song...please join in

Loughborough group sing and mime 'Rise and Shine'

Reader 9 Well, after this, things got better for a while, but before too long....

Reader 10 It was back to the old trouble again, so God had to have a re-think and waited about four hundred years to do it

Reader 9 He was looking for a new kind of people...a people who would love him and trust him....and for the right person to lead them....so who could he choose?

Reader 10 It would have to be someone who was a friend of his and who would do what he asked

A scene between God and Abraham

God Abraham?

Abraham Yes, Lord

God I'd like you to do me a favour...I want you to leave your house and country where you are very comfortable, I know, and go where I lead you. You will be the father of a great family

Abraham But I'm knocking on, you know...and my wife, Sarah...she's a bit too old to have children now....and a great family? How could we do that?

God Don't worry about that...I'll look after you and I have a great job for you to do

Reader 9 So Abraham took his wife Sarah and left their home as God had asked him to do and yes, he did become the father of a great nation

Reader 10 But....yes, you guessed it....things went wrong again

Reader 9 So we will give you the shortened version of what happened next

Reader10 Abraham had a son called Isaac and he had twin sons called Esau and Jacob....Jacob had twelve sons and the youngest was Joseph....who had a lovely coat of many colours. His brothers were jealous of him because he was the favourite

Enter Joseph and his brothers

Reader 9 So his brothers threw him in a pit and then thought better of it

Reader 10 They sold him to merchants and he was taken off to Egypt where he lived as a slave, got thrown into prison and then was released because he was good at telling the meaning of dreams

Reader 9 And the king was having some awful dreams...He heard about Joseph, sent for him and asked him to tell him their meaning

Reader 10 Joseph told him and he didn't like it, but the king trusted him and took him into his own household

Reader 11 Well, lots of years went by and Joseph had a big family....the Egyptians were not kind to them....and they of course....turned away from God

Reader 12 Pretty soon...the people were living like slaves....so God took pity on themagain....and chose another friend, Moses, to lead them back to their own land, Israel

Reader 11 God met Moses in a burning bush and told him what to do

Reader 12 Moses went to Pharaoh and said

Moses God says let my people go

Reader 11 But the Egyptians got angry and persecuted God's people even more

Reader 12 So God sent plagues on them and rescued Moses and his people by taking them through the Red Sea

Reader 11 Moses raised his staff and the waters parted...the people went through and all the Egyptians who were chasing them were drowned

Reader 12 Now you would have thought, wouldn't you...that after all this kindness from God, his people would eventually love him and honour him....but no

Reader 11 They were out in the wilderness for many years....God fed them with special bread which just appeared out of nowhere...and he gave Moses some special commandments written on tablets of stone to help them live in his way

God Keep taking the tablets

Nottingham group

Reader 13 After all this trouble...it just went on and on...they moaned and moaned...some people are never satisfied, are they?

Reader 14 The people turned away.....God punished them....but then he forgave them almost straight away....because he's just like that, you know

Reader 13 And he chose people to help him like David.....the youngest son of Jesse...a shepherd boy....who killed the giant Goliath not with a sword but with a stone from a sling

This is acted out

Reader 14 Then he became the king of Israel and wrote some beautiful prayers called psalms

Reader 13 Every time, they got into trouble...God rescued them but it didn't seem to make any difference

Reader 14 He kept giving them warnings

God raises a yellow card

Reader 13 No....not that sort of warning....he sent people to warn them what would happen to them if they kept forgetting about his way and just living for themselves

Reader 14 The outcome would surely be disastrous as it had been so many times before if....so God sent them some prophets to speak for him to them and warn them...like Amos

Enter Amos

Reader 13 Amos was a sheep farmer who lived in the south of the country...he was a bit rough....but he loved God and tried to follow him

Reader 14 So God called him one day and told him he had a special job for him

God Amos

Amos Yes....

God I've got a job for you....go up north to all those people who are living a life of luxury and forgetting about me and warn them.

Reader 13 So Amos went

A scene of eating, drinking and self-indulgence. Amos enters

Amos Oi....you lot!

Guest 1 Who are you, and what are you doing here?

