



THE

ADVENTURE



Lucie Hutson

A fresh wander through
the Advent story



Welcome to the ADVENTURE, this is a trail designed to be used outdoors, to help you connect with your community, nature and God. We invite you to wander through the Christmas story, to take time, space and explore the journey afresh.

These resources have been designed as a trail but each character can be considered individually at your own pace. It offers opportunities for groups, individuals or families to wander and can be set up around an outdoor space – this could be a park, garden or on your local lampposts. The resource pack also has pages to reflect further on the character or story. Each story comes blank – you add the colour, faces, expression either drawing or in your mind. This could also offer an opportunity for households to take a character and decorate it and then display it as part of the trail, or different groups within a church or classes in a school to create their own character as part of the trail.

Each section offers

- a Wander sheet with questions or reflections for an outdoor space
- A Wonder sheet with questions to wonder about (this could be done outdoors or afterwards or inside)
- An Activity sheet that links to the story and offers extra activities to build on the character and wondering. This is more aimed at children but most things can be done by all ages!

All of these resources are offered freely, the images, sheets, QR code, everything. All I ask is that you do not use them to sell or for other use outside of this Nativity Trail. If you would like to use any of it elsewhere please contact me at lucie@muddychurch.co.uk



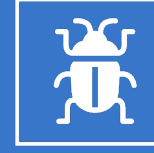
THE ADVENTURE



Can you
sing a song?

Can you make an echo?

Mary listened to what Gabriel had to say and she sang a song.
What can you hear?



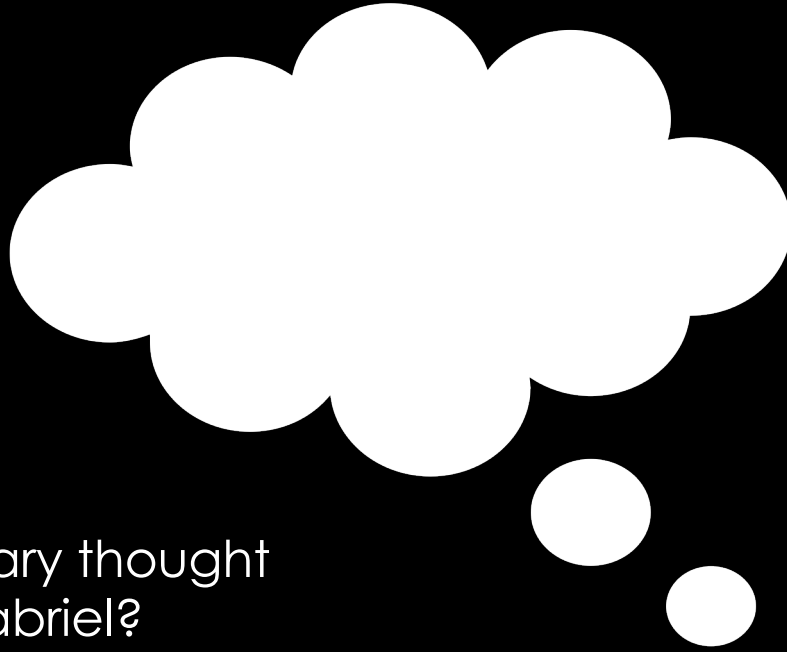
I wonder what God sounds like?

Mary was promised to Joseph, she had plans, ideas, hopes and dreams. The angel's news changed all of that. Mary had a choice - would she trust in this adventure?

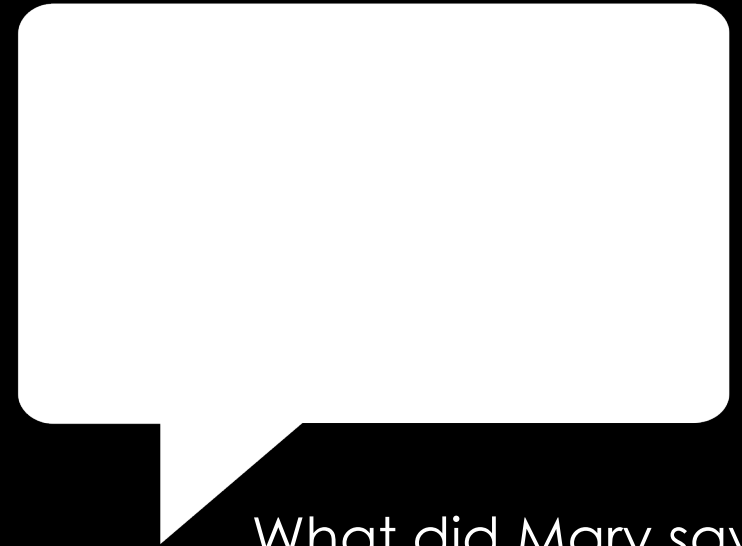
Mary didn't know what was ahead but she trusted. What do you think might be ahead on your adventure?

You can read Mary's story in
Luke 1:26-38
& Luke 1:46-49

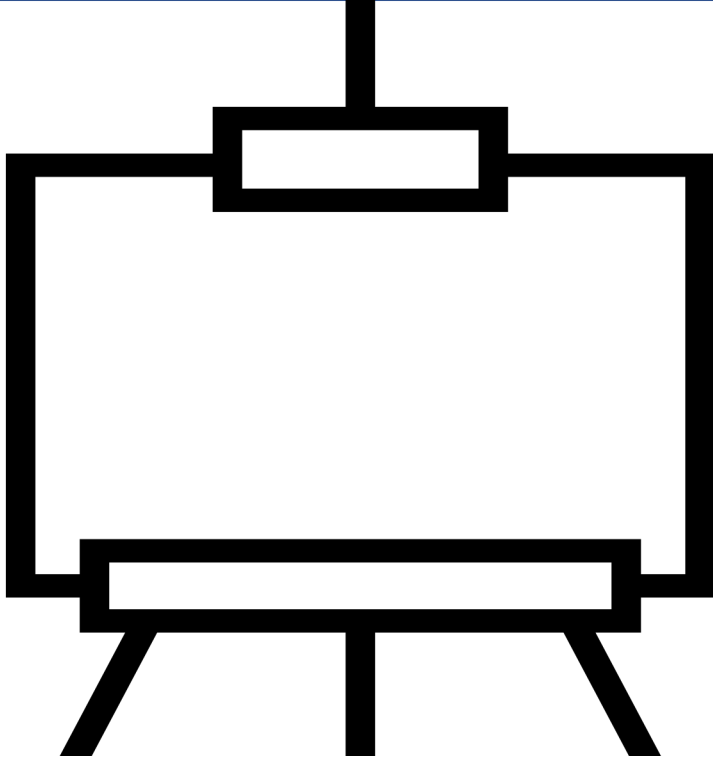




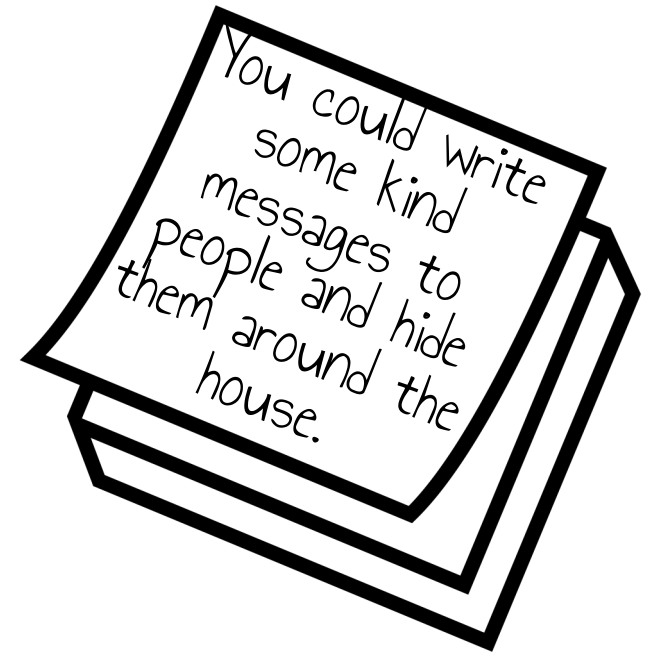
I wonder what Mary thought
when she met Gabriel?



