Chocolate Nativity 2016 //

Ok hands up who has a chocolate Advent calendar? Ok and of you, do any of you have one that actually tells you about Jesus? Well I thought today, we could go one better than that, and we are going to use chocolate to tell the Christmas story… do you think we can?

Here goes….

Because Christmas is not really about **snow (snow bites)** and S**anta**… (choc Santa). So let’s start at the beginning (and you might have to listen very carefully, and I apologise now for any dodgy puns or very tenuous chocolate links!)

A long time ago, God made the world, in fact the whole **galaxy**, and it was amazing. He made this beautiful world and put people on it too. He wanted the earth to be filled with people who he **loved (love hearts),** people just like you and me, because they were so special to him. They were so special he gave them everything.

But… sadly the people were just like us and they didn’t always want to do things God’s way and they didn’t listen to him and they did a **breakaway** from God. It all started with a **chomp** of an apple.And after that it got really really rocky.

There was sadness and suffering and loneliness and even death. Because we’d chosen our way instead of God’s way. But after a bit of a **time out** in the desert, God wanted all this to change, so he made a plan to stop people drifting from him.

It all began when a young woman called Mary heard a **wispa** from an angel, who told her that she would give birth to God’s son. But how could this be? She was not yet married to Joseph. The **angel (angel delight)** told her not to be afraid, and to call the baby Jesus. It’s a name that means he’ll save people, he’ll make them friends with God again (that’s for us too you know, we can be friends with God!).

Though Joseph was a bit confused, he was a good **egg** (crème egg) you couldn’t hope to meet a **kinder** man (kinder egg or bar), 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, and Joseph wondered if she’d **flake** out on the journey so she travelled on a donkey, because they couldn’t get an **aero –**plane, d**ouble decker** or a car.

When they arrived, Joseph tried to find lodgings, but they didn’t have a **dime** – and everyone turned them away. Eventually they found a stable where a **kinder** innkeeper said they could stay. We don’t know what animals were there, I doubt there was a **lion, a frog (freddo frog)**or a **penguin** but there might have been a (**kit) kat, or** some **oxo-n… (cubes)**

And there Jesus was born **(jelly baby)**

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Then lots of visitors came to see him.

First some shepherds: they’d been up on the hillside, looking up at the **milky way** when they heard singing in the sky. Angels sang “glory to God in the highest” and heralded “good news”. The angels told them to go and see God’s son.

You see Jesus was the first Christmas gift ever and he was a gift that all of us can receive even now. What an amazing gift that is?

So, straight as an **aero** the shepherds headed for bethlehem to find Jesus.

Meanwhile a bit further away, there were some wise men – many people called them **smarties** – who were busily scanning the **galaxy** and observing the **stars,** when they saw a new light in the sky. Could it be **Mars**? No, it was a special **star** – signalling the birth of a king. They knew they had to go and see this king. So they packed up their **bounty** – presents for the new king, did up their **buttons** and climbed on their “**caramels**“. And went to find Jesus.

First they went to Herod’s palace – not afraid to **hobnob** with royalty – to see if Herod knew about this royal birth. Herod didn’t really believe the wise men and thought **the(m all teasers)**, but just to make sure – he reckoned he’d **butter scotch** this rumour before it began to spread throughout Jerusalem. So he decided to **fudge** the issue by saying that he wanted to go and worship the baby as well – and told the wise men to report to him on their way back. The wise men set off and eventually found the young Jesus and they offered him their gifts **gold (choc coins)**, frankincense, and myrrh. Then God warned them in a dream that Herod was up to his **Twix** and really wanted to kill the child. So they took flight and headed home another way.

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So there’s a few **highlights** (hot choc sachet) from a well know story, some old **fashioned humbugs** don’t believe it, but, and here’s the **crunch(ie)** according to the bible, Jesus is the son of God, **divine,** and was born so that all sorts of people might come know God’s love for them..

Like the shepherds and the wise men, many people are looking for meaning and purpose – some kind of **boost** in life – a **refresher** in difficult times. He truly is no **miniature hero**, he is God’s gift to all of you, but you only get to taste how good that gift is when you try it for yourself. So why not make your **selection** (pack) and choose Jesus in your life… he is a true cause for **celebration(s)**!