Amos I'm Amos and God sent me here to you

Guest 2 Don't be silly....I mean.....you're so....so common

Amos I know what I am. I'm a shepherd and proud of it, but that doesn't matter. God sent me up here to warn you lot to stop messing about and pampering yourselves., Come back to God and his way....soon....or else!

Guest 3 Go away will you...chappie...we don't want to listen to all this

Reader 13 Well, we all know what happened of course and what continued to happen for years and years and years despite God's fruitless attempts to bring them back to him

Reader 14 It was, quite simply...a catalogue of failure...God was frustrated

God I'm frustrated

Reader 13 And angry

God I'm angry

Reader 14 And just plain sad

God I'm really sad

Reader 13 He thought and thought and thought

Reader 14 Why won't they listen....why won't they do as I ask...why can't they live in my way, the best way for everyone....why do they keep turning away, he asked himself

Reader 13 In the end, there was only one thing left he could do to put things right

Reader 14 One last try...one last effort

God I'll have to send my son to them...they'll surely listen to him

Fr.Frank Thank you everyone for that brilliant story....how sad it all is that God's people kept turning away from him and how sad he must have felt. We know that we can make him sad too by turning away from him ourselves, so we tell him we are sorry. O my God...

Prayer Dear Father, we have heard the story of your love for your people through all the ages, centuries and centuries, and we know how much you love us still today, even though sometime we don't deserve it. Be with us and help us to live always in your way, through Jesus your Son, who is Lord for ever and ever.

Offertory Hymn Blest are you, Lord God

Prayer Dear God, we bring you this bread, we bring you this wine. We bring you ourselves, all that we have been and all that we yet can be for you and others in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface God our Father, you are powerful and live for ever. Always and everywhere we want to thank you for your great goodness to us. In the beginning you made us from nothing. Throughout history you showed your love for you people even though they didn't love you back. Now you have sent your greatest gift to us, Jesus, your own

Son, to be our friend, our Saviour, and our Lord. We praise and thank you in the company of the angels as we say:

Eucharistic Prayer No.2

Communion Hymn One bread, one body

After Communion *Loughborough group*

Reader 15 This year as you know is the 40th anniversary of the wonderful movement called “Faith and Light”

Reader 16 Many of us have been to ‘Faith and Light’ celebrations or special days together over the years

Reader 15 We want to celebrate this anniversary with other friends from Faith and Light groups all over the Midlands

Reader 16 So...next time we meet...with our bishop in Hinckley for our Annual Mass on September 17....

Reader 15 We will tell the story of Faith and Light and what has happened because of it

Reader 16 And we look forward to seeing all of you with us then...so have a great summer and see you in September

Prayer Father, we thank you for all that you have been to us, all that you are for us and all that you will be in Jesus Christ our Lord

Blessing

Final Hymn O the word of my Lord

Liturgy 3 - SPANNED Annual Mass – September 17 2011

In between the celebration of Liturgy 2 and Liturgy 3, a priest of our diocese, Fr. John Sherrington, was appointed auxiliary bishop of Westminster. For 5 years as parish priest of Mickleover and two years as parish priest of Woodthorpe, he had taken a keen interest in the work of the Derby Tuesday Club and Loreto Thursday Club respectively and always came in to the meetings whenever possible. He was consecrated in London three days before the Annual Mass and then joined us, as a bishop, for the occasion

Music before Mass “Eglise du Seigneur” (*Lourdes – CD*)

Entry Hymn Christ is our king, let the whole world rejoice

The banner bearers come into church in procession followed by the ministers and the bishops

Greeting *The bishop*

Welcome *Barbara Drummond*

On behalf of all in SPANNED we would like to extend a very warm welcome to our bishop who has come once again to celebrate our Annual Mass with us. An extra special welcome today to many groups from the Faith and Light organization who have come to join us for our celebration and many of you have travelled some distance to be with us.

