The Great Advent Spreadsheet!

Resources

- [A ridiculously elaborate Advent Spreadsheet](#)
  Inspired by the great Teletext Advent Calendars of the 1980s.
- [The Advent Spreadsheet we'll be making](#)
  An altogether simpler affair -- no, really.

Instructions

1. Create a new spreadsheet in a place of convenience.
2. Rename "Sheet1" to "Images".
3. We need some images. Let's cheat for now[1]. in A1 write:
   ```
   =importrange("https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V4S1HO6uEwA
   dDMpL5QoXhR5vkGfL2nNkZMA2uqM3ZpM","Images!A:C")
   ```
4. Create a new sheet called "Calendar" and move it to the front.
5. Now let's draft out a calendar. Select alternate columns A-S (ctrl-click the headers) and then resize them so they're quite narrow.
6. Resize rows 2, 5, and 8 accordingly.
7. Delete rows 10+ and cols T+.
8. We've got 27 slots in this grid and we only need 24. So either we could lose a set of columns or we could make it a 25-day calendar and have two double-sized windows. Yes, let's! Select D4:F6 and merge horizontally.
9. Do the same for N4:P6.
10. Let's mark those doors up. Write "24" in D4 and "25" in N4. Then, above each other 'door', randomly distribute the rest of the dates.
11. We want a formula in each of our doors so that they just display the date until that date is reached. In B2 write:
    ```
    =if(day(today())<B1,B1,vlookup(B1,Images!$A:$B,2,false))
    ```
12. Drag the formula across, then copy it down into rows 5 and 8.
13. Select alternate columns C:Q and delete their contents. Then re-merge the doors for 24 and 25.
14. Let's reformat the numbers on the doors. Select rows 2, 5, and 8 and format them nicely.
15. We don't want the reference numbers to be visible so let's reformat those too … WHITE!
16. Let's do something about the gridlines. We can turn them off on the "View" menu.
17. But now we need to see our doors again. Select all the doors and give them a nice outline.

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[1] If you want to change the images, you'll need to replace the imported range on "Images" with real text: copy it and paste as values.

BONUS!

18. What we're missing is the joy of finding and opening the door! So let's build a way to do that! Add a tick-box to B3, and copy it across all your other doors.

19. We need to amend our formula in B2 so that the picture only shows if the box is ticked. We can do this by adding another condition. This will do:
    ```
    =if(day(today())<B1,B1,if(B3=FALSE,B1,vlookup(B1,Images!$A:$B,2,false)))
    ```

20. You're going to need to do some copying again. Sorry!

21. Since the checkbox won't work unless we've reached the right day of the year, perhaps we'll want to hide it until it's ready. Or perhaps that takes the fun out of it. I don't know. It's your call. But we can use conditional formatting to do some hiding. Select 3, 6 and 9 and create a new rule.

22. Use "Custom formula is" and the formula: =day(today())<A1, and set the formatting to white text.

23. We can use the same trick to tidy away the tick-boxes afterwards. This time use the custom formula =A3=TRUE.

24. Do any more tidying up you fancy doing. And that's that.

25. Enjoy your calendar and have a very merry Christmas!