What did Mary say
to Gabriel's news?



What would you like to be
when you are older?



You could write
some kind
messages to
people and hide
them around the
house.

THE

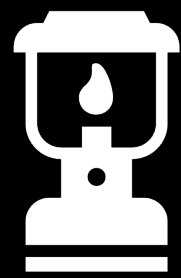
ADVENTURE

What can you see in the sky?
Can you lie down and look up at the
sky and clouds?

Can you see the moon
or any stars?



What things would look
different in the dark?

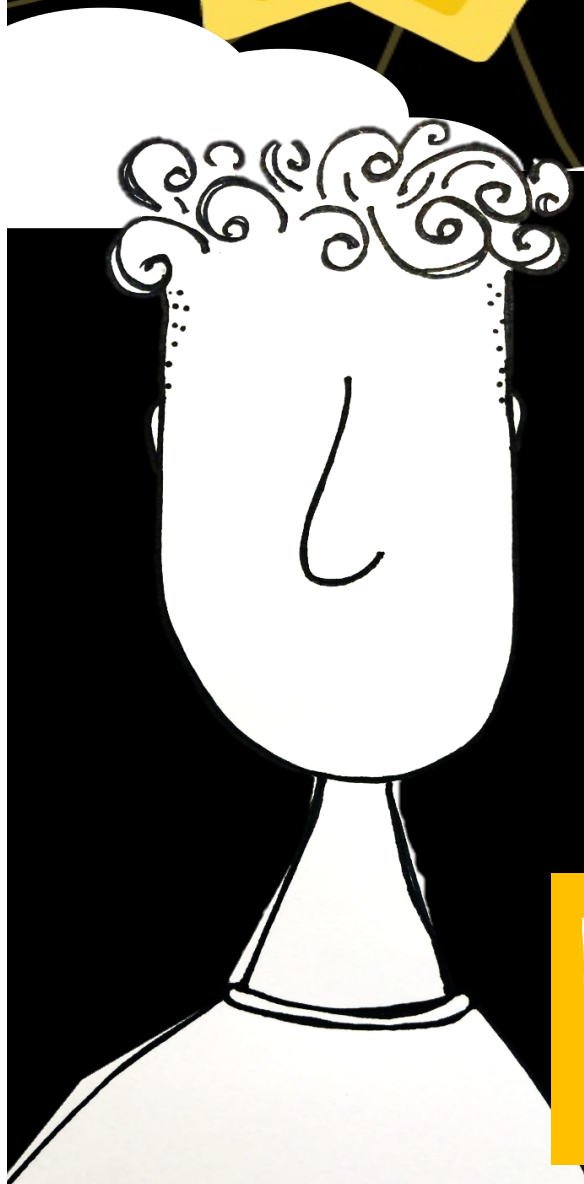
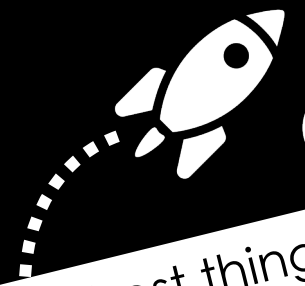


What creatures
come out at night?

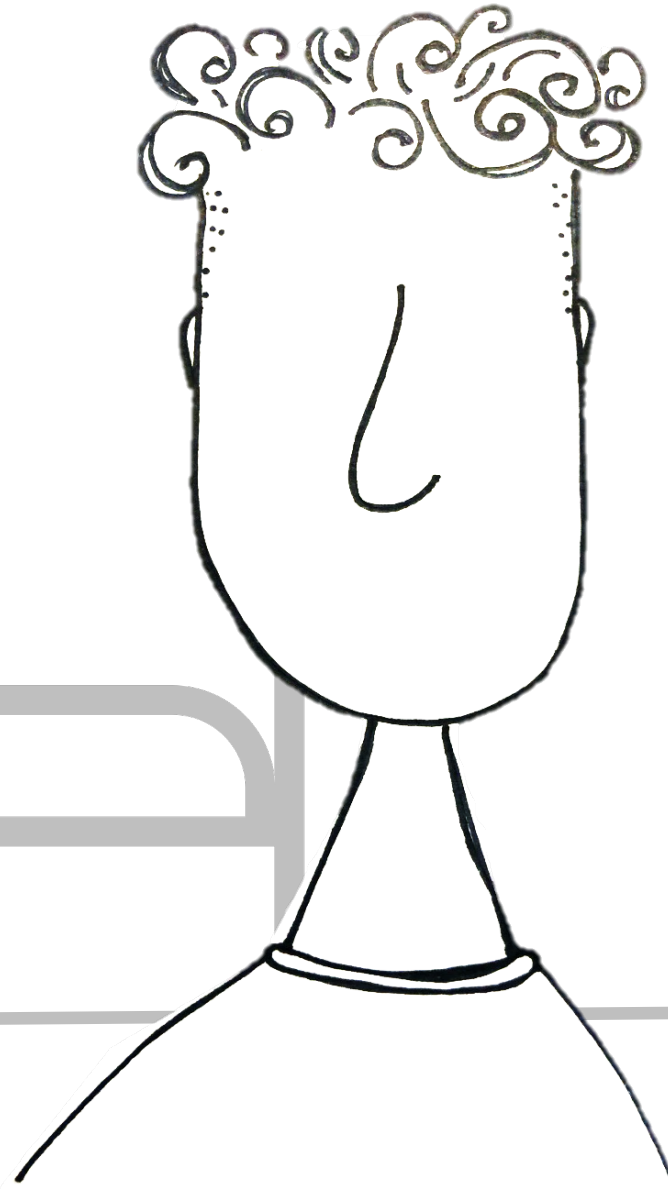


**I wonder if God is in
the sky?**

What is the highest thing
you can see?



Joseph didn't want things to be difficult for Mary, he loved her very much. But God had plans for him too and even whilst he was sleeping God spoke to him.



I wonder if you can remember any of your dreams?

Have you ever been for a wander in the dark?

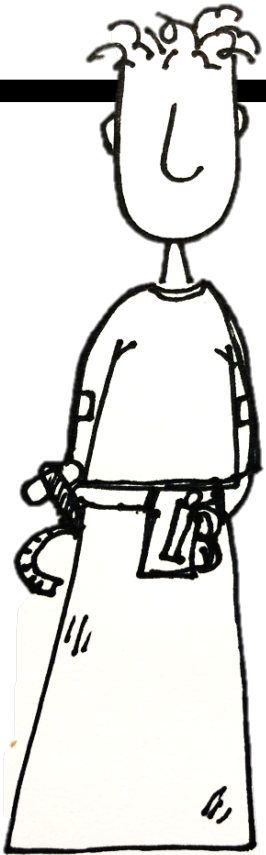
Have you ever sat outside and watched the stars?

