

Elizabeth – favoured by God Luke 1: 39-80

We've seen how Gabriel firstly visited Zechariah and then six months later visited Mary. Both received news about special babies.

It seems that Mary didn't hang around at home very long after Gabriel's visit, she headed straight to see Zechariah and Elizabeth. Maybe she needed the support of someone who knew that all this was from God.

At this stage Elizabeth is six months pregnant. She must have had loads of time to think it all over (and Zechariah could only nod and shake his head!) wondering what it all meant and how things were going to work out, and who Messiah would be and how would they know, and what was John's ministry going to be and would he be important and what would he look like and...

As soon as Mary enters John leaps in her womb and, filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth realises in that moment that Mary is the one who will give birth to Messiah and is amazed that she would come and visit her. Oh how they must have talked! Mary stayed for 3 months – she was probably there when John was born. Her faith and resolve must have been so much stronger because of her time with Elizabeth and Zechariah, and Elizabeth was able to understand so much more what John's role would be when he grew up.

Watch the story here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_1xtrrA2Ks

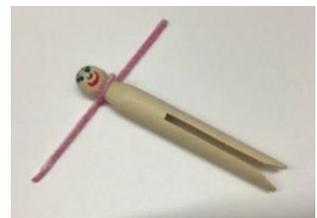
And here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAtO9nt7Xnc>

1. Our twentieth decoration for the Jesse Tree

Today's decoration acknowledges the amazing miracle of Elizabeth having a baby when she was too old. Can you think of other women in the Bible who had miracle babies? *

If you have some mother and baby little dolls hang them on the Jesse Tree.

Or make a peg doll mum and baby: Get 2 dolly pegs, make a face on each of them and add some hair (wool/thread, maybe grey?) to one.



Take a piece of material about 20cm long and 4-5cm wide. Fold it in half, make a little V in the middle of the fold where the head will go. Put it over the head and tie it round the waist with some wool or another narrow piece of material. Shape her arms. Cover her head with a smaller piece of material and either glue in place or tie it on with wool. Mum will stand on a piece of plasticine or blue tack, but to hang her fix on a ribbon and add her to your Jesse Tree – with her baby.

Take the other peg and if you have someone capable and responsible enough to use a saw ask them to saw off the legs. Wrap the wooden bit in white cloth and place in mum's arms – you may need a dab of glue. If you can't saw, use a bead for a face and stick it on some wound white cloth.

2. Elizabeth's song

In this first chapter of Luke both Mary and Zechariah (and then in chapter 2 the angels and Simeon) praised God with words that have been put to music many times over the centuries. Elizabeth, too, said some significant words, but no one has put them to music!

Write a poem or song about what you imagine Elizabeth was feeling, imagine her words or use the ones recorded in the Bible if you want.

Sarah – Isaac's mum (Genesis 18), Menoah's wife – Samson's mum (Judges 13), Hannah – Samuel's mum (1 Samuel 1), the widow from Shunem (2 Kings 4)

The next part of our Jesse Tree will be on Monday 21st December