



muddy  
church

ADVENTURE



# The Muddy Church ADVENTURE



The resources included offer sheets that can be used alone or together as you feel appropriate. There are 7 'characters' from the Nativity story with attempts to being accurate to the biblical narrative and culture wherever possible. For example we do not have an inn keeper but a Giver of Shelter and we do have a donkey but the reason for this is explained!

## 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!

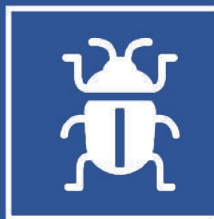
This can be used with the QR codes or sheets printed individually.  
Each webpage/character has a link for the activity sheet.

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](mailto:Lucie@muddychurch.co.uk)



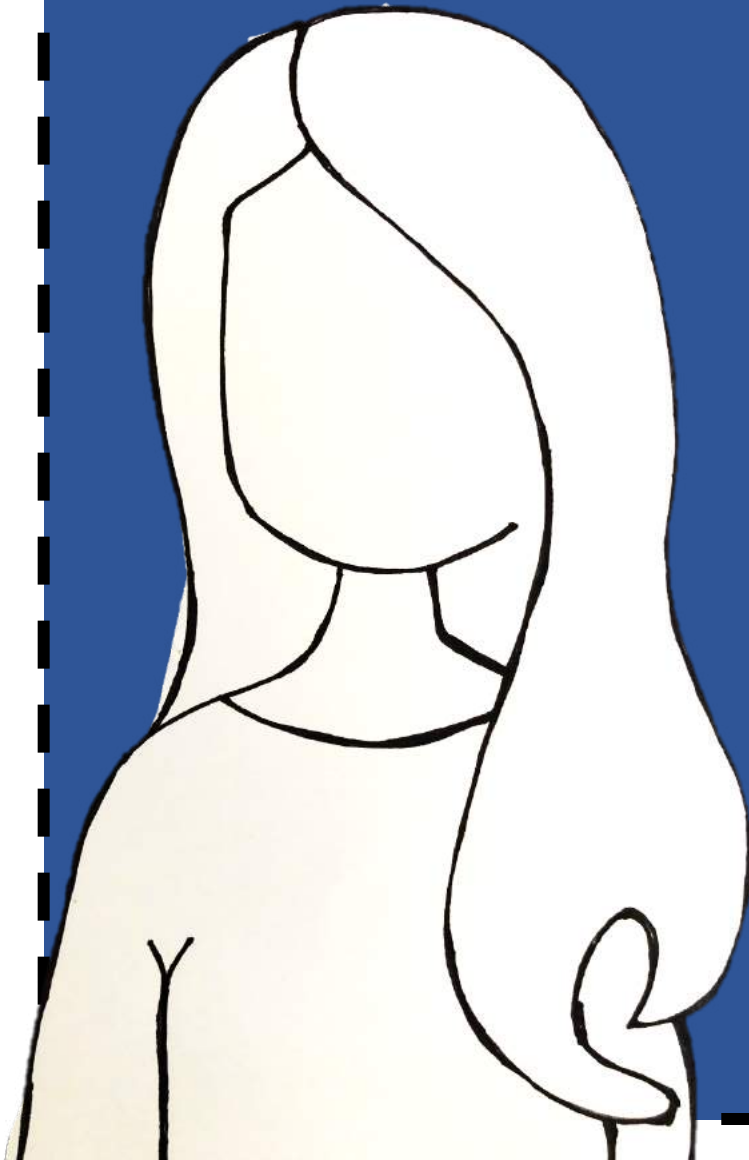
# ADVENTure

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



Can you sing a song?

Can you make an echo?



