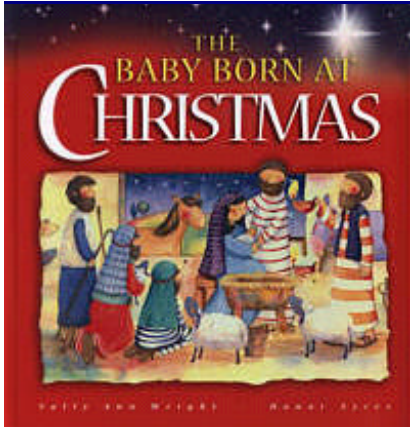


**Children: Advent & Christmas, All ages**



**The Baby Born at Christmas**

by Sally Ann Wright illustrated by Honor Ayres  
published by Barnabas imprint of BRF  
in Hardback (978-0-857-46024-0) Sep 2011  
at £6.99

Beautifully told, beautifully illustrated, this is a lovely re-telling of the Christmas story that could become so tired of being told, but when portrayed like this is renewed and very welcome.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

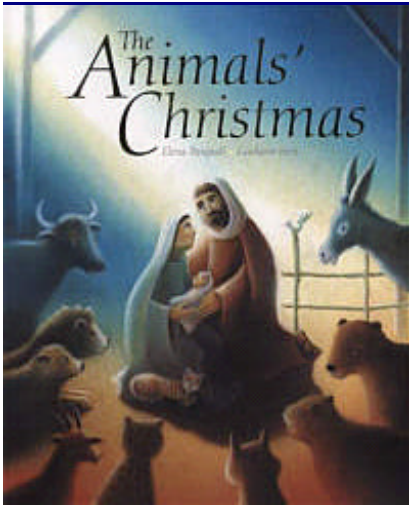


**My Carry-Along Christmas Activity Book With Stickers**

Crafts by Jonathan Miller, illustrations by Cathy Hughes  
published by Lion  
in Stapled A4 Pbk. (978-0-745-96259-7) Sep 2011  
at £5.99

This carries the warning 'Not suitable for children under 36 months' after that plenty of fun to be had quite safely but little ones will need adult help. - Things to play with, things to make and things to puzzle out and of course stickers to help along the way. Ingenious ideas, with colourful presentation.,

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



### The Animals' Christmas

by Elena Pasquali illustrated by Giuliano Fern  
published by Lion  
in A4 Paperback (978-0-745-96249-8)  
at £5.99

Sep 2011

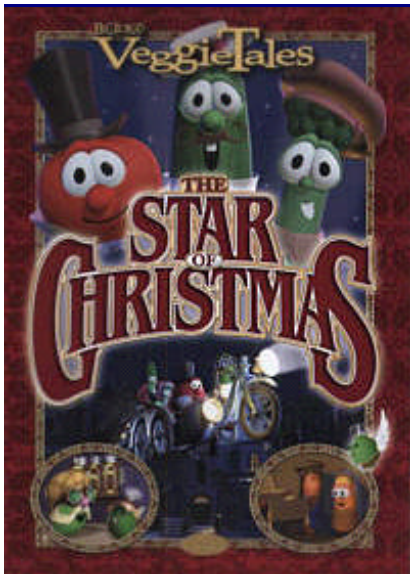
On the back of the book it says 'Long before Jesus was born, it was foretold that he would rule a peaceable kingdom. In this book, the classic story of the Nativity is interwoven with the ancient Bible prophecy of a time when the lion and the lamb would lie down together.' -

This prophecy is used as the theme running through this re-telling of the familiar story and its illustrations and the quotation from Isaiah 11 is set out on the last page. -

The result is a charming book with many special moments, such as relatives greeting their families with joy when they arrived in Bethlehem and Herod watching the Wise Men leave his palace while a snake slithers down the palace steps – very suggestive. -

Lovely!