You can read Joseph's story in
Matthew 1:18-21

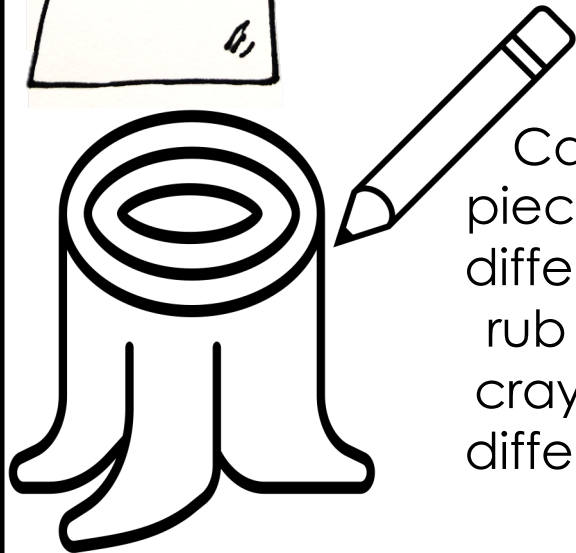
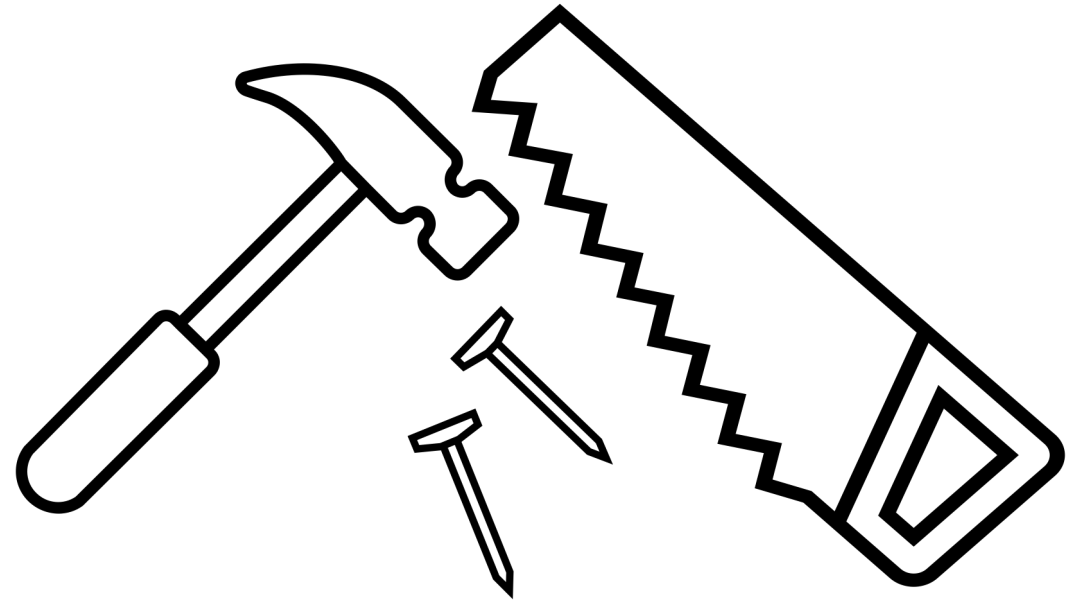


Joseph was a carpenter.

Have you ever built anything out of wood?

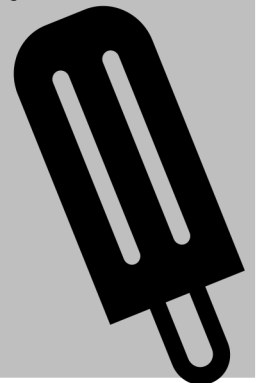


How many wooden things can you see near to you?



Can you put a piece of paper on different trees and rub over it with a crayon to see the different patterns?

You could stick four lolly sticks together to make a frame for a picture or photo as a gift for someone



THE ADVENTURE



Have you ever been
invited on a very
important journey?

Can you see any animal
prints on the ground?

I wonder if God has walked here?

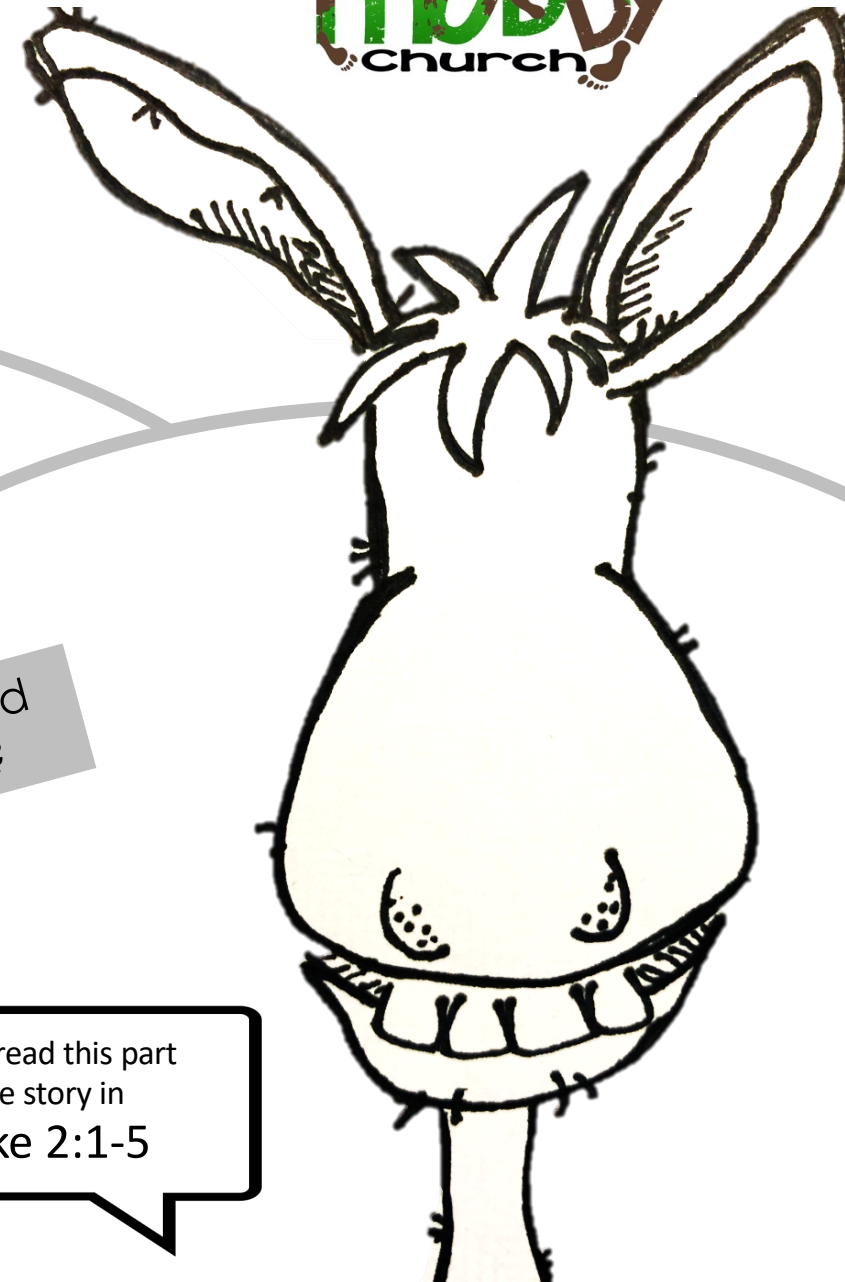


Can you see the
pathway ahead?

Can you hear any
feet or movement?



Mary & Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus wanted to know how many people he ruled over. It was a long way travelling over 90 miles along flatlands and hills, rainy, cold weather and would have taken them days. We don't know if they had a donkey but their route took them through forests with wild animals, bandits and many dangers.



I wonder if you have ever
refused to go on a journey
God has invited you on?

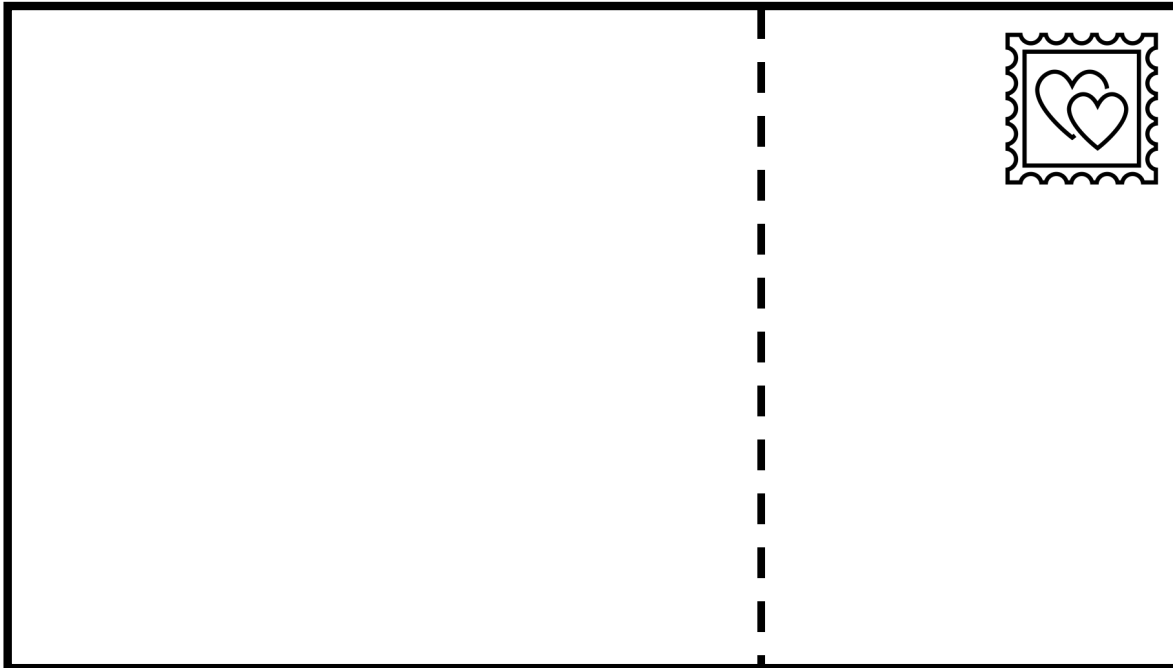
Have you ever walked
until your feet hurt?

