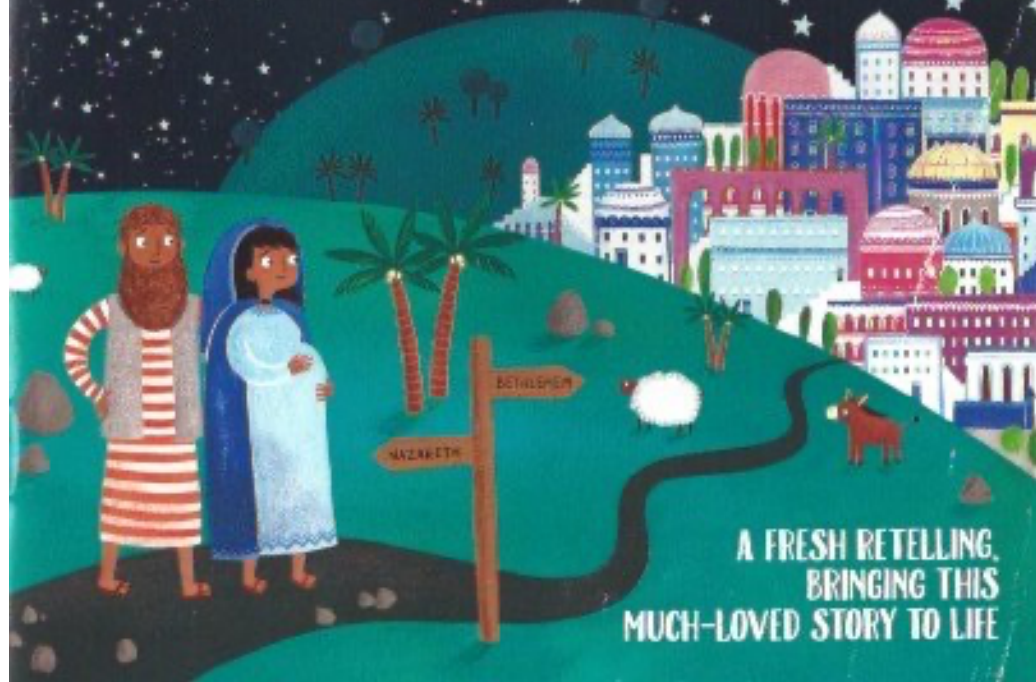


WRITTEN BY DAI WOOLRIDGE

ILLUSTRATED BY EMMA RANDALL

THE REALLY GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS



A FRESH RETELLING.
BRINGING THIS
MUCH-LOVED STORY TO LIFE



And just like carpenters make stuff out of wood
God made the world and it really was good.
He made all the plants, he made all the trees
He made animals, birds and he made you and me.

And that time long ago, that time that was good
God walked beside humans through the trees in the wood.

Want to
go for a
walk?

But the humans he made, just like you and like me
Were all nasty and mean, quite unfortunately.

They'd thump and they'd punch and would not make amends
And so God and his people were no longer friends.

To become friends again, God had a plan
One day he would send them a really good man.



So it happened one day when the time was just right
An angel appeared and gave Mary a fright.

"Don't be afraid
Get scared or jump,
God's going to give you a big belly bump.

Your bump is a baby
A really great one
You should call him Jesus
For he is God's son."

Don't be afraid
Don't get uptight
Relax, take a breather
You'll be all right!