We are particularly proud to welcome our dear friend, Fr. John, who is of course now Bishop John, and thank him for taking the time to be with us this weekend. Fr. John has been a wonderful friend both to the Derby Tuesday Club and the Loreto Thursday Club over the past few years, as well as to the communities of Orla House and Loreto Cottage. We would like to mark the wonderful occasion of his consecration by presenting him with a special mitre, and to ask him to pray for all of us every time he puts it on. Dear brother and friend, we will miss you so much, but we want you to know that wherever you go, you will always be in the hearts and prayers of all your friends in SPANNED

The mitre is presented by Wendy Keable and Joyce Addicott

This year in SPANNED we have been thinking about the story as our project of work and prayer: there are true stories, make believe stories, bible stories, song stories, and jokes, like the awful one Fr. Frank has been trying to tell us all year

Fr. Frank Well, once upon a time in Transylvania....

Barbara You don't imagine for one minute that we're going to let you tell that here today do you?

Fr. Frank Why not? It's a good joke

Barbara In case you hadn't noticed, we have a lot of visitors here, and the bishop

Fr. Frank Well....the bishop's got a good sense of humour, haven't you, father?

The bishop smiles

If you were the bishop of Nottingham, you'd have to have a very good sense of humour, and you'll certainly need one in Westminster!

Barbara Do you mind? I'm very sorry, ladies and gentlemen. He's been like this all year and he'll go off in a sulk now. This is the third time this year we have had to stop him wrecking the Mass. It's all really too childish.... Now, where was I? Oh yes...stories. And today we want to share with you a wonderful story, the story of Faith and Light, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Our Loughborough group, which has not long come back from Lourdes where they went to mark the occasion with many other groups from Britain and Ireland, will tell the story for us

Loughborough Group

Reader 1 Faith and Light began with a French couple, Camille and Gerard Profit in 1968. They wanted to take their two sons Loic and Thadee, both of whom had serious physical and learning impairments, to Lourdes with their

diocesan pilgrimage. They wanted to see the place where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette, to be pilgrims as she had asked, to bathe in the waters, celebrate Mass and taste the wonderful atmosphere of Lourdes

A couple enter with two young men

Reader 2 But they were refused....they were told that their children might disturb the other pilgrims. They were hurt and disappointed by this. How could people who were supposed to be Jesus' followers reject them and their children? How could they be so cruel? How could their family not be welcome at this place of love and prayer?

They walk over towards the 'Lourdes' window

Reader 3 So they decided to go themselves. But they did not have a happy time. The hotels did not want them as guests and when they did find one, they had to eat their meals in their rooms, so that they would not be seen by other guests, and then they overheard people in the streets whispering that 'these children should be kept at home.' They felt unwanted and rejected by the Church and its people

They walk away sad and downhearted

Reader 4 But they were not the only ones who were made to feel like that at that time, and not just in Lourdes either. People with learning difficulties and physical disabilities were kept out of sight, they were kept in their homes and rarely came out. Their families were afraid of what might happen if they met other people – perhaps they would be cruel and unwelcoming as well

Reader 1 And we have to say with shame that the Church, God's own family, was as much to blame as anyone. How could you go to church if you could not get up the steps or in the door in your wheelchair? Or if there was no toilet wide enough for your chair? How could you hear if you were deaf and there was no one to sign or no 'loop microphone system' that we now have?

*People in wheelchairs approach and a man with his hand up prevents them entering
Others pretend to be deaf and unable to hear anything*

Reader 2 How could you find your way to a seat or read the prayers if you were blind and partially sighted, and no one bothered to enlarge the script for you or sit next to you and explain what was happening?

Reader 3 And how could you go to Holy Communion if the priest said that you didn't understand what it really was, even though you knew yourself in your heart that it was Jesus, or if he said that you were one of God's special angels and therefore didn't need to go?

A family approach a priest who shakes his head

Reader 4 And how did they feel when they were being patronized, humiliated, rejected and not taken seriously as human beings? All this was happening everywhere when Camille and Gerard took their boys to Lourdes, the one place above all others, where they thought they would be accepted and welcomed, and they were not

Reader 1 They came into contact with a very special man, Jean Vanier, who had been living with a community of men with learning difficulties for some time. He recognized the gifts and abilities of his friends. He did not think of what they could not do, but of what they could do and he encouraged them to do it. He and his friend, Marie-Helene Matthieu decided to plan a pilgrimage to Lourdes where thousands of children and young people with disabilities and learning difficulties could come with their families, where they would have to be welcomed and valued. The pilgrimage, to take place at Easter in 1971, was called “Faith and Light”

Reader 2 This was a wonderful event, which changed so many things in the lives of Christian people and those with no faith at all. Over 10,000 people came to Lourdes for a week of prayer and joy which would never be forgotten. Their children were recognized as people who had something to give, wonderful gifts that no one had ever bothered to look for before. It was the most joyous and amazing discovery.