I wonder if there are people today
taking long and risky journeys?

You can read this part
of the story in
Luke 2:1-5

The journey would have been difficult, long and hard but God was with them.

Can you imagine writing a postcard for the journey?
What might you say?

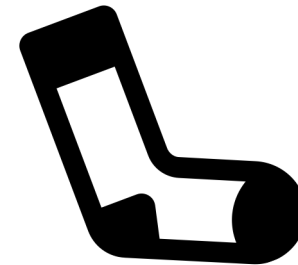


BUILD AN OBSTACLE COURSE

Can you build an obstacle course to
travel over and under, round and
through?



What can you feel with your feet?
See if you can guess what different
things are just by using your feet!



Could you make some puppet
characters from the Christmas
story out of old socks?



THE ADVENTURE



Can you see any
animal or insect
homes?

Are there any spaces that
you aren't allowed or
welcome in?



Can you see
any doorways?

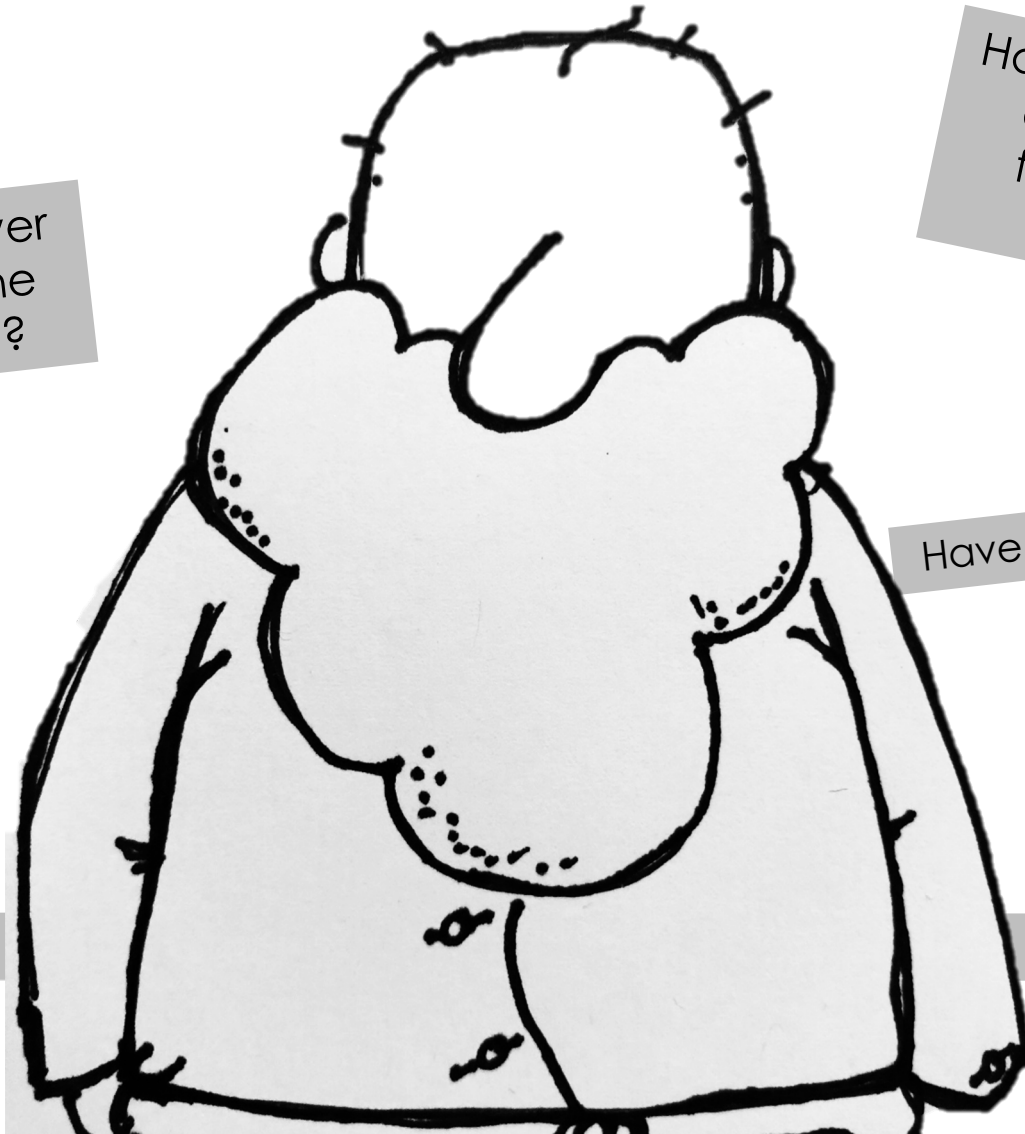
I wonder if God is welcome here?

Mary and Joseph were tired but the city was so busy and there was no where for them to stay. Eventually one kind person offered them the only space they had, where they normally kept the animals.

I wonder if it was cold or if it was smelly?

I wonder if you are ever too busy to notice the people around you?

You can read this part of the story in
Luke 2:6-7



Have you ever cared for an animal, insect or friend who needed help?

Have you ever stayed in a shelter?



Everyone was really busy but one person took time to help Mary and Joseph.

TAKE TIME TO THINK ABOUT
PEOPLE AROUND YOU
Find a piece of ribbon or thread
that is long enough to go
around your wrist. Tie a knot
in it for 5 people who are
important to you. Wrap this
on your wrist and you could
pray for them or thank God
for them as you wear it.

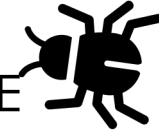


BUILD A SHELTER

Can you build a shelter?

If you are outside you could try
building it with sticks and branches
or inside with cushions and
blankets or under a table or chair.

INSECT HOUSE



You could build an insect house
using a box or bottle from your
recycling.

Fill it up with different items that offer shelter
to bugs - pinecones, twigs, cardboard, sticks,
moss, leaves, shells, stones – whatever!

Pack these into your 'house' in layers or groups
and then place it outside. Check back after a
few days and see who has come to visit!



How long is a minute?
Can you guess when a minute has finished?
Get someone to keep the time and see who
can get closest to 60 seconds



THE ADVENTURE

What things can you
see busy at work?



Can you hurry?
Can you see any other
things in a hurry?



I wonder if angels are in this place?

Can you see
anything that is
beautiful?

Are there any things
you are afraid of?

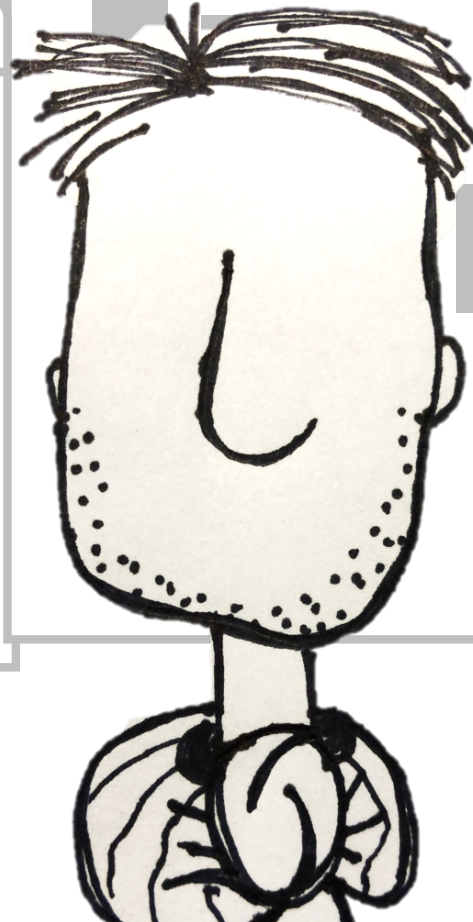


As the shepherds sat, like any other night an angel appeared - I wonder what the sheep thought? They were told where to find Jesus and then all of heaven burst out like they couldn't wait any longer, singing their happiness. They went and found Jesus and then the very next thing they did was go and tell everyone else about Him. Advent is the time of waiting but also the thrill of finding!