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



### VeggieTales: The Star of Christmas

Created by Phil Vischer & Mike Nawrocki

published by Big Idea distributed by Authentic Media

in DVD (9-990-00047-6)

Sep 2011

at £7.99

Code for ordering from Trust media distribution is 820389. The ISBN shown is purely for TGBS data use. - -

Cavis Apythart and Milward Phelps (I loved the names!) are played by Bob Tomato and Larry Cucumber in this story set in 1880' London. Electricity is very new and rocket science has hardly started so when both play a major part in this story you know you are in for some fun! -

Cavis is trying to be a great producer with Milward as the writer of his show. They have borrowed a theatre and just need the famous actress who is adored by the prince, to take part, to insure that the prince will attend and hopefully review the show favourably and make it a success. Of course nothing goes to plan, and Cavis' plan to teach London how to love is bound to fail, after all the source of love is being depicted by the nativity play put on by the children at the church across town. -

All the usual silly songs, mistakes, misfortunes and excitement that we have come to love in VeggieTale episodes are here. If you are a VeggieTale fan you will love it. The Christmas message of Love is here for all to see.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



### Lift the Flap Christmas Stable

by Juliet David illustrated by Marie Allen

published by Candle Books imprint of Lion Hudson

in Board book (978-1-859-85892-9)

Sep 2011

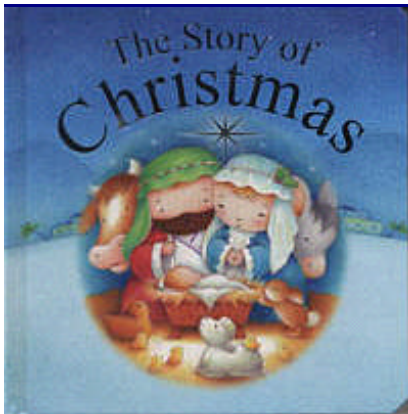
at £6.99

The book is a hardback cut out to the shape of the stable, so each page is designed around that basic shape. There are flaps to peep under on each page, so the reader, who has only a few words to read, can embellish the story with extra words as the hidden pictures are looked at. -

On every page there are little creatures such as mice or spiders, bees or ladybirds to find and others hiding behind some of the flaps.

A fun way to introduce the Christmas Story.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

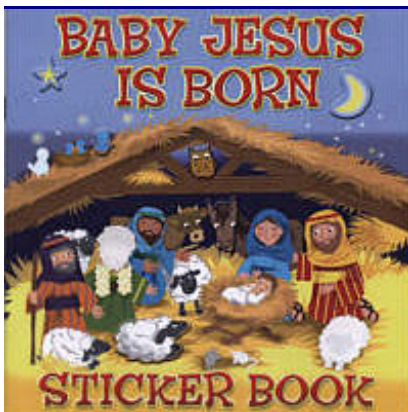


### The Story of Christmas

by Juliet David illustrated by Steve Whitlow  
published by Candle Books imprint of Lion Hudson  
in Board book (978-1-859-85889-9) Sep 2011  
at £3.99

A board book for a toddler or young child who can cope with quite a few words in a story, but not a fuller version. Juliet David has told this story time and time again, but still manages to bring a freshness and accuracy (as far as we know it) to what could become a tedious re-telling in less experienced hands. The rather twee doll like figures portray the scenes in a very gentle way, fitting for a very young child. I can imagine it becoming a favourite.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

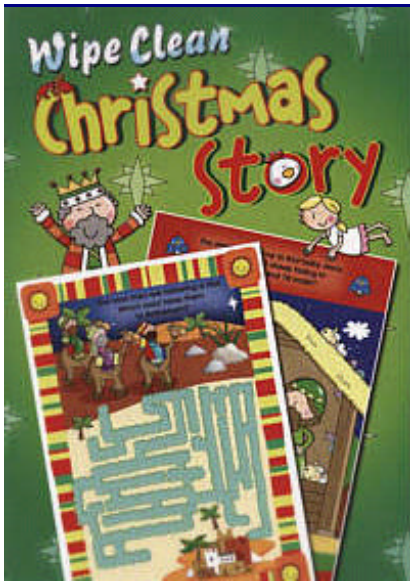


### Baby Jesus is Born Sticker Book

Text by Karen Williamson illustrations by Amanda Enright  
published by Candle Books imprint of Lion Hudson  
in Paperback (978-1-859-85920-9) Sep 2011  
at £2.99