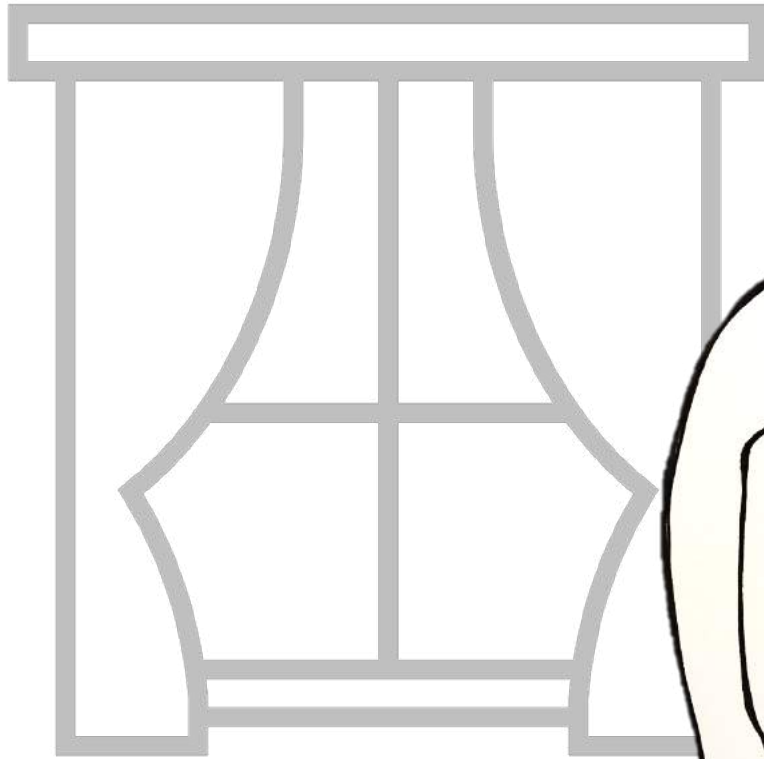
Mary was promised to Joseph, she had plans, ideas, hopes and dreams. The angel's news changed all of that. Mary had a choice - would she trust in this adventure?

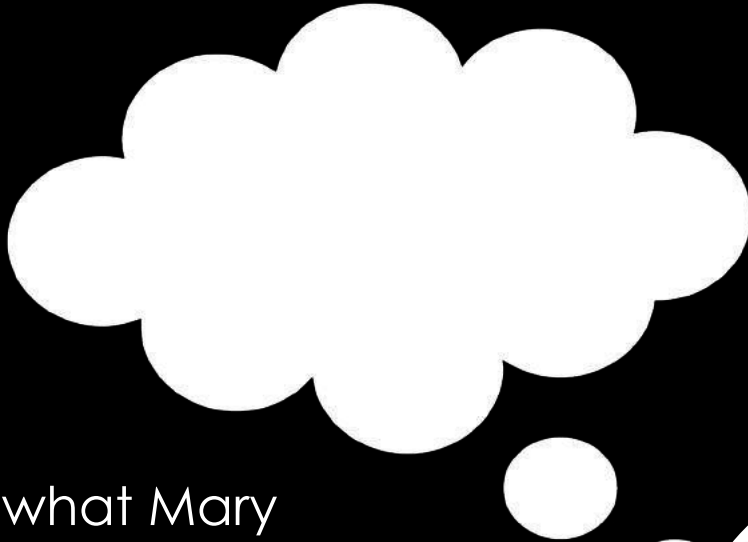


Mary didn't know what was ahead but she trusted. What do you think might be ahead on your adventure?

