

St Francis of Assisi

St Francis was the son of a rich cloth merchant. He was quite an adventurous person as a young man. During his time as a soldier he had a vision that told him to rebuild the Church. At first he thought this must be a building, but he soon learnt that God meant him to rebuild the people/followers.

Francis gave up his extravagant life, stole some cloth from his father and began a life of poverty. He was joined by others and he founded the Franciscan Friars. He is best remembered for his love of animals and is said to have preached to the animals.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
*After looking at the pictures, what makes you scared?
Why do you think the wolf killed people?
What would you say to the bad wolf?*
- ③ Talk to the children about how brave St Francis was, and what brave things they could try to do.
- ④ Talk about how you would care for an animal and what are the special things we have to remember that all animals need?

St Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio



When St Francis and his friends visited the town of Gubbio in Italy, they discovered everyone was very scared. A wolf had been attacking their town and killing people for food.



**St Francis decided to go
and talk to the wolf.**



St Francis made the sign of the cross and spoke to the wolf "Brother Wolf, in the name of Christ I order you not to hurt anyone" he said.



The wolf returned to the town with Francis. At a meeting with all the people, they agreed to look after the wolf and he agreed never to harm anyone again.