Karen Williamson's words tell the story well. I liked the way she told about the soldiers who are shown nailing up the notice that told Joseph and others like him to go to Bethlehem to be counted. I could imagine it happening that way. I liked the way that even without the colourful stickers, the illustrations looked alright. The detail of the sticker to come is lightly sketched into the white spaces, a nice touch I thought. Quite young children could cope with applying the stickers by themselves, but with a little help and guidance this could be a book to be read again next year – and perhaps the year after too.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

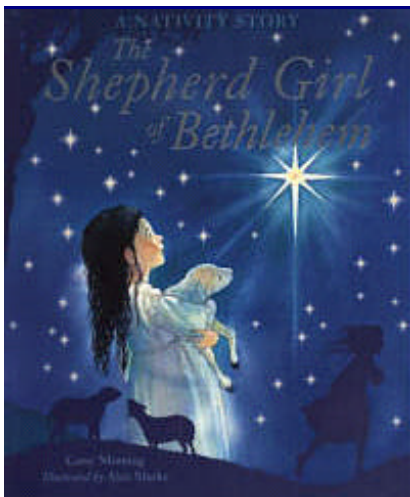


### Wipe Clean Christmas Story

by Juliet David illustrated by Marie Allen  
published by Candle Books imprint of Lion Hudson  
in Stapled A4 Pbk. (978-1-859-85891-2)  
at £2.99

Felt tips or crayons can be used in this book, but just to make sure you have got the right thing there is a white patch on the back cover to scribble on and make sure it rubs off. -  
Join the dots, follow the line, circle objects and differences, they are all here to keep a child entertained, and the joy is that the book can be used again and again by the same child or another one who hasn't seen it before.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



### The Shepherd Girl of Bethlehem

A Nativity Story

by Carey Morning illustrated by Alan Marks  
published by Lion  
in Stapled A4 Pbk. (978-0-745-96232-0) Sep 2011  
at £5.99

Oh I did love this! So imaginative, not at all biblically 'correct' but nevertheless charming and heart warming. -  
The little girl in the story is a shepherd's daughter who loved to help her father with the sheep during the day, but was tucked up in bed at home during the nights, while her father stayed out with the sheep. One night she wakes to very bright starlight and wanders out into the night looking for her father. She sees him at last hurrying into the distance with some other shepherds and follows after, coming at last to the stable where a very special baby has been born. -  
The words are a delight to read out loud and the illustrations are exactly right to fit the mood of the story. It really is a very special book.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



### The First Christmas

Retold by Karen Williamson illustrated by Simon Mendez  
published by Candle Books imprint of Lion Hudson  
in Hardback (978-1-859-85826-4) Sep 2011  
at £6.99

Not board pages but double card which makes for easy to turn pages for little fingers and enables a lovely surprise at the end. -  
Intended for 'toddlers and early readers' this book has a special feel about it. No puppets portraying the story, but real people, beautifully and sympathetically painted to make you feel that you are seeing things as they really were. When the shepherds arrive in Bethlehem, there on the final page spread, opens out a crib scene which could be left on display over the Christmas period. Lovely.  
Karen Williamson's retelling of the story fits to the illustrations just right. Highly recommended.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

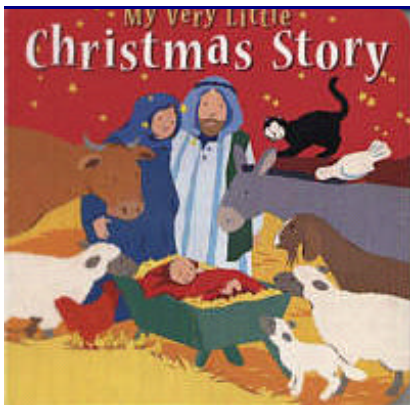


### Baby's First Christmas

by Christina Goodings illustrated by Stephen Barker  
published by Lion  
in Board book (978-0-745-96256-6) Sep 2011  
at £3.99

Chewable, readable, enjoyable. This is for tiny babies experiencing their first Christmas but too young to listen to a 'proper' story. One word and one figure or item on each page, Christina still manages to tell the Christmas story adequately with the help of Stephen Barker's simple illustrations. It is never too young to tell children the real meaning of Christmas.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