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

ADVENTure

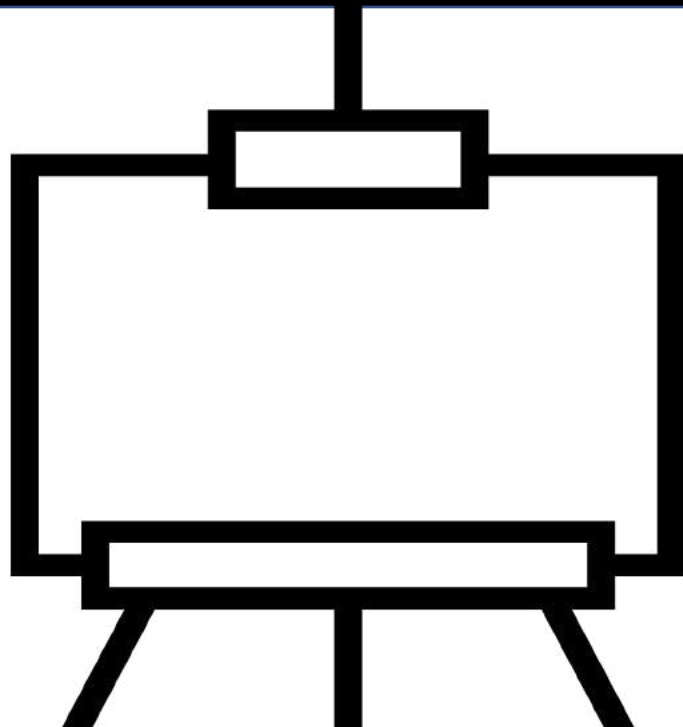




I wonder what Mary thought when she met Gabriel?



What did Mary say to Gabriel's news?



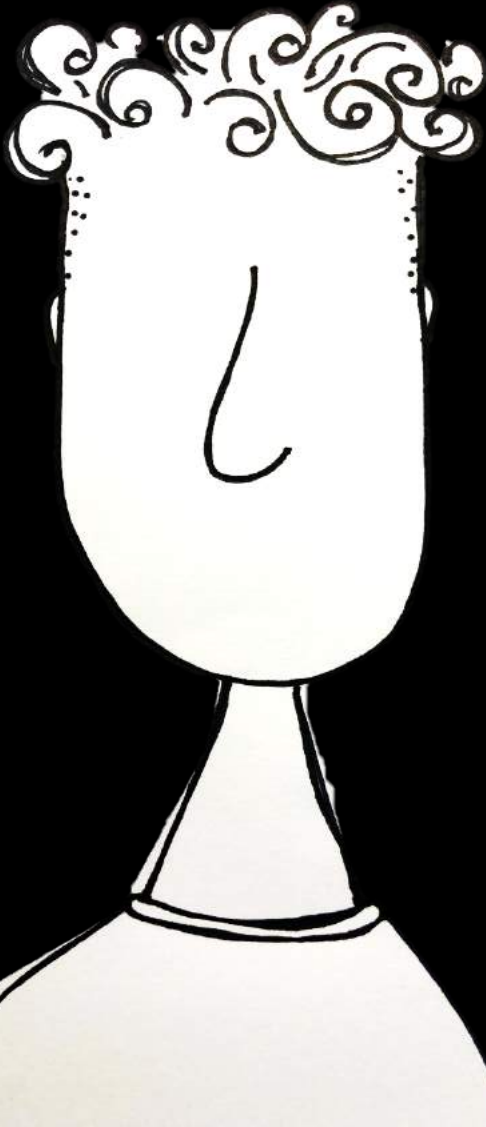
What would you like to be when you are older?



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



# ADVENTure

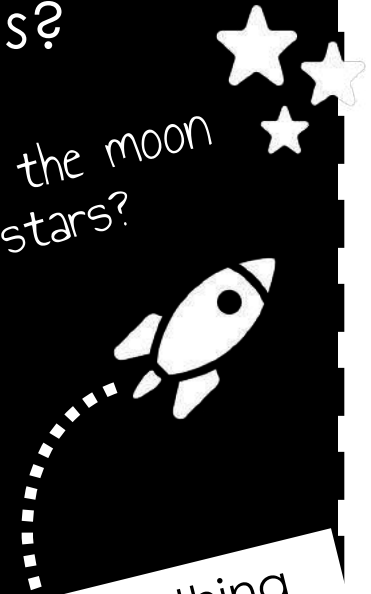


What can you see in the sky?  
Can you lie down and look up at  
the sky and clouds?



What things would look  
different in the dark?

Can you see the moon  
or any stars?



What is the highest thing  
you can see?

What creatures  
come out at night?



