

# *Search for the Star*



**Follow the journey around Rowledge and  
rediscover the Christmas story**

**Saturday 12th December - Christmas Eve**



**St. James' Church  
Rowledge**

St. James' Church gratefully acknowledges the help  
of local businesses and individuals who have  
supported this project and in particular,  
David Mead for designing the scenes.



## A LONG TIME AGO IN A COUNTRY

## FAR, FAR AWAY...

Right in the middle of the Christmas story is a baby called Jesus. He grew up to be a man whose life changed history. Four different people wrote about Jesus' life. They were called Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Their stories of Jesus' life are called 'The Four Gospels.' Gospel just means 'Good News' and we could all do with some good news this year! So read on...

## HELPING YOU EXPLORE THE STORY...

You can follow the 'Search for the Star' trail anytime from Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December until Christmas Eve. Just follow the map on the back cover and visit each scene in order. Remember to 'Be bright and be seen' at all times. The trail should take you about an hour and a half to complete

Use your mobile device to scan the QR code at each location and then:

- Read the short piece from the Bible and the reflection out loud.
- Think about the questions on your own or as a household group.
- Write down any thoughts you have.
- Listen to the Christmas carol that links to the scene.

We really hope you enjoy 'searching for the star' and we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.



St. James' Church  
Rowledge

Use the QR code on the first scene to read about...

## THE ANGEL'S VISIT TO MARY

Luke chapter 1, verses 26-33

### Reflection:

There was nothing special about Mary. She was probably only a teenager when the angel came to visit her. God had chosen this very ordinary girl for an extraordinary role – to be the Mother of God's own Son. When the angel Gabriel came to her, she was afraid (which is probably not surprising), but the angel says, "The Lord is with you."

### Questions to explore:

1. What makes you afraid?
2. If you imagine God with you, does that make you more or less afraid?
3. What does that tell you about your picture of God?

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

Use the QR code on the first scene to listen to the Carol...

*"O come, o come, Emmanuel"*



Join the dots  
to see Mary



Use the QR code on the second scene to read about...

## JOSEPH'S DREAM

Matthew chapter, 1 verses 18-21

### Reflection:

Sometimes we focus on Mary and the baby Jesus so much that we forget about Joseph in the Christmas story. Matthew's gospel tells us that Joseph "was a righteous man." Being 'righteous' is another way of saying he was a kind and honest man – he tried to live right. We can see this in the way that Joseph wanted to make sure Mary was not treated unkindly when people found out she was pregnant before she and Joseph got married (a big deal back then).

### Questions to explore:

1. In what ways do you treat other people that is kind and honest?
2. Are there times when you find yourself doing the opposite?
3. How does it make you feel when other people are kind to you?

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

Use the QR code on the second scene to listen to the Carol...

*"O little town of Bethlehem"*



Use the QR code on the third scene to read about...

## THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Luke chapter 2, verses 1-5

### Reflection:

Caesar Augustus was the first Roman Emperor and the founder of the great Roman Empire, but he only plays a very small part in the Christmas story. He is not the real 'star,' or even one of the main characters. Mary and Joseph, a young unknown couple from the small town of Nazareth, are suddenly about to become two of the biggest names in the greatest story in human history. God has an exciting plan for each and every human being – people just like you!

### Questions to explore:

1. How would it make you feel to know that God has an exciting plan for your life?
2. Are you ready for an adventure with God?

1 .....

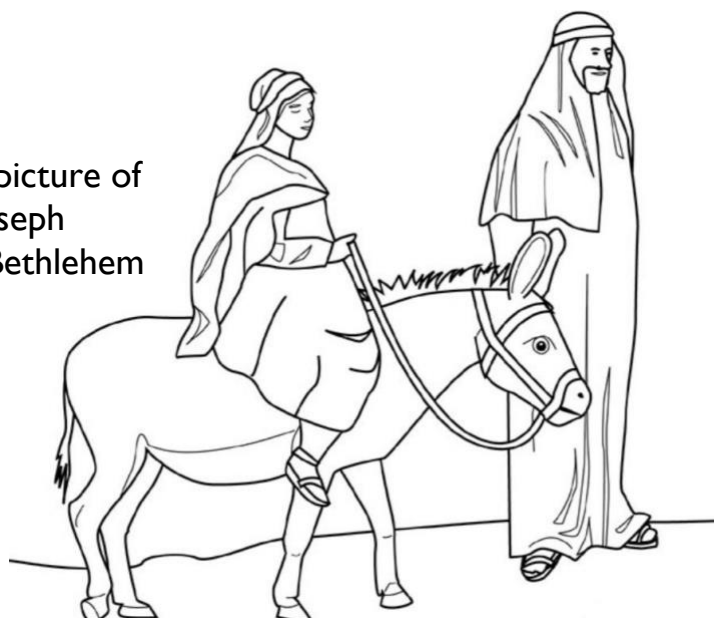
2 .....

Use the QR code on the third scene to listen to the carol...

*"Once in royal David's city"*



Colour the picture of  
Mary and Joseph  
heading to Bethlehem



Use the QR code on the fourth scene to read about...

## THE BABY IS BORN

Luke chapter 2, verses 6-7

### Reflection:

The angel told Mary and Joseph that the baby would be the “Son of the Most High,” God’s own Son. When Jesus was born there was no room for them at the inn, so his Mother Mary laid him in a manger – an animal’s feeding trough. If Jesus really is God’s own Son, that makes him very special indeed. Perhaps he deserves some more time and space in our own lives?

### Questions to explore:

During the day, when do you, or when could you make some time to think about how special Jesus is?

.....

.....

Use the QR code on the fourth scene to listen to the carol...