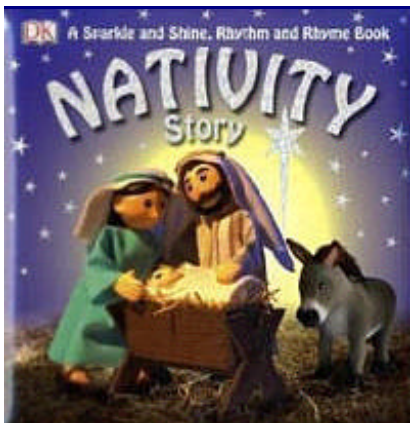


### My Very Little Christmas Story

by Lois Rock illustrated by Alex Ayliffe  
published by Lion  
in Board book (978-0-745-96257-3) Sep 2011  
at £2.99

For slightly older babies than - Baby's first Christmas, - at only 100mm square this is just right for little fingers to hold and turn the pages to look through on their own. The very simple rhyming words give a rhythm to the turning of these pages and the illustrations give lots of opportunity for the reader to point things out to even a very young child who will soon be joining in the words and the pointing. Sure to give pleasure and to teach about Jesus' birth.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



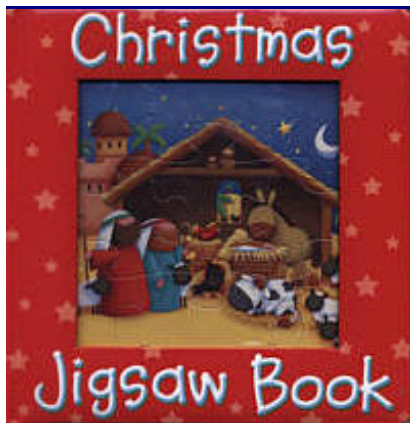
### Nativity Story

A Sparkle and Shine, Rhythm and Rhyme Book

by Dawn Sirett illustrated by Fiona Gowan  
published by DK (Dorling Kindersley) from IVP  
in Board book (978-1-405-34163-9) 2009  
at £7.99

I fell in love with this book as soon as I saw it. The puppet figures in the illustrations are delightful, and I have already looked through several times, so I'm sure little ones will too. Notes inside the front cover are for the parents and suggest ways to get the most out of - Nativity Story - -  
The rhyming story is told simply, and there are suggested questions to ask the listening child as you go through, with opportunities for them to join in such as clip-clopping along with the donkey. -  
The shiny pages glow with light, it really is special for little ones.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



### Christmas Jigsaw Book

Re-told by Juliet David illustrated by Sarah Pitt

published by Candle Books imprint of Lion Hudson

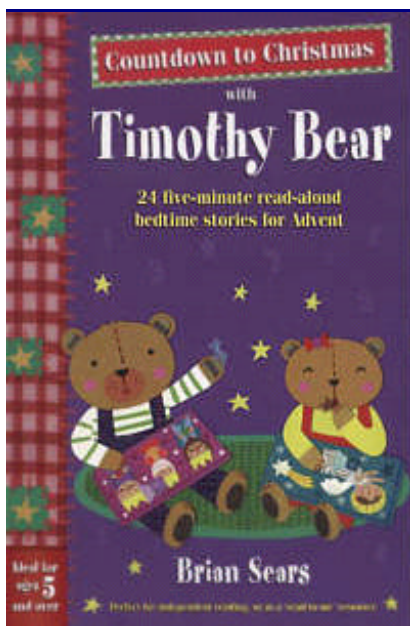
in Board book (978-1-859-85888-2)

Aug 2011

at £6.99

This follows the usual pattern set by other similar titles such as - Noah Jigsaw Book - and - Bible Stories Jigsaw book - by the same author and illustrator. Six, six-piece puzzles with cut out finger space to help remove the puzzle from the background, and the same picture remaining on the page to help little fingers replace the pieces. The Christmas story is told very simply on the facing pages, and the puppet like figures tell the same story with engaging charm. The stable scene will be familiar to many little ones, but I was particularly pleased to see the Wise Men coming to a house and a toddler Jesus. Delightful.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



### Countdown to Christmas With Timothy Bear

24 Five Minute Read-aloud Bedtime Stories for Advent

by Brian Sears

published by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship)

in Paperback (978-1-841-01725-9)

