

## 21<sup>st</sup> December - O Morning Star-Otter



Otters are closely related to badgers, ferrets and mink. Like beavers they use tools and are playful in the wild. Although they are very active at night they love to sunbathe during the day. Despite living in cold water, otters do not have blubber like seals, but rely instead on their thick and specially adapted fur to keep the chill out. Otters are an example of positive action changing the outlook for a threatened species. At one point they almost became extinct in the British Isles, but campaigning and change has resulted in a healthy increase in population. There have even been otter tracks cited on the Farne Islands again, the home of the famous northern St Cuthbert, who was dried by otters after a night of prayer in the freezing North Sea.