A group of pilgrims waving and smiling enter

Reader 3 But what to do when they came home back to the world of rejection? This must not be allowed to happen ever again, they decided. So small Faith and Light communities were started up to help and support people – now there are 1200 of them all over the world. And there were other large gatherings – not quite as large as the one in Lourdes but big enough – Rome, Walsingham, Wales, and then the first ever Faith and Light ‘Celebration’ in Spinkhill, Sheffield in August 1978 – and since then hundreds of small gatherings and celebrations each year all over the world to keep alive the spirit of Faith and Light

Reader 4 Now, if you are in a wheelchair, you can actually get into church or any public building because there are ramps and the doors are wide enough. Now you can hear what is going on through the special loop system. In many places, even though you can’t see too well, steps are painted yellow, newsletters are enlarged and you can even get a taped explanation of where you are.

This is mimed by people in wheelchairs and others pretending to be deaf or blind

Reader 1 And Faith and Light has played a very large part in bringing about this happier situation in which we now find ourselves . And that is why we are celebrating its 40th anniversary with such gratitude today. Most special of all, we have discovered some wonderful things:

Reader 2 I may not be able to pray or speak my faith to others in words, but I can use my smile and my body. There are so many ways that I can

communicate – drawing or painting pictures, making craft work, signing prayers, singing songs, miming to God’s Word in music

This is mimed by a small group holding placards with words like ‘Faith’, ‘Light’, ‘Jesus’ etc. and others ‘sign’ a prayer

Reader 3 And more than that, I now see that God is calling me, and you and all of us, to tell others about him, to be messengers of his life, his joy, to show the world what his life and love is like

More people join them

Reader 4 That is why, on this very special day, we want to accept his call, to be his followers and friends, and to say to all of you and everyone: “Let our Faith bring you Light”

Everyone says out loud: “Let our Faith bring you Light”

Bishop For all the times we have turned away from God and Jesus, or turned him away from us, let us say we are sorry

Lord Jesus Christ, for all the times we have turned away from you, Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, for all the times we have refused to live in your light, Christ have mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, for all the times we have not brought your light to others, Lord have mercy

Prayer God our Father, as we gather together today, we give you thanks for ‘Faith and Light’ and for all it has meant to so many people for so long. May we all accept your calling to bring your light to others through our faith in Him, who is our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

First Reading *Derby group - Music: Reel around the Sun (“God” is from Hinckley; “Jesus” from Nottingham. Reader: Peter Barlow)*

0.20 From the very beginning, from the dawn of time, human beings have been longing and searching for light.

0.32 *Dancers in black, enter at the beginning of the music, and dance on the floor area in front of the podium*

0.45 Light to take away the darkness, of fear, of anxiety, of wickedness, of sin

1.05 Light to show the way, to give hope and purpose to their lives, to fill them with warmth, comfort and confidence

God enters and stands on the podium

1.30 This is what we have heard from him, and the message we are announcing to you: God is light; there is no darkness in him at all.

God gestures as necessary

1.45 In the beginning, God; in the beginning, God spoke; in the beginning, God said, “let there be light”, and there was

2.10 God said: “let there be a person, persons, people for me to share my life with, share my love with.” So God made man in the image of himself; God saw what he had made, and it was very good.

Up tempo movement and three groups come on to the sanctuary dancing

4.35 This is the Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm The light of Christ has come into the world

Gospel A reading from St. John’s gospel *Music: Slip into spring Nottingham group (Reader: Peter Barlow)*

Jesus enters and stands in front of God on the podium.