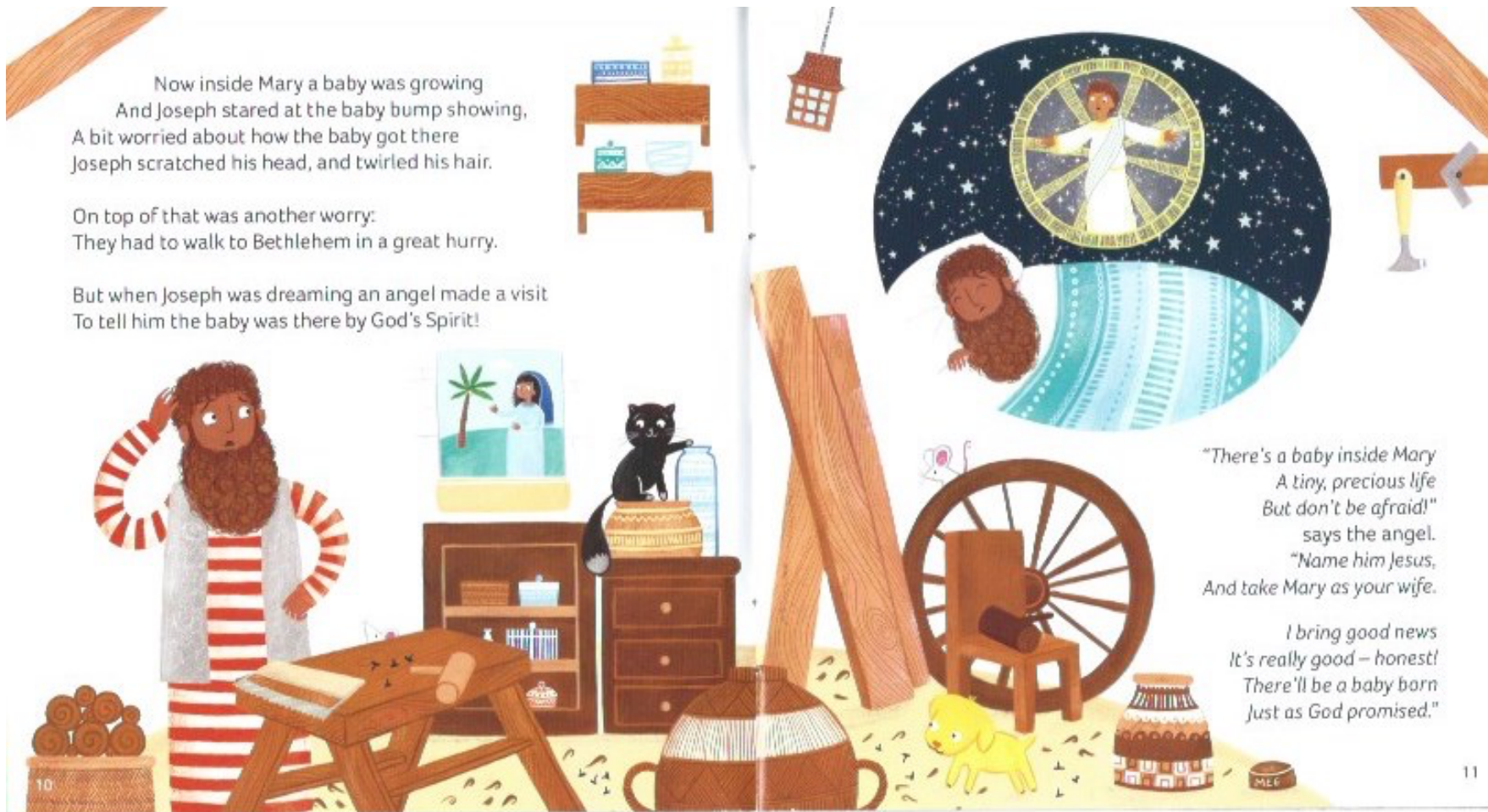
I bring you good news
It's really good—honest
A babe will be born
Just as God promised.



Now inside Mary a baby was growing
And Joseph stared at the baby bump showing,
A bit worried about how the baby got there
Joseph scratched his head, and twirled his hair.

On top of that was another worry:
They had to walk to Bethlehem in a great hurry.

But when Joseph was dreaming an angel made a visit
To tell him the baby was there by God's Spirit!



*"There's a baby inside Mary
A tiny, precious life
But don't be afraid!"
says the angel.
"Name him Jesus,
And take Mary as your wife.*

*I bring good news
It's really good – honest!
There'll be a baby born
Just as God promised."*

Then Mary set off travelling, with Joseph right beside,
They walked and talked for miles and miles, till Bethlehem arrived.

