

# Saint Boniface and the Little Fir Tree

**This novel and delightful book will be snapped up by anyone looking for a seasonal story which is as interesting to read aloud as it is to listen to.** It is based on the legend of St Boniface who, so it is told, gave the very first Christmas tree to the Germans — more than a century before Prince Albert reintroduced the Christmas custom to this country during the reign of his wife, Queen Victoria.

**Simply and movingly written,** the book follows the adventures of St Boniface as he travels through Europe spreading the Christian message in a largely pagan world, and tells how the little fir tree helped him convince people his words were true. The story pages, by Jenny Melmoth, alternate with full-page black and white illustrations by Val Hayward for children to colour themselves.

**Such a refreshing approach to the real meaning of Christmas** — God's love of his children and his wish that they should love one another — is especially welcome at a time of increasing commercialism. But above all, the book is fun — an original gift for children from around seven-years-old — or younger, with a little help in the storytelling from parents or friends!

## **A suggestion for the colouring ...**

Children can easily get bogged down colouring in a complicated picture and may well never get beyond the first page. I suggest that they are given only one or two pencil crayons and use them to colour just one or two things on each page. That will brighten up the pictures and they may even reach the end of the book.