0.16 In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

God gently pushes Jesus away from him and exits

0.35 As he was walking by the sea, he saw some men fishing; he called them and they left everything and followed him.

Dancers enter in two groups. Jesus leaves the podium, approaches to call them

1.30 There were others, too; he called them and they immediately left what they were doing and came after him.

2.05 I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark, but will have the light of life

2.22 Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest

2.30 You did not choose me, no, I chose you, and I commissioned you to go out and tell others about me

2.40 *He calls the dancers again*

3.15 And let your light shine before all people, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to my Father in heaven

3.37 This is the gospel of the Lord

Moment of silent reflection

Prayer of the Faithful *Scunthorpe group*

Reader 1 Dear God, help us to be light bringers to others, to give them the light we have received from you, the light which is your Son, Jesus Christ

Reader 2 We pray for peace and enlightenment all over our world, particularly in those places where there is war, fighting, greed and selfishness

Reader 3 We pray for all who live in the dark of fear or worry or sorrow; please bring them into your light

Reader 4 We pray for all who are sick or unwell at the moment, that you will place your healing hand on them

Reader 5 We pray for all our friends who have died since we last gathered for this Mass.... Kath Spencer, Anne Horsewood, Eileen Eley, Philip Mobbs, Robert Marriott, Helen O'Callaghan, Eileen Curtis, Marjorie Smith and Josephine McCready. May they live in your light and peace for ever

Candles are brought up by their friends and relatives

Bishop Let us now say together our Faith and Light anniversary prayer:

All **Let our faith bring you light;**
Let our trust bring you hope;
Let our pain bring you compassion;
Let our smile bring you happiness;
Let our kindness bring you comfort;
Let our presence bring you peace;
Let our joy bring you joy;
Let our love bring you His love,
who is Our Lord for ever and ever

Offertory Music *“The Countess Cathleen”* *Leicester group and representatives of the Faith and Light groups present place ribbons on the paschal candle*

Prayer Dear Father in heaven, we bring you this bread, we bring you this wine, we bring you ourselves – all that we are today and all that we yet can be in your love and service. Give us your light, yourself, your Son, so that through us, that light may shine on all people we meet. We ask this through Christ our Lord

Preface God our Father, you are powerful and live for ever. Every day we want to thank you for the great things you have done for us through Jesus your Son. You gave him to us to be our light and our hope: a light to take away the darkness of fear, of anxiety, of wickedness, of sin; a light to bring warmth, confidence and confidence; a light to show us the way to live.

You have given us this light that we may share it with others, so that everyone can see your goodness and give you glory and praise. Today we praise and thank you in the company of all the angels and saints as we say:
Holy, holy

Eucharistic Prayer No.3

Our Father *sung*

Communion Music *“O’Donnell’s Lament”*

Communion Hymn Let our faith bring you light *(sung to the tune of ‘Eidelweiss’)*

1. Let our faith bring you light, serving Jesus together.
Every day, in his way, living with him for ever.
Light to bring hope in the dark of fear,
dry your tears and sadness.
Let our faith bring you light, serving Jesus together

2. Let our joy bring you joy, happiness in the giving;
Time to share, time to care, and where need be, forgiving.
Joy to light up all who feel to sad,
make them glad and hopeful.
Let our joy bring you joy, happiness in the giving.

3. We can show how to love, simply, without complication;
Every day give away, join in life’s great celebration.
Love to reach out to all those in need,
no more greed, self-interest.
Now we’re free, just to be like our Saviour for ever.

Prayer after Communion Light is given, given to us, to be shared, made available, showered on others in the name of him, Jesus the light. God our Father, you have given us Jesus your Son to be our light and the light of the world. May we who have celebrated this holy Mass today, live in your light and bring it to others, now and always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Dance Caracena *Hinckley group*

0.10 *A group comes on to the sanctuary with furled streamers in their hands.*

0.48 *They move their arms slowly and unfurl their streamers*

Reader The light dances in my hands, glowing, warming, bringing me comfort, making me strong, taking away my fear, showing me the way - your way, Lord, your comfort, your strength, your love. Dear Lord, bring me into your light, fill my whole life with your presence, make my heart dance for joy and happiness for ever.