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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**

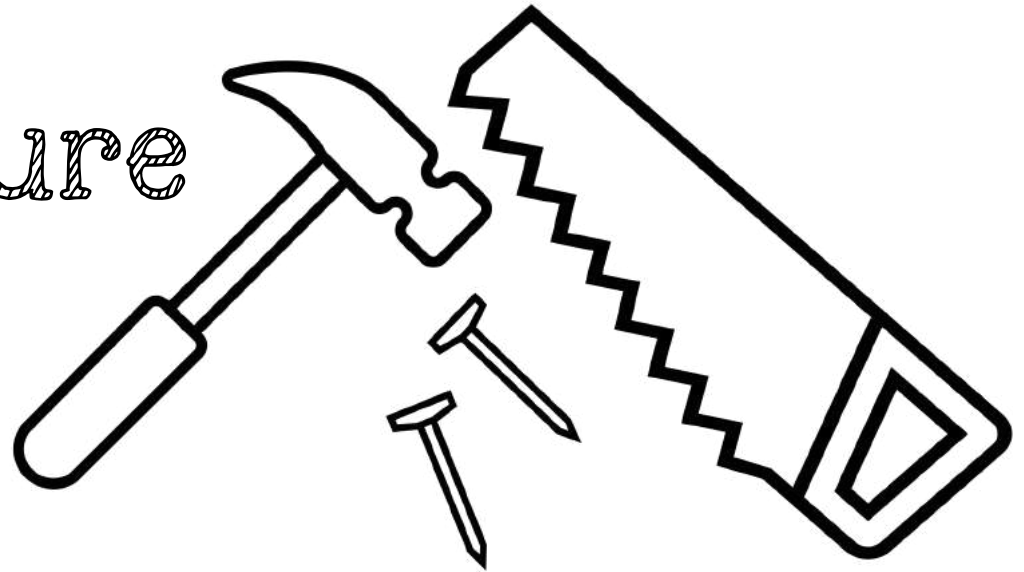


Joseph was a carpenter.

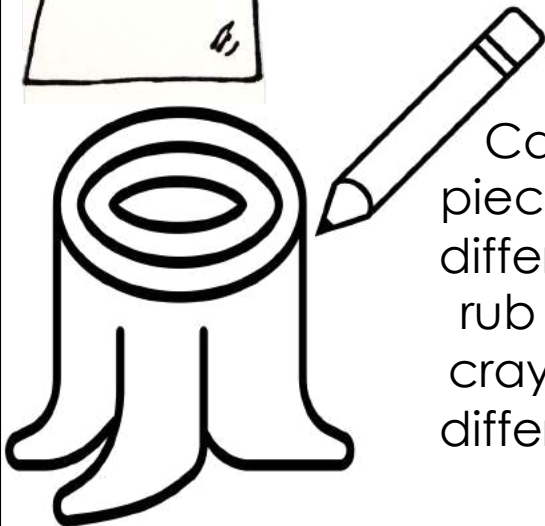
Have you ever built anything out of wood?

# ADVENTure

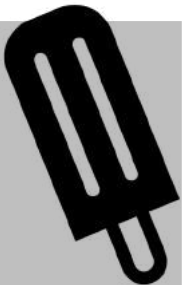
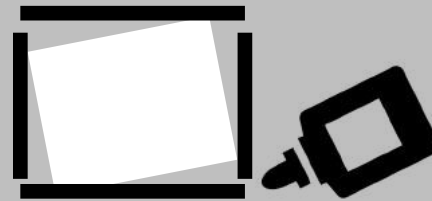
*How many wooden things can you see near to you?*



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







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Have you ever been invited on a very important journey?



Can you see any animal prints on the ground?



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.

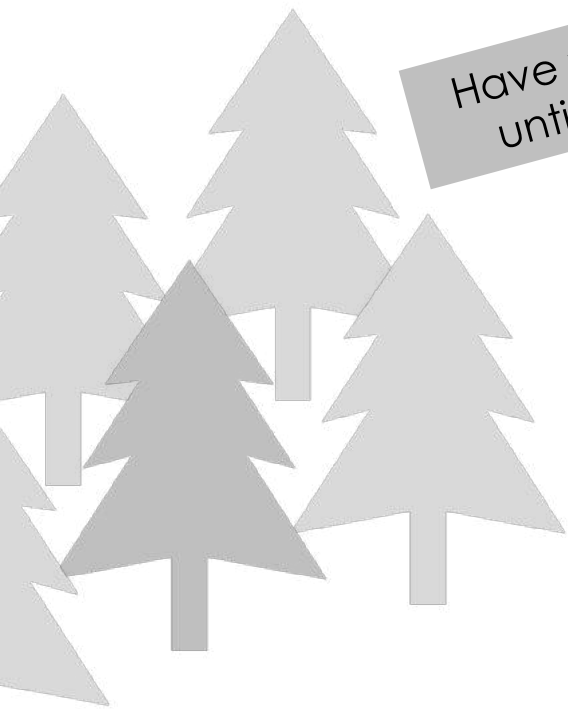
# ADVENTure

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



# ADVENTure

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?

