



September–December 2013

Support material



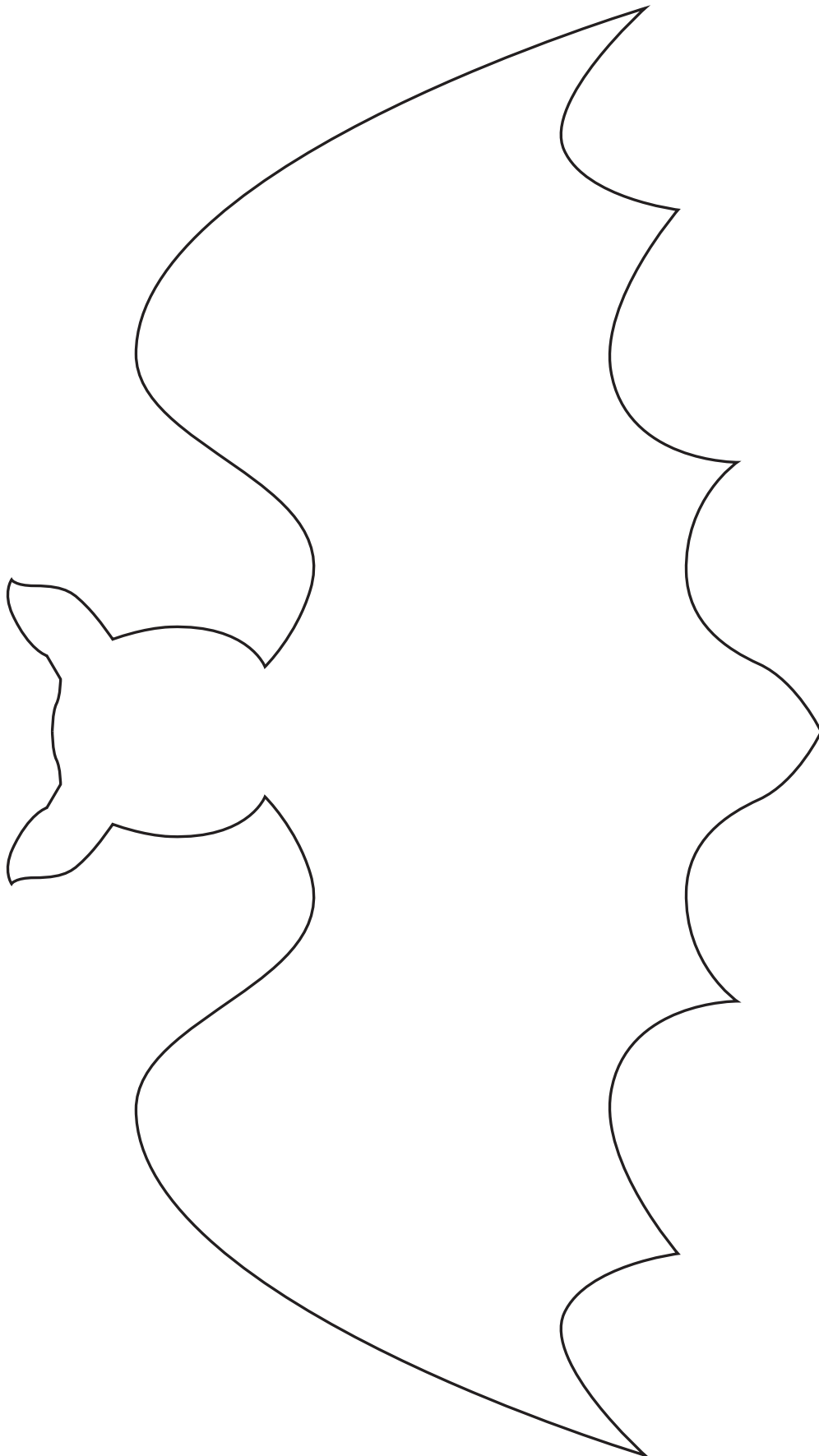
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The sower – invitation template