I wonder what Mary & Joseph thought when the shepherds arrived?

Have you ever heard God or angels singing?



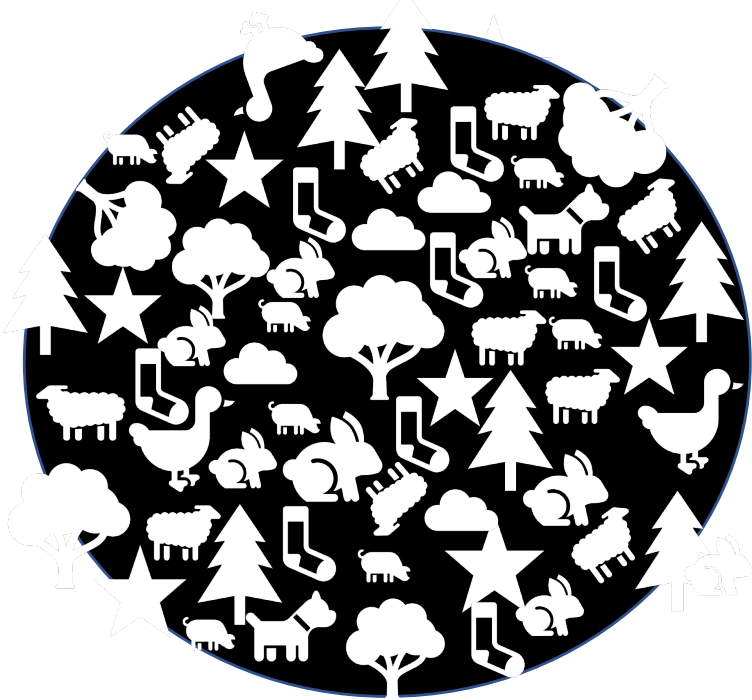
I wonder what all those angels sounded like?

I wonder what the shepherds were thinking as they hurried to Bethlehem?

You can read this part of the story in
Luke 2:8-20

From sitting in a field, watching sheep to meeting with God – everyone is invited.

Can you spot 10 sheep?



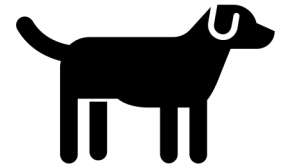
If you sit outside in the evening or night-time what can you hear? Are there any noises that are different to the daytime?



Perhaps you could paint some rocks with sheep or faces and hide them around the house, garden or area. How many can be found?



Can you be a sheep dog and guide someone with their eyes closed around a room or around some obstacles?



Could you make a card to share some happy news or thoughts with someone?



THE ADVENTURE



As you wander
what guides you?

Can you see
anything growing
towards the light?

**I wonder where you
expect to find God?**

How many star
shaped items can
you find?

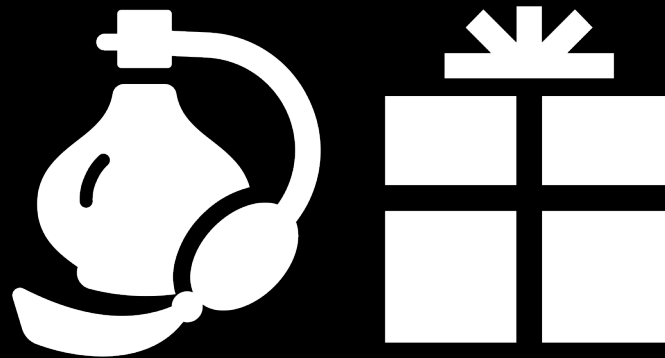
Frankincense was a gift -
what different smells can
your find?



The Magi or Kings came on a long journey searching for Jesus, they had been waiting for this King for many years. They expected to find Him in a place of importance, they asked people where He was but no one knew. It was the star that led them to that small town, no where special and yet one of the most important places in history.



I wonder what gift you would give to Jesus?

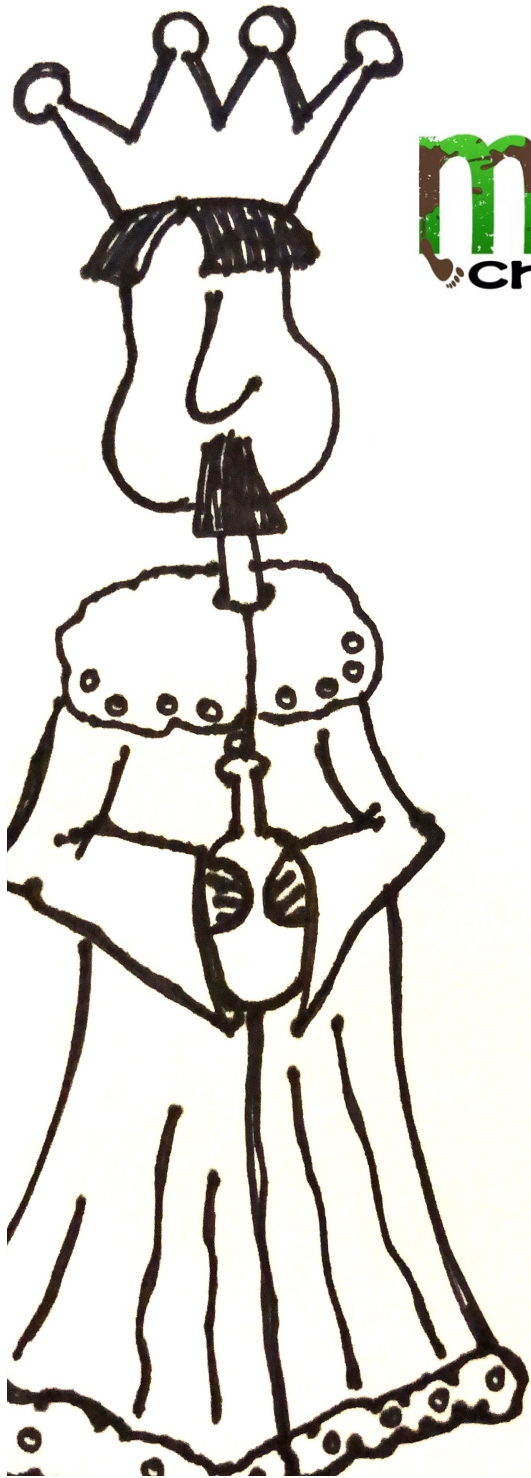


When they found the baby they bowed down in worship – I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt with these important people bowing to them and their child?

I wonder where you expect to find God?

You can read this part of the story in Matthew 2:1-12





Sometimes it can seem hard to find God.
Sometimes we find God in the most unexpected places.

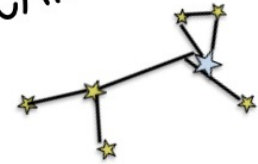
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If the sky is clear ask someone to go with you or look outside at the night sky. Can you see any of these shapes or maybe you notice the stars making another shape?

