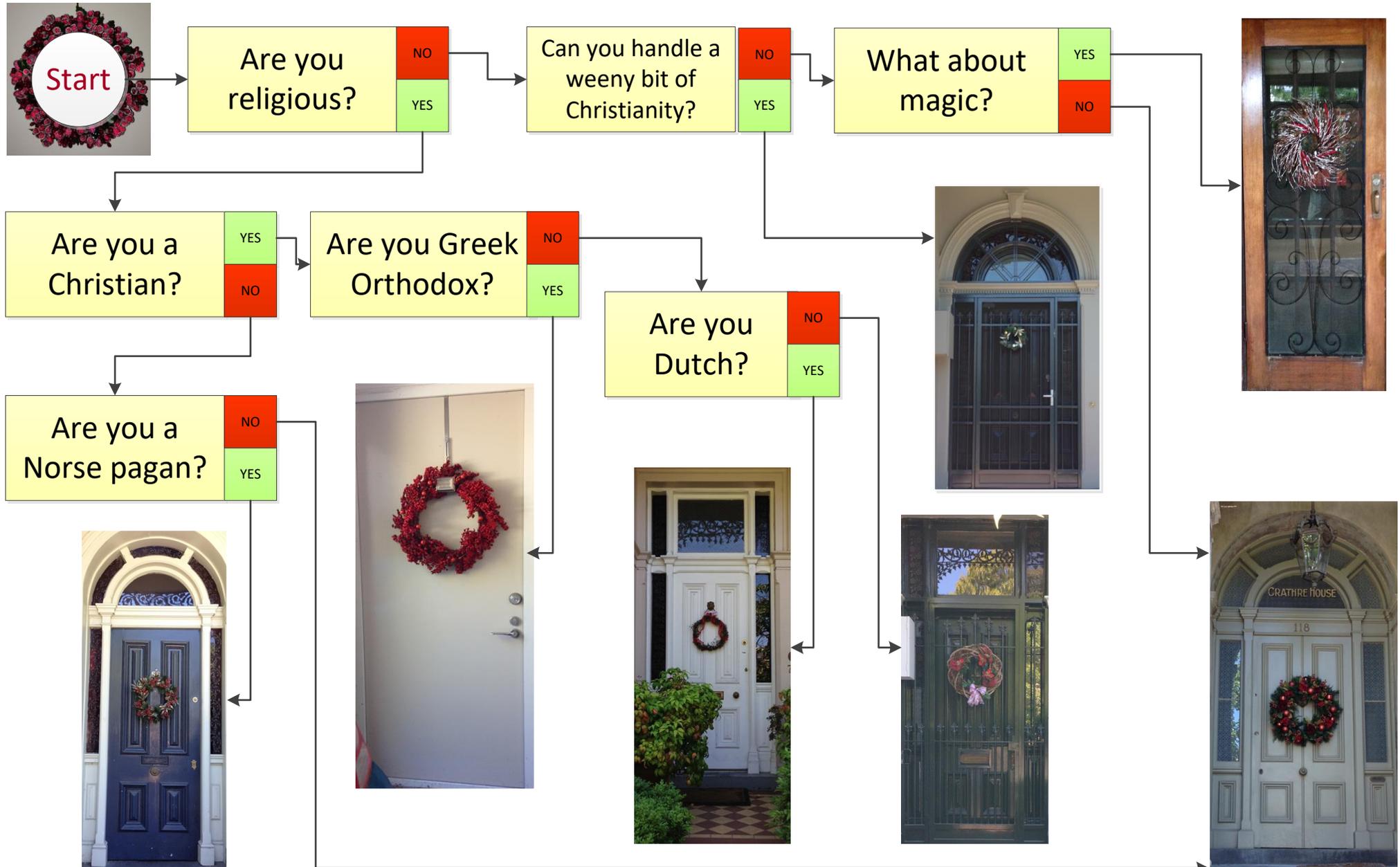


# YULETIDE GIFT-BRINGER SELECTION TOOL



Norwegian children receive presents from **Julenissen**: fairies with long white beards, grey clothes and red hats. (Julenissen like to help with farm work, but are short-tempered and inclined to play practical jokes if insulted. So keep them sweet.)

**Santa Claus** takes his name from Sinterklaas and, on the night of Christmas Eve, he travels around the world in a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer and he goes down chimneys to deliver presents to children. This is clearly impossible and is achieved with magic.

**Father Christmas** is a 17th century English personification of Christmas associated with adult merriment (ie he likes a tippie). He evolved from King Winter who wore green or red robes lined with fur, and a wreath of holly, ivy or mistletoe. Since Father Christmas has no religious links, he can be safely adopted by people of any (or no) spirituality. (And if your spirit is gin, Father Christmas is definitely the one for you.)

**St Nicholas** was a fourth century Turkish bishop who gave secret gifts by putting money into shoes and dropping coins down chimneys. He wears red bishop robes and a red mitre and leaves presents for children on 6 December (and they reciprocate by leaving hay in their shoes for his white horse).

**Sinterklaas** is the Dutch St Nicholas who leaves presents on the 6th of December and is accompanied by Zwarte Piet who is either a black slave, a black servant or a sooty chimney sweep (depending on your level of political correctness) who throws lollies to good children and beats bad children with a broom.

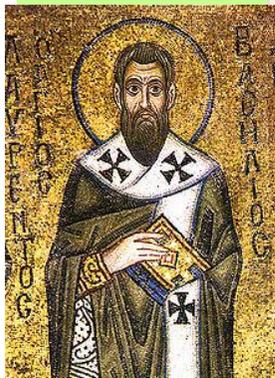
**St Basil** was a black-bearded, second century Greek Bishop who helped found the Nicene Creed. He brings presents to children on New Year's Day, and they set a place at the table for him and leave him a vasilopitu (which is both a cake with a coin baked in it and a choking hazard).

During the Yule season, the Norse god **Odin** leads a hunting party across the sky on his six-legged horse Sleipnir, accompanied by his ravens Huginn and Muninn. He knows if you've been naughty or nice and rewards children who leave out porridge for him. (He likes it with butter.)

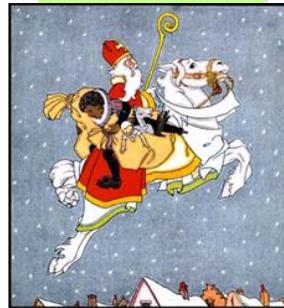
Odin



St Basil



Sinterklaas



Santa Claus



Julenisse



Father Christmas

