The Town Crier newspaper

An Advent activity

John the Baptist, and the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, were God's messengers. The messages they shared guided people and spoke of a better future when God would send a Saviour to show us how to live well together. These prophets did their best to share God's messages far and wide, so that as many people as possible would know how much God cares for the world and all its people.

Today there are many ways to share messages. Are there any you can think of? *Pause for answers.*

For many years newspapers have been a popular way to share messages with people. Sadly however, the messages shared in newspapers often aren't good ones. There are so many bad news stories. So your mission today is to design an eye -catching front page for *The Town Crier* newspaper. And the story you are to cover is the Good News story of Jesus' birth!

Instructions

1. Provide each pupil with a photocopy of page two. In the text box below the masthead, pupils are to write a headline. Headlines should be short and snappy to catch the reader's attention. They summarise the story in a few words. Headlines that use rhyming words can be very effective, e.g. *Baby boy brings global joy*! Alliteration – repeating the same sounds at the beginning of words – is also a good tool, e.g. *Baby boy brings brilliant beams*.

2. Under the headline, in the box to the left, ask pupils to draw an image of the story. To the right of the picture are lines to write their 'Good News' story.

3. The main story in a news article is called the 'body'. The 'body' includes the details: the what, when, who, where, how. The story should be split into paragraphs. Each paragraph tells one part of the story, e.g. Paragraph 1: A special baby has been born. Paragraph 2: Prophets had long spoken about the birth of a Saviour to lead us. Paragraph 3: What will this baby grow up to do? The last paragraph should sum up the story.

4. It's good to include quotations. The pupils' quotes could come from scripture, e.g. Isaiah says, 'There is a child born for us, a son given to us… and he will be called prince of peace'. Or they could try to imagine what it would feel like to be Joseph or Mary, and what they might say if they were interviewed by a reporter.

5. Once finished, display your 'Good News' front pages around school, or maybe in your parish church.

The Town Crier

Proclaiming Good News to the world since the dawn of time!