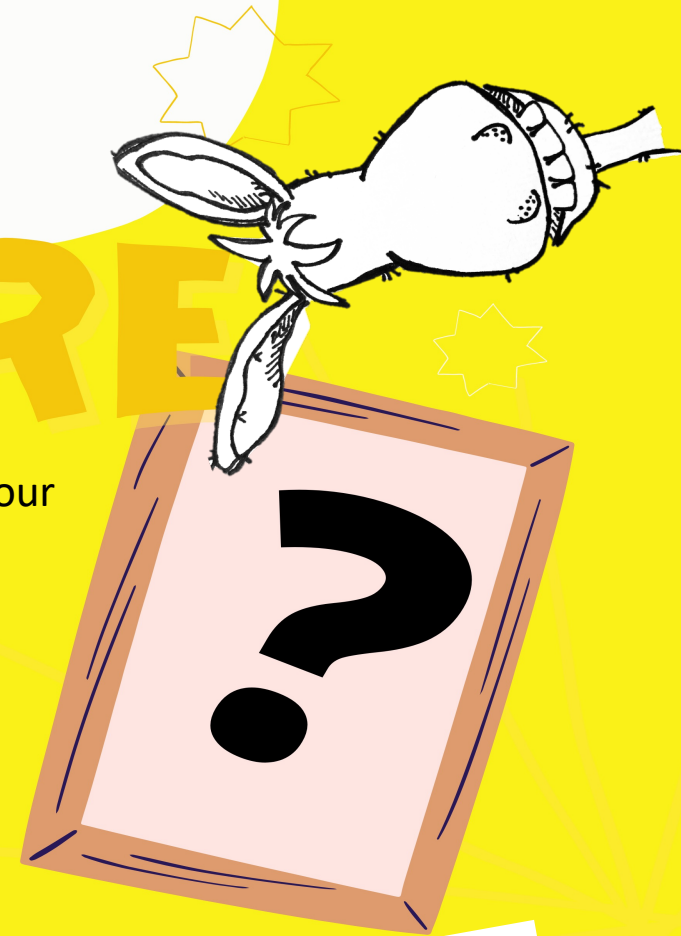
You could make a star decoration out of 5 twigs or sticks (equal length), fasten them together and then decorate. Maybe you could add some items you find that are golden or that smell nice.



THE ADVENTURE

We hope you have enjoyed meeting all our characters.

But who is missing?



**I wonder where God
is in your Christmas?**

We've taken a journey, wandered and wondered but where we are now is not the end. Our story has not introduced the reason for our adventure. Sometimes Christmas can become so full of things to do, places to be, things to get or buy that we miss out on meeting with Jesus.



I wonder if you miss anyone?



John 3:16 tells us of God's gift for every person. The gift of Jesus.

I wonder what has been your favourite moment?

I wonder which character you feel most like?

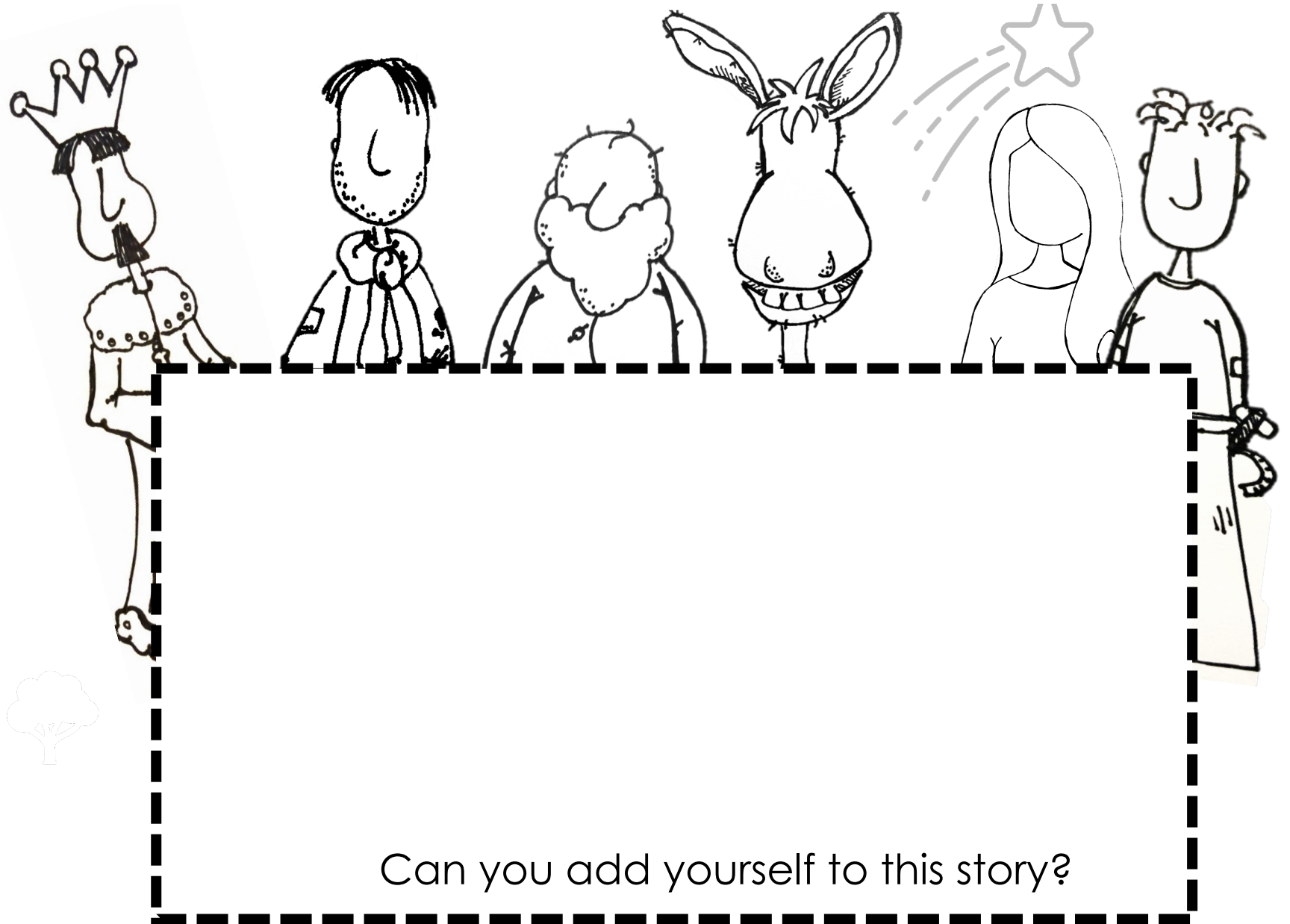
I wonder if you have discovered any treasures?

I wonder why this was the greatest gift?

I wonder what you would say to Jesus?



The bible tells us the Jesus is the Light of the World. You could light a candle (or ask someone to), place it safely and think about the story and journey you have been on.



Can you add yourself to this story?

God became one of us to share in life, to understand joy and sadness, fun and laughter. We hope you know this presence and peace at Christmas and into the coming year.