<p>You are invited to come to</p> <p>Messy Church</p> <p>on</p> <p>at</p> <p>We will be thinking about</p> <p>Love from</p>	<p>You are invited to come to</p> <p>Messy Church</p> <p>on</p> <p>at</p> <p>We will be thinking about</p> <p>Love from</p>
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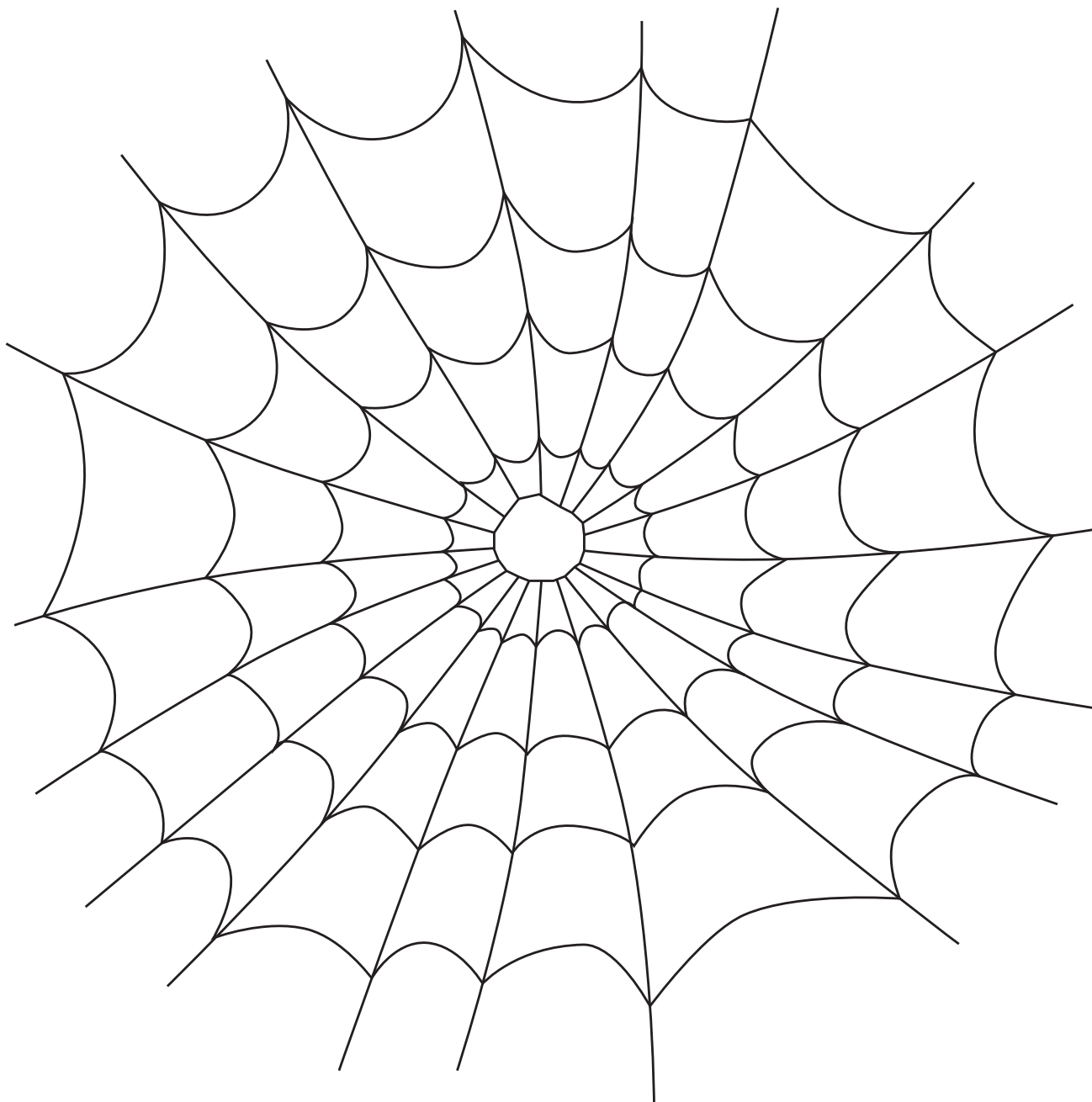
Things that go bump in the night—bat template



