

The Chocolate Nativity

Who's looking forward to getting chocolate for Christmas?

Anyone got a chocolate advent calendar? Do believe chocolate can talk? Have you really, really listened? Listen to the story they tell.

A long time ago, God made the **Galaxy**, Beautiful, rich, wonderful
And filled it with people, people he made, people he loved, people like you and me,
people who were all special to him. And he gave these people everything.

Everything except one tree, one **Fruit Pastille** others which they were told not to eat.

But the people wanted to do things their own way, so they did a **Breakaway** from God.

The trouble is, after the breakaway everything started to go wrong: People became **Drifters**, drifting away from God. Things got really really **Rocky**. Suffering, pain, loneliness, bullying, violence, death; because people chose their our way instead of God's way.

Everything just got really **Haribo** (horrible)

So to give them a **Boost** God promised that things would change.

One day a special person would come and put things right - I'm telling you the truth, I'm not **Lion**.

Many years later, a young woman was FRIGHTENED OUT OF HER WITS When an angel suddenly turned up. The Angel wondered if he **Malteser** fear ('might ease her')

'Don't be scared' he said, You're going to have a son, the Son of God, call him Jesus, a name that means he'll save people, he'll make them friends with God again.

And though Joseph was a bit confused, he was a good **egg**, you couldn't hope to meet a **Kinder** man (Kinder Egg), so he decided to look after Mary, and God's baby.

So the story goes that Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem Mary was heavily pregnant. There was no **DoubleDecker**, and Joseph wondered if Mary would **Flake** out on the journey. It was certainly no **Picnic**.

They got to Bethlehem very late - it must have been **After Eight**.

They finally found a room full of animals – it might have been a stable, although sometimes people lived in a house with a split floor, animals on one level, people on the next, so maybe the innkeeper let them into his home.

We don't know what sort of animals were there, whether there was a **Kit Kat**, but by morning there was Jesus **Nestle**-ing in his mothers arms. Jesus arrival sent a **Ripple** through the whole of history.

All sorts of strange visitors started to turn up. First some shepherds: they'd been up on the hillside, looking up at the **Milky Way**, when a **Starburst** of angels appeared in the sky; a veritable **Minstrels** gallery of angels. They said 'Go and see God's promised saviour.'

"Tell everyone, don't **Wispa**, shout it out, God is here. And with that the angel **Revels** really got going!

So, straight as an **Aero**, the shepherds headed for Bethlehem to find Jesus.

And they were there in a **Jaffa**.

Further away, in a land 'full of Eastern promise' (**Turkish Delight**), some Wise Men were looking up at the planets in the sky: Saturn, Jupiter, **Mars**, when they saw something amazing.

(By the way: in the ancient world, Jupiter was the 'king star', and at the time of the birth of Jesus, Jupiter appeared in the night sky very close to Saturn, which represented Israel. If you were reading the sky you'd see 'new king in Israel'.)

So the Wise Men brought gifts from their **Bounty** – presents for the new king, and went to see Jesus.

They didn't find him at King Herod's palace, but those wise men were **Smarties**, they didn't give up.

And when they found Jesus they brought out their gifts, no **Twix**, just gifts: Gold for a king, incense for worship, myrrh for death.

And here's the **Crunch (ie)** The baby Jesus is the Son of God, sent by God into the world. He is the real **Hero** of the story.

Jesus is **Divine**, God wrapped in human skin.

Jesus is God's gift to you: but you can only taste how good the gift is if you unwrap it.

I hope you do choose Jesus, but in the end, it's your **Selection**.

And remember: listen to the chocolates before you eat them.