### *“Away in a Manger”*

F L H H S W W W A I T J L Q M R R  
G C C P H B D U C D J C Q N J K D  
X H F F R Z D J H E B A R W J O Y  
R U X P G O X P R E P A R E A W N  
P R H U I T B S I W O W Y B D O P  
G C T H F Z S K S V S W T I V W H  
Q H R N T Z P Y T F S H A R E W T  
D P J Q A J R F M D B D V T N L J  
E K F S P L A D A D X J O H T I P  
W Y V T X T Y Q S O A E Z D G Q F  
U M U F H T I M E U T P T A T W Z  
T S F A M I L Y Q Q K K Z Y F B W  
C A E N C E L E B R A T I O N R A  
P A S D Q U F U G S G L O A H G W  
U P L S D P N O C C B O X O R R V  
J W T W Q P N T L B F V S O M B O  
V J E S U S A V J W U E U M M W P

Can you complete  
the Christmas  
word search?

Advent	birthday	celebration	Christmas
church	family	gift	Jesus
joy	love	pray	prepare
share	time	wait	



Use the QR code on the fifth scene to read about...

## ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

Luke chapter 2, verses 8-14

### Reflection:

More angels – lots of them this time! The angels visit a group of shepherds on the hillside at night. No wonder the angels say, ‘don’t be afraid!’ Their message is that a Saviour has been born in the city of David (which is Bethlehem). Another word for ‘Saviour’ is rescuer – imagine a knight in shining armour! As we look at news headlines and our TV and computer screens, we see all sorts of things from which we might need to be rescued.

### Questions to explore:

1. Have you ever been rescued? Where were you? What happened?  
How did you feel?
2. Are there things you need help with or ‘rescuing from’ today?

You might want to share these things together as a family group, or to hold them in your mind, sharing them only with God.

1 .....

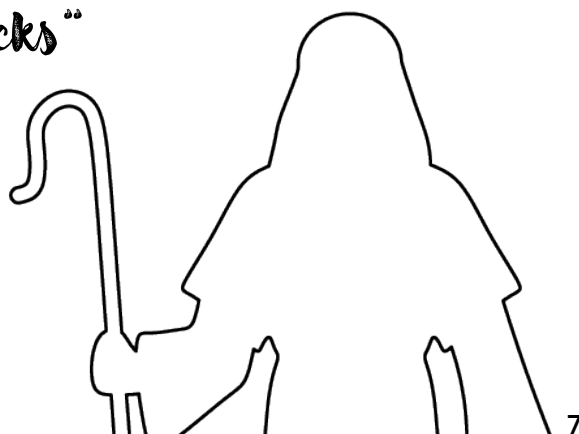
2 .....

Use the QR code on the fifth scene to listen to the carol...

*“While Shepherds watched their flocks”*



Draw a face on the shepherd.  
How do you think he would have reacted?



Use the QR code on the sixth scene to read about...

## WISE MEN TRAVELLING TO BETHLEHEM

Matthew chapter 2, 1-2, 9-11

### Reflection:

Most Christmas plays include three kings. We don't actually know if they were kings, but we are told they were wise men. We don't even know how many of them there were! Three gifts are mentioned, so we have assumed that there were three wise men. They followed the star and were filled with joy. When they arrived, they bowed down and worshipped the small baby.

### Questions to explore:

1. What fills you with feelings of joy?
2. Does it seem odd that these wise men bowed down and worshipped a baby?
3. Why do you think they did this?

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

Use the QR code on the sixth scene to listen to the carol...

*"We three kings"*



Well done! You've made it to the last scene in our Christmas journey. Use the QR code on the seventh scene to read about...

## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

John chapter 1, verses 1-5

### Reflection:

As you look at the final scene from the Christmas story, the baby Jesus in the manger, look at the light and the shadows. Notice that where the light shines down on the scene, there is no darkness. When we switch a light on, or light a candle, the darkness disappears.

In this reading, 'the Word' is one of the Bible's names for Jesus. Read this final scene from our Christmas story again and replace the phrase 'the Word' with 'Jesus.'

### Questions to explore:

1. What does this reading tell us about Jesus?
2. How does this change how we might think about Jesus?

1 .....

2 .....

Use the QR code on the seventh scene to listen to the carol...

*"O come all ye faithful"*



*You have followed in the footsteps of  
shepherds and wisemen all the way  
to the manger...*

Well done. Your search has led you to the Church. We so wish we could hold our special Christmas services, but that's not possible this year. You are very welcome to go into the church on your own, or as a household group. Why not sit for a moment in this special place.

This Christmas, give yourself just a moment to pause, breathe deeply and you might like to say a prayer for the world and for yourself. With each breath in, imagine you are breathing in God's love. With each breath out imagine you are breathing out your fears, sadness or worries.

Dear God,  
Thank you for Christmas.  
This year, we stop to think about all the challenges in the world  
and in our own lives.  
We know that we need help.  
Come to us, as you did that first Christmas.  
Bring us your peace, bring us hope and heal our world.  
Amen.

St. James' Church is not the building, it's the people. Why not join us in person (just as soon as that's possible), or online at:

**[stjamesrowledge.org.uk](http://stjamesrowledge.org.uk)**

If you'd like to explore more of the Bible, have a look at these websites:

**Kids**



[bibleappforkids.com](http://bibleappforkids.com)

**Teens**



[soulsurvivor.com/bible](http://soulsurvivor.com/bible)

Adults



bibleinoneyear.org

**FOLLOW THE ROUTE AND THE NUMBERED SCENES AROUND THE VILLAGE AS YOU 'SEARCH FOR THE STAR'**

