***BIRDS: PLEASE BRING PLAIN COLOURED T-SHIRT (can wear back-to-front), LEGGINS/TIGHTS, WASHING-UP GLOVES/GLOVES/SOCKS (for feet).***

**PLAYLET – 'ST FRANCIS AND THE BIRDS'**

***(Freely adapted from incident quoted in ‘St Francis of Assisi’ by J Jorgensen)***

***Characters: Narrator***

 ***St Francis (in brown robe & cord belt)***

 ***Birds (younger children with crepe-paper ‘wings’ & peaked cap)***

 ***Peasants (older children with brown or black ragged clothes)***

**NARRATOR:** Noah knew that God’s love is not just for human beings, but for all the animals and birds and fish and tiny insects too;

all life on earth.

***(Enter St Francis, Peasants, Birds)***

Another person who understood this very well was St Francis.

St Francis loved God so much that he gave up all his money and belongings to wander around the countryside, telling people about Him.

He met lots of animals and birds and often saved them from danger.

He talked to them, calling them his brothers and sisters.

One day, when St Francis was preaching by the side of the road, he was interrupted by some very noisy birds,

 ***(Birds ‘tweet’ and ‘coo’ loudly)***

but instead of shooing them away, he called out:

**ST FRANCIS:** My sister birds!

***(Birds stop and listen)***

See what wonderful things God has given you:

Strong wings, so that you can fly wherever you want to, and beautiful feathers, and lovely songs;

food every day, and rivers and springs to drink from;

hills and mountains, cliffs and rocks to hide in, and high trees where you can build your nests.

Come and praise Him with us!

***(Birds excitedly nod their heads and all the characters go off, except the Narrator)***

**NARRATOR:** St Francis was always saying that everything in Creation should praise God together.

He wrote a song about it; and our next hymn is based on that song …..

‘All creatures of our God and King’.