With a baby inside Mary, who was going to be King,
When they finally arrived, there was no room at the inn!

*"Don't be afraid
Don't get uptight
Relax, take a breather
You'll be all right!"*



So a place was found by haystack and corn,
And in this spot, the baby was born.
So they stayed in the shed where animals fed,
And the baby had straw instead of a bed.



Then there were shepherds – maybe cleaning their shoes
Trying to scrape off the smelly sheep poos
Till all of a sudden it really was weird
From absolutely nowhere this angel appeared!

Don't be afraid!
That's what I say!
Say hi to the baby
In a manger full of hay.

Even weirder, from nowhere
Loads of angels appeared! (And I mean LOADS!)

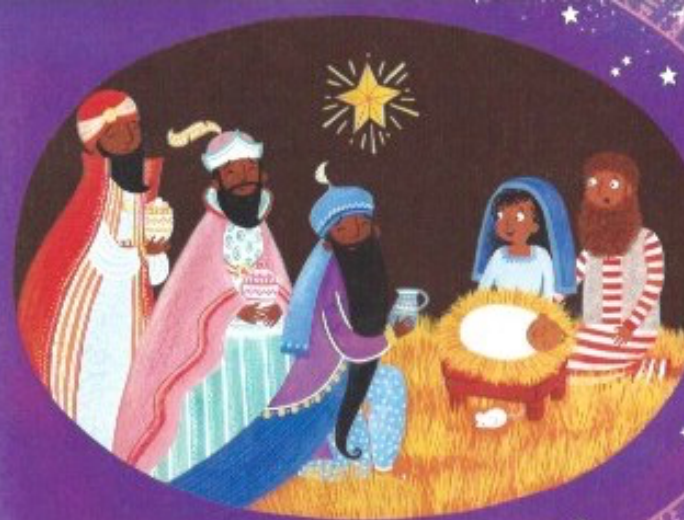
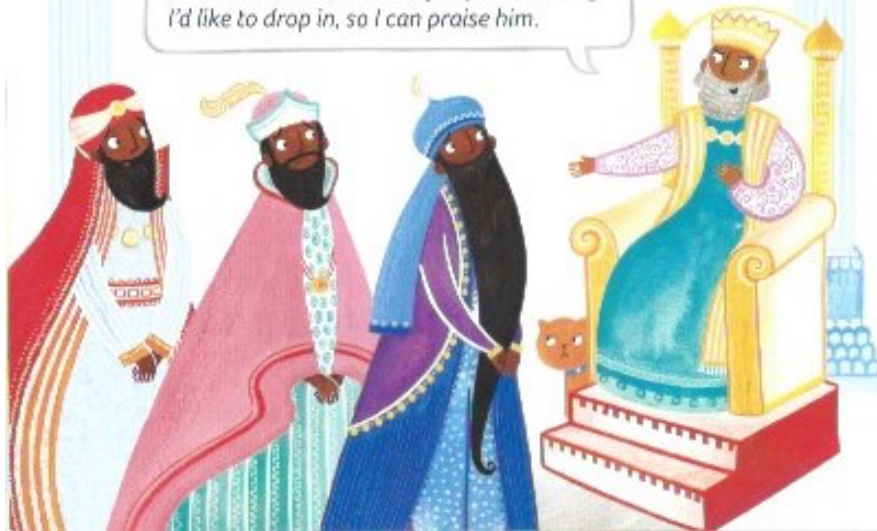
We bring good news
It's really good – honest!
There'll be a baby born
Just as God promised.

The sheep looked at the shepherds.
The shepherds looked at the sheep
'Don't be noisy, tip toes please!
Baby Jesus is fast asleep.

Next in the story were some wise blokes
Maybe with big beards and very long cloaks.
These wise men had travelled ever so far
But they didn't use Google maps – they followed a star.

