



Sunrise



Issue 50 - New Year 2025

First of all I must apologise for the lateness in sending the Sunrise magazine. I have had a very busy time as on top of the normal busyness at Christmas I have moved and this was extremely hectic.

The NCYA gave each of the Sunday Schools a monetary gift for Christmas. Kearsley chose to use most of theirs to go to the theatre. You can see more about what they got up to inside. Bradford went on a coach trip to Bolton Abbey in November. Find out more inside this magazine. They still have some money left and are considering what they spend it on.

I hope you enjoyed Christmas. One of the things we hear a lot about at this time is angel and there are a lot of things about them inside our magazine. I hope you enjoy the challenge that Carolyn Kennion has given for you to create some angels for a festival being held sometime in the Autumn. I look forward to seeing your creations.

ANGELS

This year our church is running an exciting project about angels and YOU are invited to be part of it. During the year there will be opportunities to learn about angels - who they are, what they look like, what they do and how they connect with us. You are also invited to make some angels to be part of a Festival of Angels which will travel round the country to different churches and centres. If you go to church ask if you and others can learn about and make some angels there and see if the church will host a Festival of Angels display next autumn.



In this Sunrise there are some angel shapes for you to copy onto card and decorate. There are also lots of ideas online and YouTube videos about how to make angels (eg www.craftfreebies.com/angel-crafts or search how to make paper plate angels).

When you have made some angels please save them and let Gwendolen know so that they can be collected for the Festival of Angels display.

In a few weeks time look out for the NCYA creative exhibition entry sheets which will be on the theme of angels this year.

I wonder if, like me, you had some Christmas cards with angels on them. Angels appear in most parts of the story of Jesus's birth. You probably remember that the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth to Jesus and an angel, accompanied by lots of others, gave the good news to the shepherds, but we are not told what these angels

