

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Today's service is very special: it is called a Covenant Service.

A Covenant is a promise that shows commitment to something.

Every year members of the Methodist church renew their commitment to God and Jesus by saying this prayer

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing: I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

People show their commitment to different things in many different ways:

married couples give and wear rings;

football supporters wear their team's kit or colours to show their support and commitment;

Christians are baptised and some are confirmed as a sign of their commitment to Jesus;

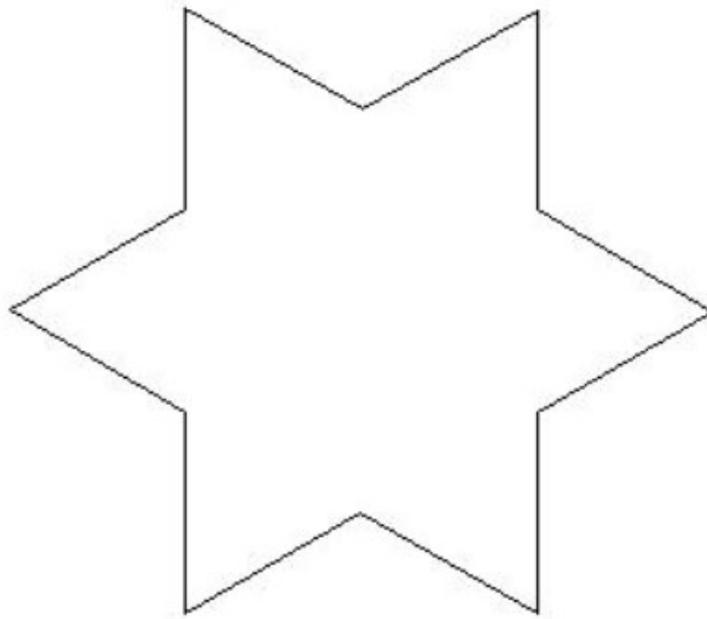
I wonder if you can think of any more examples of the ways in which people show their commitment to something?

What things are important to you? These are usually the things you are committed to.

Draw a picture of some things you are committed to here:

Today is also the day when we remember the three Wise Men who found Jesus by following a star.

You can make a star prayer using this outline and some paint!



Choose a prayer to pray. When you have finished your prayer, put your finger in the paint and leave a finger print on the star as an 'amen'

Pray for:

- People who are travelling a long way- that God will look after them and keep them safe
- People who are looking for something- that they find it
- People who like to learn and understand more about the world- that they will have opportunities
- People who rule and govern countries- that they will be wise and loving
- New parents- that they will be joyful
- People who want to find out more about Jesus- that they will come to know his love

In some countries in Europe they bless some chalk in the service and then chalk a special message on the front door of the church, saying a prayer asking God to bless that place. People then take a stick of the chalk home and do the same for their own front doors. Why don't you have a go? The next page will show you what to write.

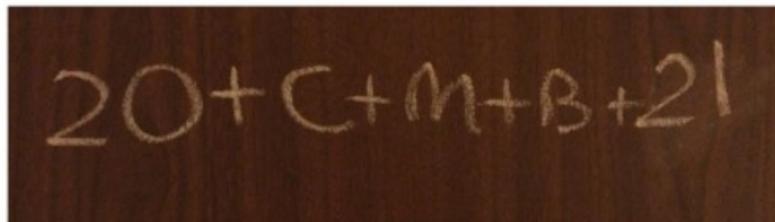


Twelfth Night Door Blessing

To celebrate the visit of the wise men to the Holy Family, some people like to ask God to bless their homes.

They mark the front door with blessed chalk, writing the year's number, split in half, and the letters C, M and B in between.

These letters stand for the traditional names of the three wise men, (Caspar, Melchior and Balzhazzar) and also for the Latin blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house."



**For the year 2021, use chalk to write this
on or next to your door:**

20 + C + M + B + 21

Prayer: **As we remember the visit of the wise men to the home of Jesus, God please bless our home this year. Protect each person who lives and stays here and may each of us know your hope, peace, joy and love. Amen**