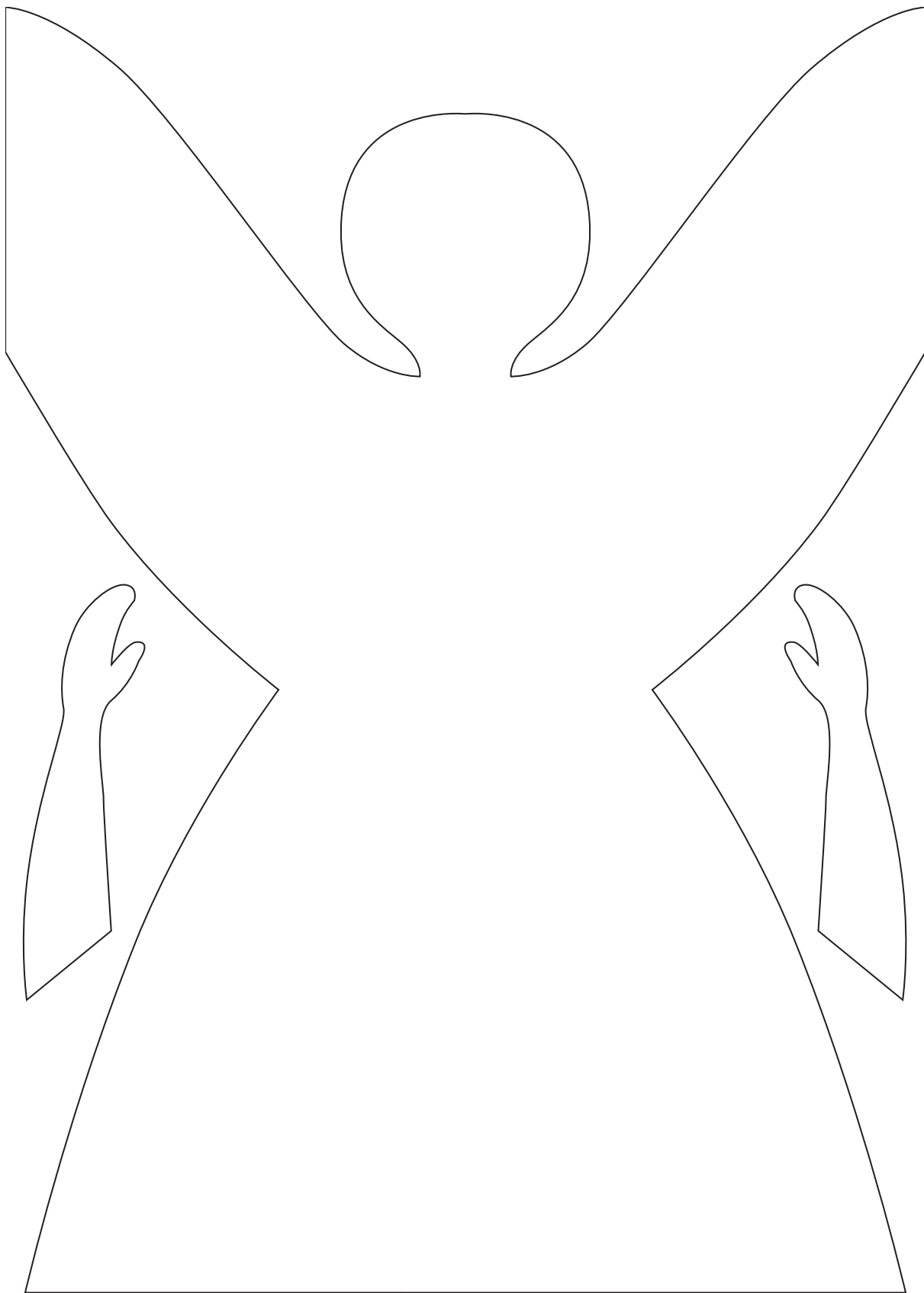
Things that go bump in the night—pumpkin template



Things that go bump in the night—web template



Things that go bump in the night—angel template



Mealtime cards

The sower

- Have you grown a sunflower this year? If so, how tall did it grow?
- What is the most interesting plant/tree you have seen?
- How easy do you find it to share your faith with others?
- What is your favourite Bible verse or story and why?
- Have you ever offered to pray with or for someone? What was their reaction?
- Has anyone offered to pray for you? How did you respond?

Things that go bump in the night

- What are you most frightened of?
- Do you think it is kind to scare people or play tricks on them?
- What is the best thing to do if you are frightened?
- Who is the most powerful person in the universe?

The best ever home

- Have you been thinking about someone special today?
- What are your special memories?
- What helps you when you feel sad?
- What do you think the 'best ever home with God' will be like?

Christmas

- Who in the Christmas story do you think had the most difficult time?
- If you could have been part of the real Christmas story, who would you like to have been? Why?
- What does Christmas mean to you?
- How do you celebrate Christmas?

Handout sheet—The sower

Today we're looking at the parable of the sower, and what it teaches us about listening to God and growing more like Jesus.

What are we doing today?

1. Matching game—Can you match the leaves and seeds to the trees?
2. Seed coaster/tile—The seeds that fell onto the path were quickly eaten by the birds and didn't grow.
3. Harvest banner—I wonder what sort of person you are?
4. God's Word—How do we share God's Word with others?
5. Make a bird beak—Birds ate the seeds that fell onto the hard path.
6. Sowing seeds—Which of the seeds do you think will grow best?
7. Prayer corner—God listens.
8. Gathering prayers from the community—God wants us to share his goodness with those we meet.
9. The sower game—What are our pitfalls? When do we find it hard to listen to God?
10. Invitation cards to your next Messy Church—Think about who you might invite.



