STORY 2: Rhys and the Christmas Surprise

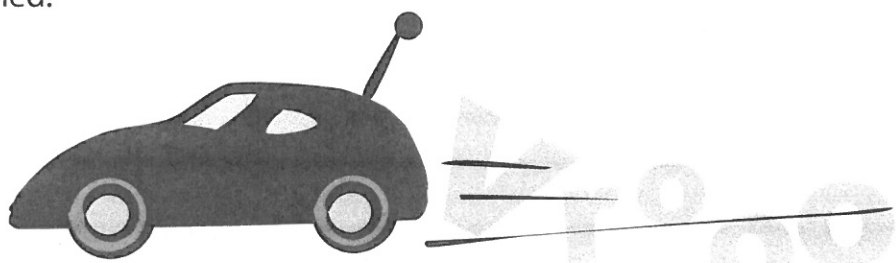
Rhys had been staying at Grandmas and Granddads for four weeks now and although at first he didn't really want to think about Christmas, Daddy had been ringing recently to say that that Mummy was feeling much better; which helped Rhys to think about what he would like for Christmas.

Granddad had gone into town and picked-up an Argos catalogue and Rhys had been busy writing and then re-writing his Christmas wish list.
Grandma and Granddad helped Rhys with his final list and as Rhys was nearly 10 he felt he was old enough to have a really fast remote control car, Grandma wasn't sure, but Granddad thought it was a great idea, so Rhys put it high on his list, but at the very top of the list Rhys had written that his Mummy and the baby would be safe.

Rhys went to Church every Sunday with his Grandparents and each time Vicar Matthew picked a different person to light the week's Advent candle.
Miss Jones had lit the second Advent candle as she was the oldest member of the Church, Mair from the Choir, the third, and finally Carys from the Youth Group lit the fourth candle.
Every time the candle was lit Rhys prayed quietly for his Mummy and the baby.

On Christmas day Rhys woke up early, but was surprised to find that both Grandma and Granddad were up ready to greet him. Grandma had already put the turkey in the oven while Granddad had lit the fire.
Rhys gave out his presents first. He gave Grandma a box of dark chocolates which Granddad had helped Rhys to buy and then he gave Granddad a pair of socks which Grandma had helped Rhys to buy.
Then Grandma and Granddad helped Rhys to unwrap his presents. Rhys was surprised to see how many toys he had been bought, but there was no present from Mummy and Daddy and no Radio Controlled Car.
Rhys was also sad that Mummy had not rung to wish him happy Christmas and when he had suggested to Grandma that he ring Mummy she had said that Mummy would be sleeping and that she might ring after Rhys had been to Church.

At the Christmas Day Service Vicar Matthew lit the final candle in the advent ring and explained to everyone that Christmas is the time when we celebrate Jesus being born.
Vicar Matthew also said that we give everyone presents because Jesus was a special present given to us from God.
Vicar Matthew then showed the present that his 6 year old daughter had bought him - it was a tie that played 'jingle bells' whenever anyone touched it.
Everybody laughed!



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Vicar Matthew then said that even though it was a very silly tie it will be very precious to him because it was from his daughter who loved him and that Jesus is precious to us because he is from God who loves us.

At the end of the Service everybody asked Rhys what he had received for Christmas.
Rhys told everyone what he had received but that he didn't get what was on the top of his Christmas wish list.
"Don't worry", said Vicar Matthew, as Rhys was leaving the Church, "Christmas isn't over yet."
Rhys didn't understand what he meant, but he soon forgot what had been said when he arrived at Grandmas and Granddads house and played with his new toys.

After Christmas Dinner which was great, as Granddad let Rhys put his brussel sprouts on Granddads plate when Grandma wasn't looking, Rhys dried while Granddad washed the dishes.

Suddenly there was a knock at the door.

Grandma went to the door and spoke quietly to who was at the door and then shut it.

"Who is it?" shouted Granddad.

"Its somebody for Rhys", shouted Grandma.

Rhys put down the tea towel and went into the living room.

As he walked into the room, Rhys suddenly stopped and stared.
For there was Daddy, holding the Radio Controlled car he wanted, but best of all there stood Mummy with a little baby all wrapped-up in blue blankets.

"Mummy! Mummy! Mummy!" Rhys cried, as he ran over and gave his Mother and the baby a giant hug.
"It's a boy", said Mummy, "and he was born Christmas Eve."
And even though he was nearly 10 Rhys couldn't stop crying with joy as he hugged his mother and thanked God for such a wonderful Christmas.