2.00 *They move the streamers about*

2.52 *They move off the altar and into the congregation, putting the light over people's heads. The people slowly sway in time with the music.*

3.54 *The tempo picks up dramatically. Everyone is moving at pace*

6.32 *The music ends and everyone raises their hands into the air.*

Presentation *Barbara Drummond*

Barbara Before we finish this beautiful Mass, we at SPANNED would like to make a special presentation to all our friends in Faith and Light, to mark the occasion of their 40th anniversary and we would like one or two representatives to come forward and accept this gift with all our love

The banner is brought in procession and blessed by the bishop

Bishop Father may this banner be a proclamation and reminder of what all Faith and Light stands for and may all who see it be inspired in their faith to bring the light of your Son to the world. We ask you to bless it now in the name of the Father + and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

The banner is presented to Faith and Light representatives

Blessing

Bishop May the Lord God give you his light to take away fear, worry and sadness

All **Amen**

Bishop May Jesus our Saviour fill you with the light and love of his presence

All **Amen**

Bishop May you, through your faith and love, bring his light to the world

All **Amen**

Bishop And may Almighty God bless us all, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

All **Amen**

Final Hymn Shine, Jesus, shine

Exit Music "Gloria a te, cristo Gesu" (*Lourdes Millennium Hymn – Andrea Bocelli*)

The procession forms and exits the church to the grotto area. People are given a special prayer card on their way out. Everyone gathers around the grotto – wheelchairs first.

Bishop Lord our God, forty years ago, thousands of people came together at the shrine of your Son's mother to begin Faith and Light. We gather today around this grotto in grateful thanks for all the wonderful blessings that have come to us as a result of that pilgrimage. We ask you to help us receive your light in our hearts and then to be able to share it with others, so that everyone may see how great and beautiful you are, and how happy we can be when we live in your way. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Hymn Holy Virgin, by God's decree

Liturgy 4 – St.John Bosco Parish Centre, Leicester – November 27 2011

The Mass will be celebrated by Fr.Peter Coyle

Hymn *Holy Virgin, by God's decree*

Introduction – The Servant of the Lord - *Barbara Drummond*

Barbara As you know this year we have been telling lots of stories – some true, some make-believe, some serious and some funny, all except Fr.Frank's joke that he's been trying to tell us, as well as some of the most special stories of all from the Bible, God's word to us. We are getting near to Christmas now and we all know that story so well, don't we? But Christmas could never have happened without the love and co-operation of a very special person, Mary, the mother of Jesus and servant of the Lord. So today we are going to tell her story. It's so beautiful and yet we know so little about her from the Bible. What sort of woman do you think she was? How old was she when Jesus was born? Was Joseph really her husband? What did he think about marrying someone who was going to have a baby that wasn't his? What was the first thing she did after the angel left her?

The first story about her tells us what happened the day she found out she was going to be Jesus' mother. Let's listen to it now:

Gospel of the Annunciation - *Hinckley group – song: "There's a lady born without sin" ('Mother Mary')*

Rite of Penance

Fr.Peter I am the servant of the Lord, said, Mary, let what you have said be done to me. God calls us to be his servants as well, but sometimes we don't want to be, and we don't want to allow ourselves to be led by him, so we tell him we are sorry.

All Dear Father, we are truly sorry when we have failed you or turned away from you, when we have not been your servants but served ourselves instead. Please forgive us and help us to be the people you want us to be, today and always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Barbara We are now going to see some of the times when Mary is spoken of in the Bible. There are not many of them but they all tell us something very important about her. We will leave out the Christmas story itself, because we will all be thinking about it carefully in the next few weeks.

Word of God - short mimes of Mary's participation in Jesus' life – *Mary is played by the same person, from the Leicester group, throughout*

Leicester group – The Visitation. When Mary was pregnant, she found out her cousin, Elizabeth was also expecting a baby, even though she was quite old. This baby was to be John the Baptist. So Mary made the long journey on foot to help her cousin for three months until the child was born, then went back home to await the birth of her own baby. On her way back, she sang this beautiful song:

Hymn: The Magnificat

We will now sing the prayer of Mary to the tune of "All ye who seek a comfort sure"

1. My soul will glorify the Lord'
my spirit will rejoice;
He's done such wondrous things for me,
His praises sing my voice.
2. His mercy is for evermore
on those he calls his friends;
his strength it scatters all the proud,
his goodness never ends.
3. The strong and mighty he casts down,
the humble lifts up high;
he feeds the hungry with good things
the greedy passes by.
4. His people he protects in love
as promised long ago;
His word he kept all through the years,
his power and grace to show.
5. I'll be your servant from now on,
to do your holy will;
whate'er you ask I will accept,
your purpose to fulfil.