Handout sheet — Things that go bump in the night

Today we're taking a long look at what frightens us and why we should trust in Jesus to protect us. The Bible tells us that God's love is stronger than any evil thing we might meet.

What are we doing today?

1. Scary spider—Make a big black spider with googly eyes.
2. Shadow activity—Creepy shadows on your bedroom curtains.
3. Night wax-resist pictures—Watch the picture appear out of the night.
4. Flying bats—See them flutter in the air, eating all the night bugs.
5. Pumpkin masks—Looks like a no-brainer with a hole in his head.
6. Moon and stars mobile—Your own mini star system for the bedroom.
7. Play-dough snake—Watch out for this hissy missy with a bad bite.
8. 'Keep me safe' prayer—Write a prayer by torchlight.
9. Glittery spider's webs—Annoy grown-ups by making some more cobwebs for your bedroom.
10. Owl cakes—Wise up to some seriously clever chocolate cakes.

Handout sheet – The best ever home

This is a special session today, when we remember people who we love, who have died. If you or your child would like to talk or pray with someone, please speak to one of the Messy Church team. Jesus cried when one of his best friends died, so he understands when we are sad. Jesus has gone back to God the Father to make the best ever home for us with God.

What are we doing today?

1. Memory bottle—A special bottle to help you remember your special person.
2. Memory box—Make a beautiful box for special keepsakes.
3. Feelings prayer collage—Make a picture to express what you are feeling at the moment.
4. Best house ever!—Jesus said he was going to make the best ever home in heaven for us.
5. House biscuit—Make a biscuit to look like your house.
6. Light a candle to remember—God knows and loves each of us, and nobody is forgotten by God.
7. Butterfly pictures—Caterpillars have to change to become butterflies. When we die, it's not the end.
8. Corrugated card photo frame—Make a frame for a special photo.
9. Seed planting—Plant a seed, take it home and watch it grow.
10. Tea light holder—Make a tea light holder to take home and light to remember your special person.

Handout sheet — Christmas

Today we're looking at the Christmas story, the different characters and the choices they made, and what this teaches us about Jesus.

What are we doing today?

1. Pregnant Mary biscuits—Mary's life was very different once she became pregnant with Jesus.
2. Camel cupcakes—A fun reminder of the wise men's long journey.
3. Hobby donkey—Make your own donkey for your journey home.
4. Stand-up angel—The angels delivered the good news to the shepherds.
5. Prayer sand trays—A prayer station to say thank you for Jesus.
6. Cotton-bud sheep—The shepherds only made a short journey, but they left their sheep behind, which was a big risk.
7. Camel racing—See who can get to Bethlehem first!
8. Tissue-paper gift boxes—The wise men gave Jesus very precious gifts.
9. Pipe-cleaner star—The wise men followed a special star.
10. Baby Jesus—Make Jesus in his manger.



Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

The sower

Take-home idea

Go for a walk and listen to the different sounds around you. What can you hear?

Actively listen to those around you and perhaps share a word of encouragement with someone at work or school.

Think about who you could give your Bible verse to.

Sunday treat

You will need a bottle of bubble mixture, with a bubble-blowing wand. Stand together in the garden or sit around the table and encourage each person to say what they would like to say to God. Imagine your prayer is inside the bubble. Pass the bubble kit around. Say your prayer out loud and then calmly blow through the bubble wand.

Lord, thank you for this week and all that you have enabled us to do. As we prepare for this coming week, please help us to listen to each other and to those we meet. Amen

Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

Things that go bump in the night

Take-home idea

Try this at home. Next time you have a clear night, with no moon, have a good long look and see if you can count all the stars. If you can't count them all, think about how awesome God is that he made them all!

Sunday treat

*Lord, keep us safe this night,
Secure from all our fears.
May angels watch us while we sleep,
Till morning light appears.
Amen*

Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

The best ever home

Take-home idea

Collect together things for the Memory Box that remind you of your loved one who has died, and talk about that person together as you arrange the special things in the box.

Sunday treat

Light the candle in the holder you made, and perhaps join hands, as you say together: *Jesus, light of the world, be with us today, as we remember [name]. Help us when we feel sad. Amen*

Take-home ideas and Sunday treats

Christmas

Take-home idea

Make some of your own pregnant Mary biscuits at home, put them in clear bags, tie up with ribbon and give them to friends. Tell them about the Christmas story.

Sunday treat

Cut out some card stars. Write prayers on one side and decorate the other. Hang on your tree. Choose a different star each day and say the prayer on it.