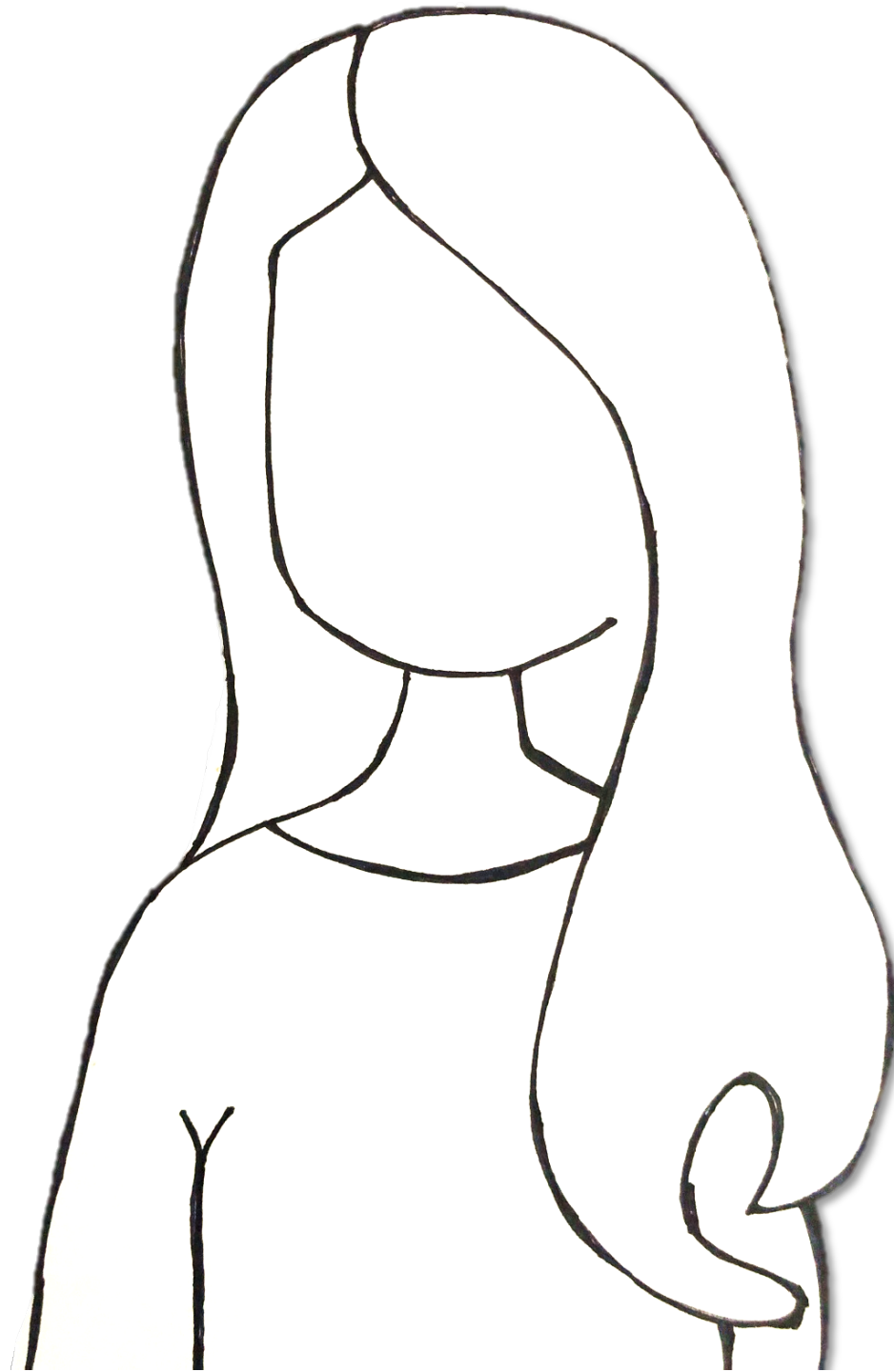
Characters

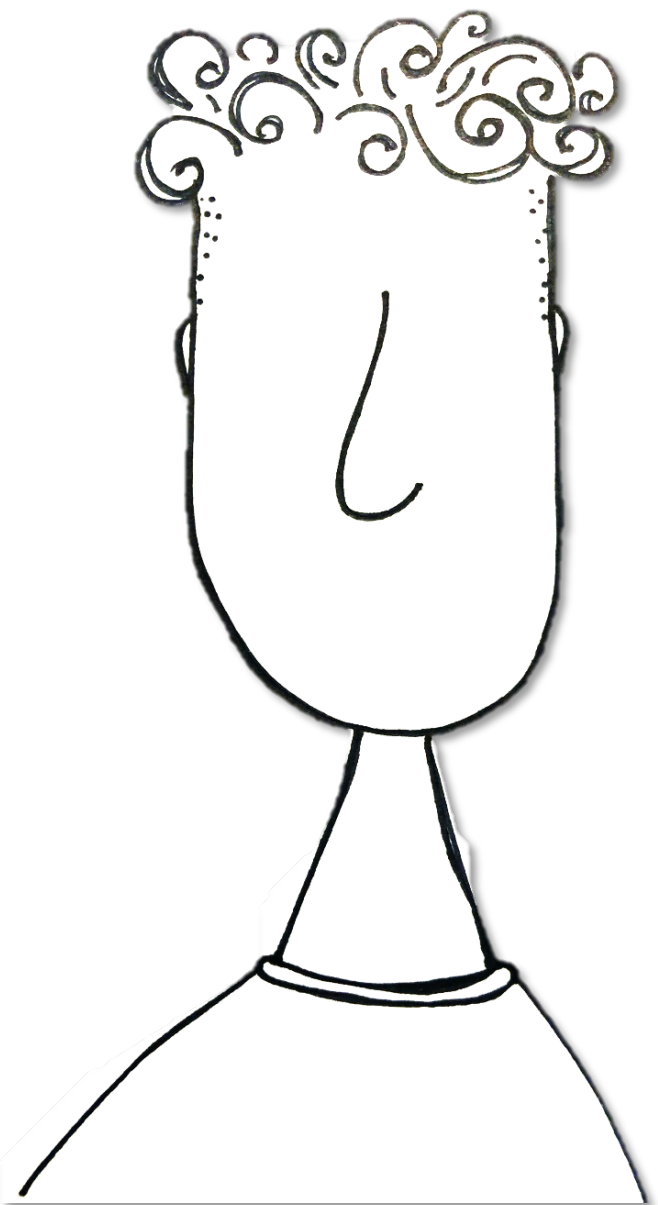
The characters are available so you can put the picture up in places if you are doing a trail or you can add them to other material you are using if you want to.

The characters are all hand drawn and come without facial details and without colour. This is to let people reflect for themselves as to how they may look, they can be coloured individually or details added as people would like.

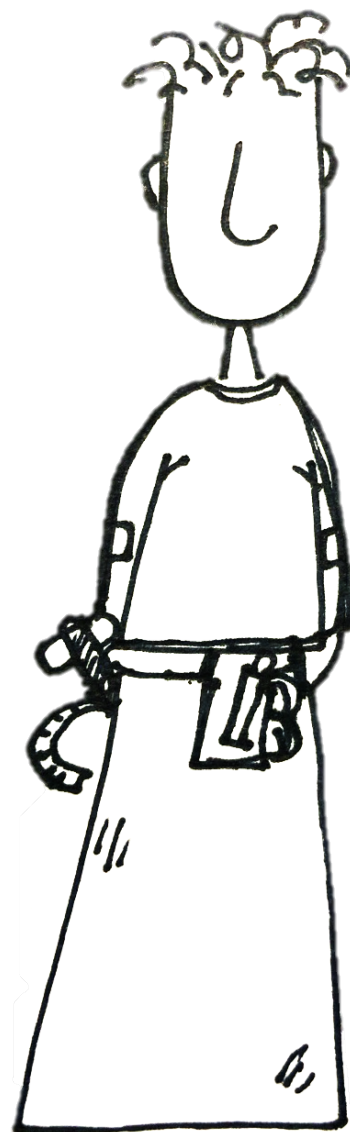
I wonder what their faces may have looked like?