They rode up to King Herod and asked if he'd seen him,
"The baby that is, the one who'll be King."
Herod got his experts, and asked where this would be,
They said "He'll be born in Bethlehem, see?"

*Please let me know when you find this King
I'd like to drop in, so I can praise him.*

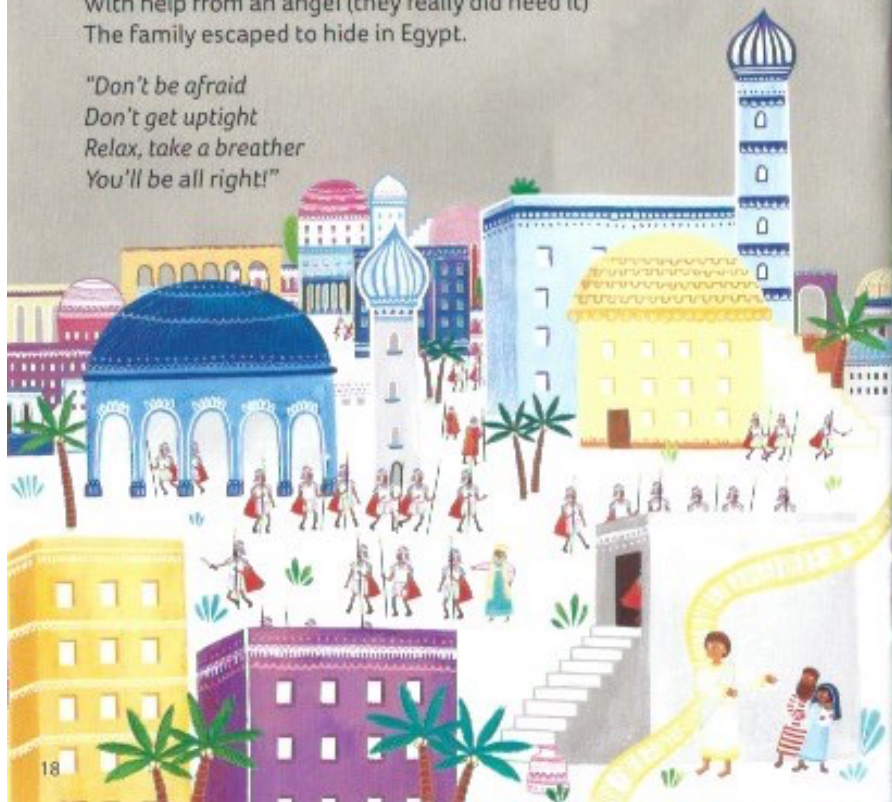


So the wise blokes found Jesus,
Next to animals with fur
And they brought him some gold
Frankincense and myrrh

Herod seemed nice, but really was mean
So the wise blokes were warned, by a man in a dream
"Don't be afraid
Hear what I say!
Just don't visit Herod
Go home another way."

Then Herod searched high, and Herod searched low
Where's baby Jesus? He just didn't know
With help from an angel (they really did need it)
The family escaped to hide in Egypt.

*"Don't be afraid
Don't get uptight
Relax, take a breather
You'll be all right!"*



And when Herod was gone
They were no longer afraid.
They travelled back home
And that's where they stayed.



The baby grew up
From a boy to a man
He made stuff out of wood
Like a carpenter can.

And he did lots of cool stuff...

He healed the sick



Told great stories



And was amazing all the time



He also walked on water



And even turned water into wine!



Did you know
there's good news?
It's really good – honest!
This baby grew up
To do what God promised.



Remember that time,
Long ago that was good?
When God walked with humans
Through the trees in the wood?

When people were mean and
Wouldn't make amends
And when God and humans could
No longer be friends?



Well it didn't end there
Because Jesus the man
Was the really good hero
Of God's rescue plan.



He lived, then he died, on a cross made of wood.
He died for you and me, to turn our wrong into good.



But something happened
After Jesus died
That really was worth
a big high five!
Because he is greater
Just three days later
Jesus came back alive!





So don't get scared, or jumpy,
and don't be afraid.