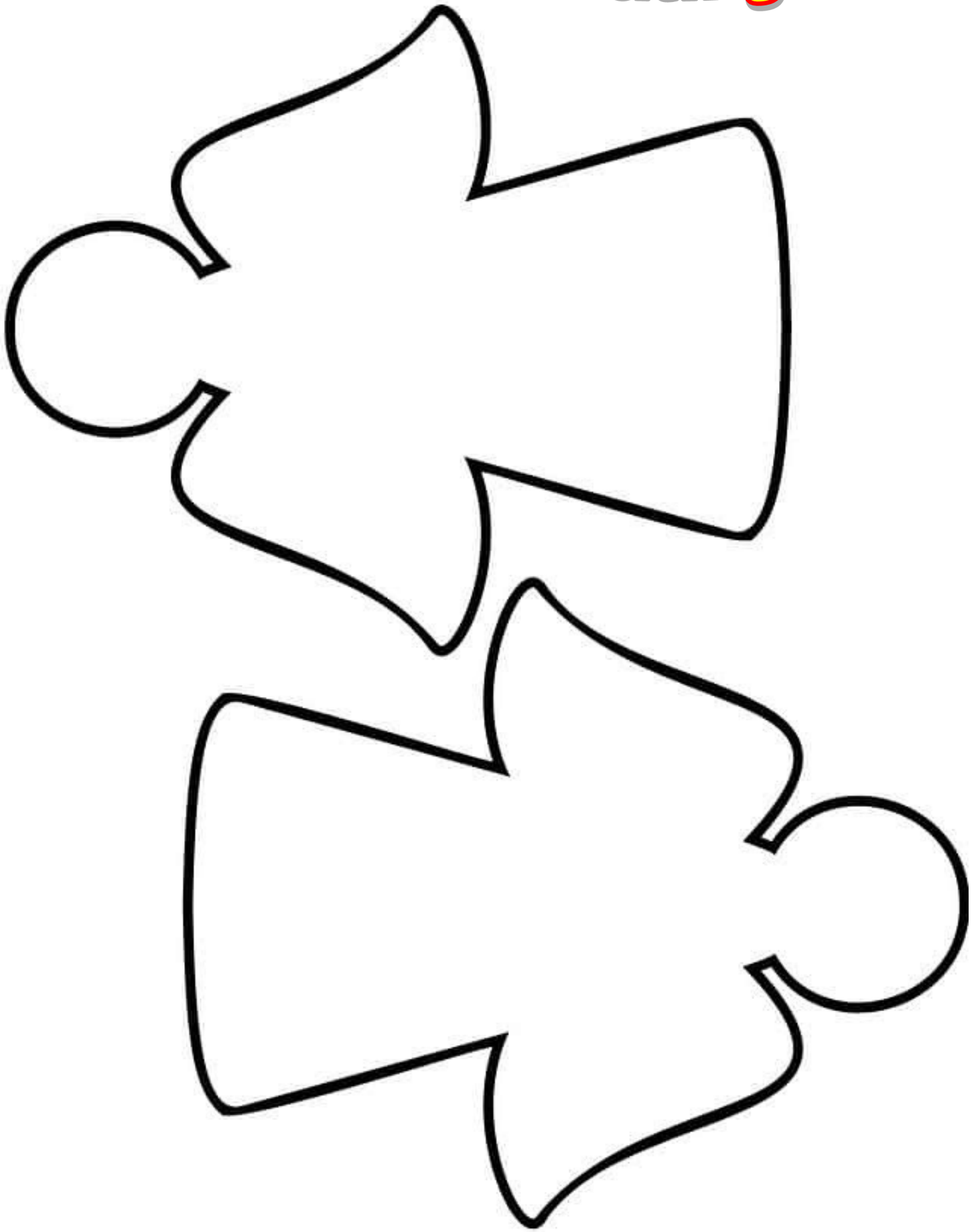


looked like. I noticed that most of the angels on my Christmas cards were almost identical; they were all shown wearing long robes, with golden hair and wings, flying in the sky playing trumpets. Is this what angels really look like and what they do? What do you think?

In addition to the Christmas story there are lots of other stories in the Bible which have angels in them, such as the story of Jacob dreaming of angels going up and down a stairway to heaven, and the angels in the tomb where Jesus's body had been placed after the crucifixion. In the last book of the Bible - Revelation - there are some descriptions of some very different angels who are not all wearing long robes and flying with wings. We are very fortunate that Emmanuel Swedenborg saw angels when he was enabled to visit the spiritual world and he wrote down what he found out about them.

Carolyn Kennion

Have fun creating!



**These are some of
the beautiful angels
you could create for
the Festival**



Oh no they didn't!



They look like they had a good outing. 'Oh no, they didn't..... Oh yes, they did



Carolyn Kennion reports:

Thank you, NCYA, for the Christmas gift which enabled us to buy gifts from Santa. It also went towards lunch at McDonalds, tickets to the Pantomime, 'Rapunzel'. 'As our seats were just a couple of rows from the front we really felt part of the action, including getting sprayed with water and catching sweets!' Carolyn says. At Kearsley they really appreciated having the money to enjoy all of this.

Bradford chose to spend some of their gift on an outing by coach to Bolton Abbey. Six families attended including 16 children.



Shannon says they missed going in 2023 and so it was really nice to go again.



One of the mothers comments were, 'Without the coach we wouldn't have been able to make this trip as we don't have a car. We got to experience a new area we had not been to before and it was a really lovely day out that was magical for my kids. Very accessible for low income families, thank you.'





Looks like they really enjoyed their visit.

I'm very excited about the theme for our creative exhibition being 'Angels'. You will have read Carolyn's message about the Festival of Angels and it is because of this we have chosen to use this for our exhibition.

I love angels and have many of them adorning my home. This Christmas I received a beautiful angel as a gift from a friend. In amidst all the craziness of my move this was a welcome reminder of what the true meaning of Christmas is and a reminder that angels who came to so many in the Bible, come to bring messages of hope, peace, love and joy. Angels are sent as messengers from God. They appear in the Old Testament as well as the New.

We are taught, in our church, that heaven is made up of angels from the human race. This is because we believe that when we die we have the ability to become angels if we live a good life following what the Lord wants us to do.

At the Bradford event at Purley Chase in the summer we were looking at the Christmas stories and some of the common images of the story which aren't necessarily true. For example were there really 3 wise men. But in the group I was with we were exploring the question: Do angels have wings?..... It is common to see angels drawn with wings. And because angels have the ability to come to someone's aid very quickly it is assumed that they fly there using their wings but it is more a case that they think about being somewhere and then they appear there.

We often hear that angels bring gifts such as love joy, peace and comfort. They usually come to people in times of crisis and will appear in a way that means something to that person, so they don't appear the same to everyone. I think this is why I love angels so much.

I wonder what your vision of an angel is? I wonder how they would appear to you? So have a think and get creative. I am really excited about this festival and I am definitely going to create some angels. Let's create a wonderful variety of angels.