Mary



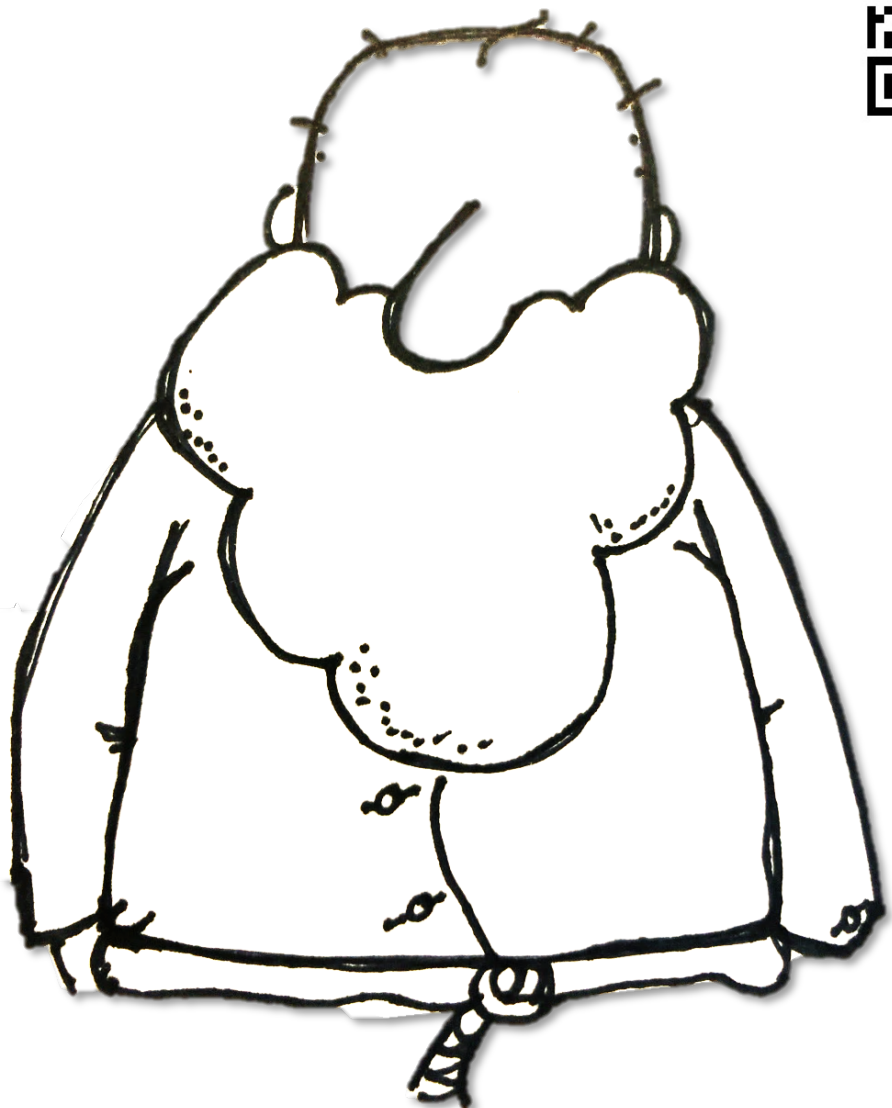


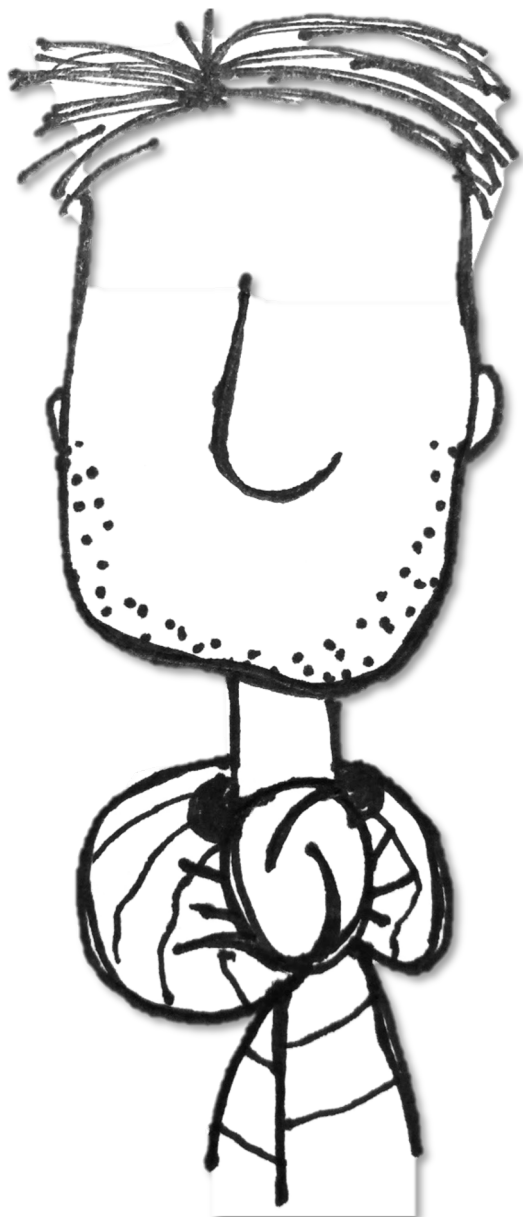
Josep





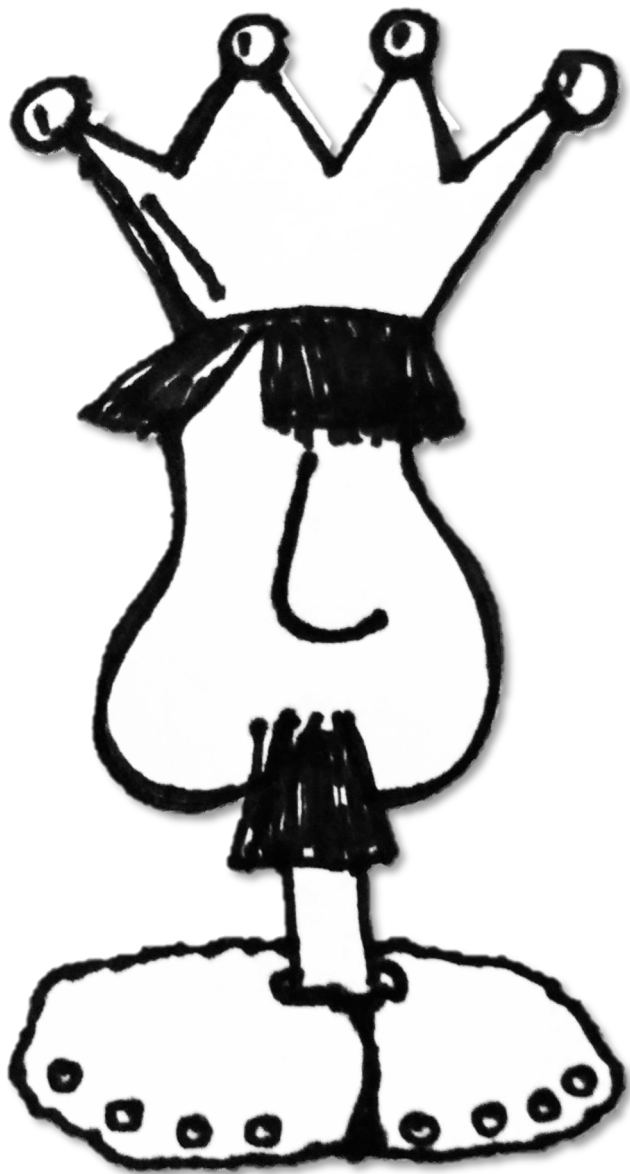
Giver of Shelter



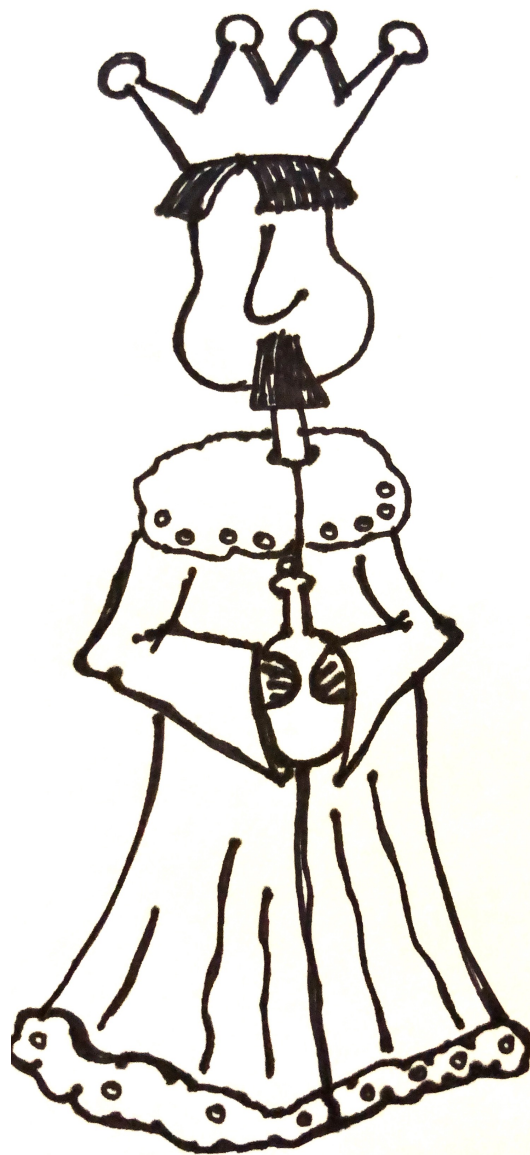


Shepherd











Magi or Wise Man





The
Donkey

Mary 	Joseph 	Donkey 
Shelter 	Shepherd 	Magi 
	Final 