

SOUTHWELL MINSTER VIRTUAL JUNIOR CHURCH

7th February 2021

2nd Sunday before Lent

Light in the
dark

Welcome Isabel, Bridget, Phoebe, James, Isaac, Lucas, younger James and any other young friends who may be joining us at Minster Virtual Junior Church.

(Alison speaking)

Let's begin by thinking about each other as if we are together.



And as we do this let's pray for each other, for our families, for our friends and for everyone who is affected by the coronavirus.

Just have a moment of quiet looking at the candle and remembering that Jesus is the light of the world, and he is with us.

Today is what the Church calls 2nd Sunday before Lent: Sexagesima

Next Sunday will be 1st Sunday before Lent



John 1: 1-14

1In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2From the very beginning the Word was with God. 3Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. 4The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to humanity. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

6God sent his messenger, a man named John, 7who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. 8He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. 9This was the real light — the light that comes into the world and shines on everyone. 10The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. 11He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. 12Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. 13They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.

14The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.



Points you may, or may not, already know to help you think about this.

1. We think of words as writing on a page. The Word here is God's writing, which makes the world.
2. This word is a person, whom we know as Jesus. As God's Son or Word he made the world.
3. John is John the Baptist, a cousin of Jesus. He prepared the people to accept Jesus.
4. Questions to help you think about what happened

1. John the gospel writer is telling us the story of Christmas: the birth of Jesus. Does this way of telling the story add anything new?
2. Jesus is called the source of light. Is that a good way of thinking about him as God?
3. Why do you think people in Jesus's own country did not realise who he was?

2. My own answers, though we may all have different ones to some of these questions. Yours are as good as mine!

1. The stable story tells it from low down as people at the time experienced what happened. John tells us it from a cosmic point of view - the hidden story. We understand that this tiny baby is the creator or maker of everything.
2. The sun gives us light by which we see everything. God is like that. He gives us light inside us to understand every thing and person and idea.
3. He was a real person of flesh and blood like you and me. He came from a small town like Southwell. He didn't go around zapping and flying like a superman. So people had to look hard to see the inner light and power in him. When they did, like John, they saw he was God with us.

4. ACTIVITY

1. Make a hidden light. This is to give you an idea of the light shining in the darkness.

You will need:

A lamp or electric candle

A strong thick box to cover it

A room with a light.

Get someone to plug the light in if you are small, or plug in yourself.

Turn off the room light.

Cover the lamp and sit in the darkness for a bit.

Take off the box to reveal the light. See how it shows you everything.

2. The light shines in the darkness:

This is a simple but effective craft to help us think

You will need:

An A5 sheet of black paper or thin black card

An electric tea-light

Pencil

Scissors

Sticky tape



Fold the sheet into quarters.



Cut shapes across the folds (as if making snowflakes!)



Open the sheet out.

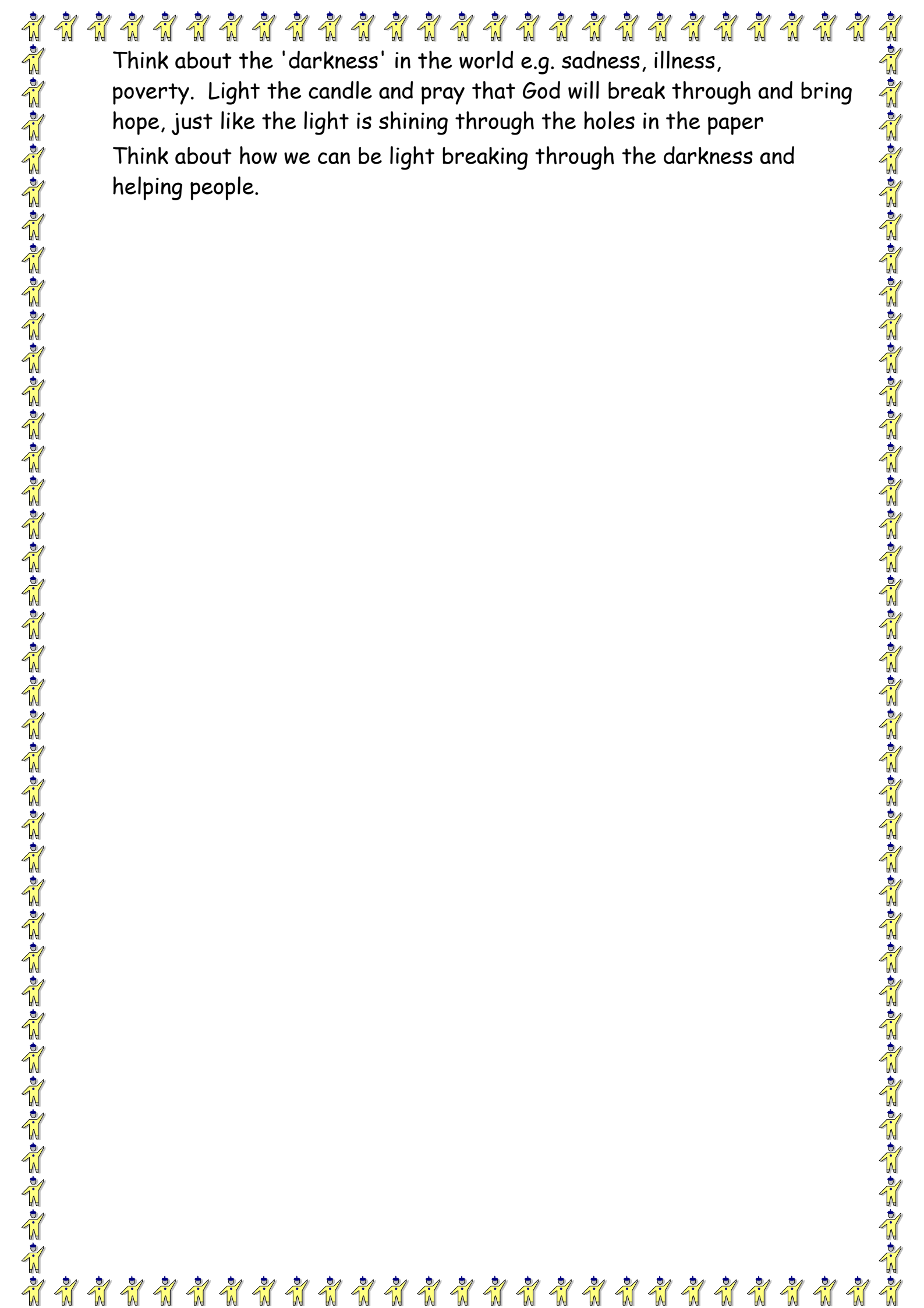


Roll the sheet and secure to make a tube. Tape up the top of the tube. You should now have a kind of 'hat'.



Place a battery operated tea light under the 'hat'. Let the light shine through the darkness! This is not a terribly good photo, but the effect is lovely as the candle shines through all of the patterned slits in the black paper.





Think about the 'darkness' in the world e.g. sadness, illness, poverty. Light the candle and pray that God will break through and bring hope, just like the light is shining through the holes in the paper

Think about how we can be light breaking through the darkness and helping people.