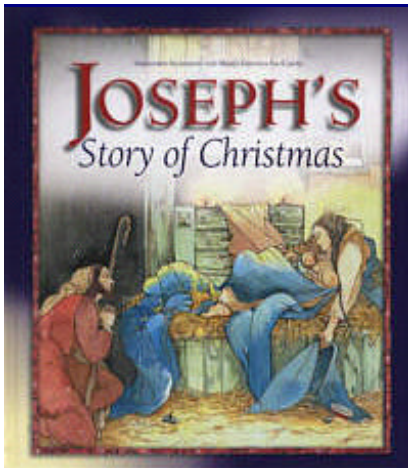
Sep 2010

at (check price)

The cover states 'Ideal for ages 5 and over'. That's all right then, I can admit to thoroughly enjoying them and I am definitely over 5 years old! - Timothy Bear is in a class of human children, but he is treated as one of them. The class teacher is planning to present a nativity play at the end of term, but first, the little ones watch the older children perform the story of Oliver and sing the song from the show 'Food Glorious Food.' This makes quite an impression on Timothy Bear and he resolves to forego sweets and honey till Christmas as he has learnt not everyone has enough food and he should appreciate his more. - As the stories progress through the month, we hear how the parts in the Nativity play are shared out, and what happens as the rehearsals are held each day. Timothy Bear learns a lot more lessons before the actual performance before the admiring parents. -

You get a real feel of the build up to Christmas and each story is followed by an appropriate suggested activity and a prayer. It can be read by a child on their own, but more fun to read together.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

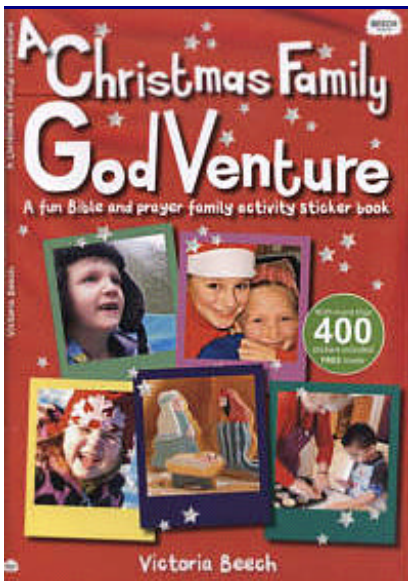


### Joseph's Story of Christmas

by Geraldine Guadagno illustrated by Maria Cristina Lo Cascio  
published by Barnabas imprint of BRF  
in Hardback (978-1-841-01822-5) Sep 2010  
at £5.99

This is the Christmas story told from Joseph's view point. - Joseph's father had taught him the trade of carpenter, and Joseph had also learnt to love God. Thus he was ready to take his part in God's great plan for mankind. He met Mary and they planned to marry but when she told him she was expecting a child he thought that meant he had to part from her, as the child was not his. God's plan was very different and so the story continues. I particularly liked the illustrations which are beautifully and sensitively drawn and together with the words make this a very special book for a young child.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



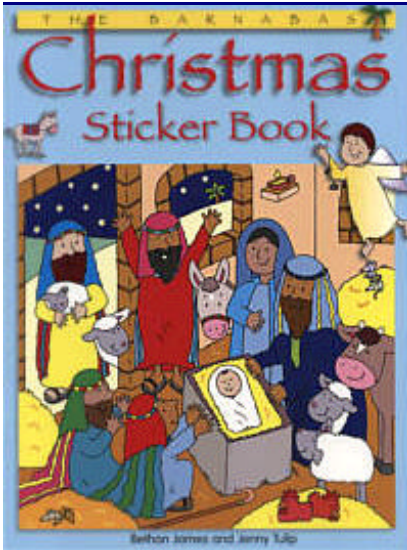
### Christmas Family GodVenture

A Fun Bible and Prayer Family Activity Sticker Book

Illustration and design by Victoria Beech  
published by Beech Publishing  
in Stapled A4 Pbk. (978-0-956-38591-8) Summer 2010  
at £5.99