Hinckley group – We all know the story of what happened when Jesus was born in the stable at Bethlehem and we will be celebrating it once again very shortly, but how do you think Mary was feeling when she sat there with the child in her arms and, like any mother, wondered what would eventually happen to him?

Song: You can be so little, yet so great ('Mother Mary')

Nottingham group - Presentation in the temple – When Joseph and Mary took their baby son to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as the law requires, they met an old man called Simeon, who had been faithful to God all his life. He knew that he would not die until he had seen the promised Saviour of the Jewish people. When Jesus' parents brought him into the temple, Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God and said: "now O Lord you can let me go in peace, because at last I have seen with my own eyes the promised Saviour of the world, who will be

a light to the world". Then he said to Mary, "you see this child, he is to be the great sign of God's power, but he will be rejected, and you will know suffering in your heart as well."

Loughborough group - The family moves to Egypt – after the wise men had left the stable, God's angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him "get up, take the child and his mother with you and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because King Herod has heard there is a new born king and he is jealous. He intends to kill every male child under the age of two until he finds you." So Joseph got up and taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt where he stayed until Herod was dead.

Derby group - Jesus and the doctors – Every year, his parents used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was 12 years old they went up for the feast as usual, but after the feast, Jesus stayed behind without his parents realising it as they thought he was with the other children who had gone with them. When they could not find him, they went back to look for him and found him in the temple sitting among the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions, and the doctors were amazed that Jesus was so grown up. His mother told him she had been anxious for him. Jesus said, "did you not know that I was busy with my Father's business?" They did not really understand what he meant and Mary kept all of it secret in her own heart. He went home with them and grew up doing the things they told him.

Hinckley group - The marriage at Cana – There was a wedding at Cana. The mother of Jesus was there and Jesus and his friends had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, Mary was embarrassed and said to Jesus: "they have no wine". He said: "that's not my fault or my problem; my time has not come yet". But she said to the servants, "do whatever he tells you". Jesus told the servants to fill six very large jars with water and give it to the guests to drink. When they tasted it, it had turned into wine. Everyone was shocked and surprised, especially as it was better than the wine they had before. This was the first of some very special signs that Jesus gave. After the wedding, he went home with his mother and friends and stayed with them for a few days.

Scunthorpe group - At the Cross – Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and the disciple who was his best friend. Seeing his mother with John with her, Jesus said to her "woman, this is your son" and to John he said, "this is your mother", and after that, John took her home and looked after her.

Bidding Prayers

Fr. Peter Dear friends, in this holy time of Advent we are preparing to tell the greatest story ever – that of Jesus our Saviour, God, becoming one of us at Christmas. As we do so, we think also of his mother, who accepted what God asked of her and how we, like her, can be his servants too

Leicester group to read

Reader 1 Dear Father, show us what it means to serve you, to put you first before everything in our lives and to love you with all our hearts. Lord hear us

Reader 2 Keep us from being selfish, from thinking too much about ourselves and what we want, as this stops us from thinking about what you want and others need. Lord hear us

- Reader 3 We thank you for all our friends in SPANNED, for all the work we have done and enjoyed together this year. Lord hear us
- Reader 4 We pray for all those people who are hungry and homeless at this time of the year. Show us how to help them as well as pray for them. Lord hear us
- Reader 5 We pray that in this holy time we may think about what Christmas really means so that, when it comes, we can celebrate the feast with great joy. Lord hear us
- Reader 6 We pray for all our friends who have died and in particular two friends who have died since we last met, Helen O'Callaghan of Leicester and John McEnery of Loughborough...