This second GodVenture book is as good as the first, - Our Family GodVenture. - It is packed with things to do and ideas for doing them! - Truly titled 'Family' the ideas and activities include all ages and the 'something extra for older children and adults' is a great idea. A lot of work has gone into the preparation of these pages and an equal amount of time and trouble need to be taken to get the most out of - Christmas Family GodVenture. - so read the pages at the front of the book before you get started, and then relax, enjoy and learn together as you work through the book. With a sticker advent calendar, a nativity set to create and a family Christmas play, you can prepare for Christmas away from all the hurly burly of commercialism and concentrate on the real messages of the season. At first glance, the pull out pages in the centre are intriguing. 400 stickers, mostly quite small so they need careful handling, if used as directed the whole family will benefit but read on page two what families who have already used the book say, then use as appropriate for your own family.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)

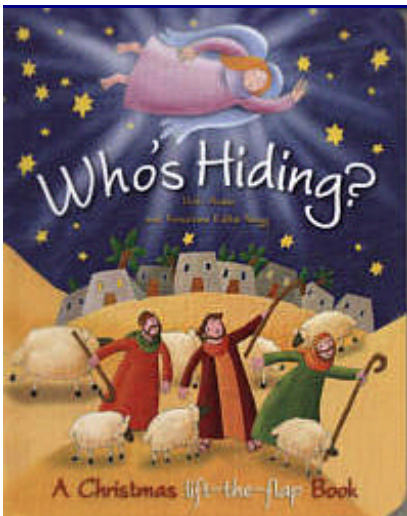


### The Barnabas Christmas Sticker Book

by Bethan James and Jenny Tulip  
published by Barnabas imprint of BRF  
in Stapled A4 Pbk. (978-1-841-01847-8) 09/09/2010  
at £3.99

The centre pages of the book pull out to provide the stickers and to make a frieze. There are two pages of stickers. One page to complete the pictures that accompany the story and the completed pictures are shown at the back of the book to help with the placing of these stickers. The second page completes the picture of the nativity as shown at the start of the book. With adult help, this book could be fun to use at intervals during the run up to Christmas culminating in the making of the freeze ready for Christmas Day, (ideally ON Christmas Day, but as the mother of four I realise how impracticable that suggestion would be!) but you could add baby Jesus on Christmas morning.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



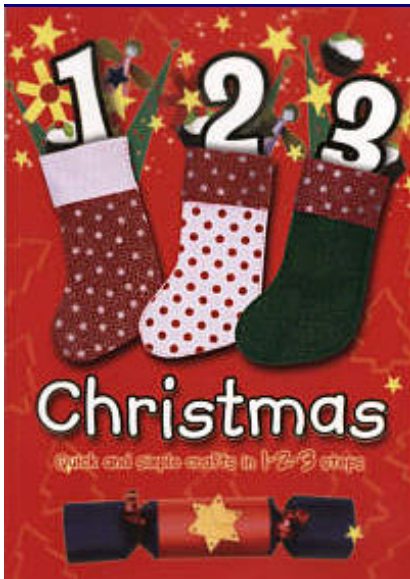
### Who's Hiding?

A Christmas Lift-the-Flap book

by Vickie Howie and Krisztina K&acute;lai Nagy  
published by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship)  
in Board book (978-1-841-01537-8) Sep 2010  
at £6.99

The Christmas story told so simply but with great charm. The same phrase inviting the lifting of the flap, is used on each page, and little ones will soon be repeating it with the reader and it won't take many readings before they know the entire story by heart. Rhyming couplets are within the words of each page spread, and the illustrations faithfully tell the story too. This will become a favourite for many little ones.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



## 123 Christmas

Quick and Simple Crafts in 123 Steps

Words and Recipes by Jocelyn Miller, photography John Williams, ill

published by Lion

in A4 Paperback (978-0-745-96211-5)

Sep 2010

at £5.99

Sixteen ideas to keep children busy over the Christmas period including a really good idea for that often dreaded chore of thank you notes after Christmas. I confess I have not tried any of the crafts, but the directions are so clear it is easy to see how the results are obtained. A little adult supervision or help might be needed, but youngsters should manage most of these ideas by themselves and get a glow of pleasure from doing so. Not a Christmas day gift, you will need to give this ahead of the celebrations.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)