Tributes - to Helen O'Callaghan - *Genny Hickey*
to John McEnery – *Fr.Frank*

Their families will bring up a candle to place in front of their photos on the table

- Reader 6 Eternal rest give to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.
- Reader 7 And now we ask Mary, the servant of the Lord, mother of Jesus and our mother, to pray with us and for us as we say: Hail Mary
- Fr.Peter Dear Father, bless us all today, and may the example of Mary show us how to live for you this and every day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Offertory Hymn *Where are you bound, Mary, Mary?*

Prayer over the gifts

- Fr.Peter Dear Father, we bring you this bread, we bring you this wine; we bring you ourselves and all that we can be. May our lives be a gift of service to you as was that of Mary our mother. We ask this through Christ our Lord

Preface of Our Lady God our Father, you are powerful and live for ever.
Always and everywhere we want to thank you for your great goodness to us. You chose Mary, a beautiful and holy young lady, to be the mother of your Son, and she accepted what you asked of her. She shows us how to love you and trust you; she shows us how to be brave when things are difficult or sad; she inspires us to be more like her in serving you. With her we recognise what wonderful things you have done and want to praise you with all the saints as we say: Holy, Holy

Eucharistic Prayer No.2

You are indeed, holy O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray
By sending down your Spirit upon them,
So that they may become for us +
The Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his passion,
he took bread, and giving thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying:

Take this all of you and eat it; this is my body
Which will be given up for you.
When supper was ended, he took the cup,
Again he gave you thanks and praise,
And giving the cup to his disciples, said:

Take this all of you and drink from it; this is the cup of my blood, the new and eternal covenant; it
will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim together our faith in this mystery:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his death and resurrection,
We offer you, Lord,
The bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation,
Giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and serve you. May all of us who
share in the body and blood of your Son be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord your Church, throughout the world; and bring us into the fullness of love together
with Benedict our Pope, Malcolm our bishop and all who serve your people.

Remember Helen and John and all our brothers and sister who have gone to their rest in the hope of
rising again; bring them and all who have died, into the light of your presence.
Have mercy on us all; make us worthy to share eternal life with Mary, the Virgin mother of God,
the apostles, the martyrs, St. John Bosco and all your saints, who have done your will throughout the
ages. May we praise you in union with them through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Our Father

Communion Music *In the Lord is my joy and salvation" (Rizza – CD)*

Final Prayer

Fr. Peter Dear Father, we thank you for all that you have been to us, all
that you are to us and all that you will be, in Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Barbara Before we finish Mass today, the trustees, after prolonged and
careful consideration have decided to give Fr. Frank a Christmas
present – we will allow you to tell that awful joke you've been
trying to tell all year

Fr. Frank I can tell my joke?

Barbara Yes, you can tell your joke....if you don't we'll never have any peace

Fr.Frank You're really serious? I can tell my joke after all?

Barbara Yes....you can tell your joke...but do it quickly and get it over with

Fr.Frank I can tell my joke, Pete, how good is that?

Barbara Would you mind getting on with it so that we're not here all night

Fr.Frank tells his joke which is greeted with great groans

Blessing

Final Hymn "Mother Mary" *(to the music of "Mamma Mia")*

You were chosen by God,
For a very great task;
Willingly you agreed,
When eventually asked.
Look at you now,
Mother of his Son,
Holy and proud,
You're the only one
To show us how
To celebrate Christmas now.
Change your lives just because Jesus came,
All you do should be done in his name
Mother Mary, when the angel came,
My my, how could you resist him?
Mother Mary, with some news to tell,
From God, he was so insistent.
You gave the world its Saviour,
Changed us in our behaviour;
You, you taught us how to live and love.
Mother Mary, now we really know,
You, you taught us how to live and love.

For a Saviour to come
we've been waiting so long
Trying to get things right,
But we've got it all wrong;
Selfish and proud,
Not the humble way,
Raucous and loud,
from his path we stray every day,
In all that we think and say.
Give away everything that you have,

Living's not about what you can grab

Mother Mary, when the angel came,
My my, how could you resist him?
Mother Mary, with some news to tell,
From God, he was so insistent.
You've shown the truth in living,
Is to be found in giving,
Now, now, how we love and honour you

Mother Mary, when the angel came,
My my, how could you resist him?
Mother Mary, with some news to tell,
From God, he was so insistent.

Mother Mary, when the angel came,
My my, how could you resist him?
Mother Mary, with some news to tell,
From God, he was so insistent.
You've shown the truth in living,
Is to be found in giving,
Now, now, how we love and honour you
Mother Mary, now we really know,
How much we should love and honour you.