	
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## 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!



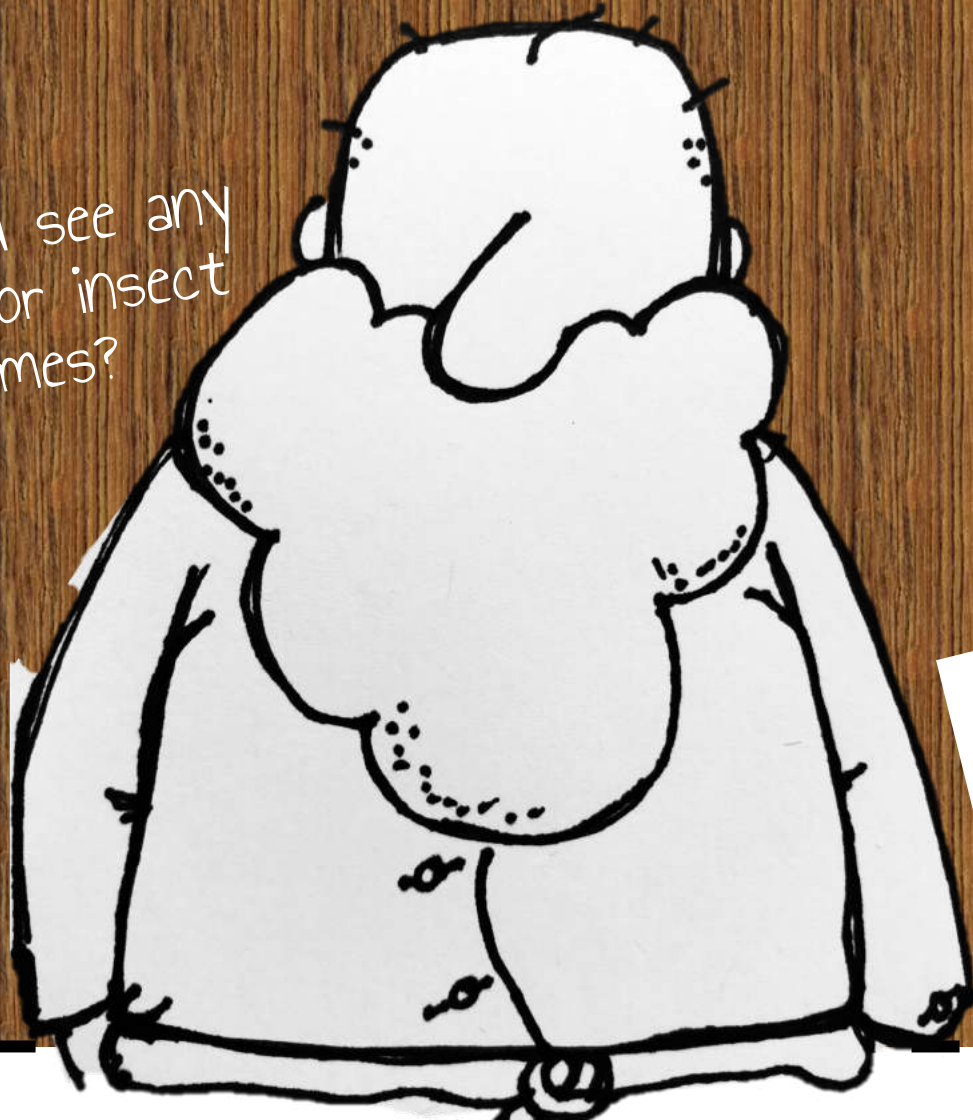
Could you make some puppet characters from the Christmas story out of old socks?





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Can you see any  
animal or insect  
homes?



Can you see  
any doorways?



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

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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.

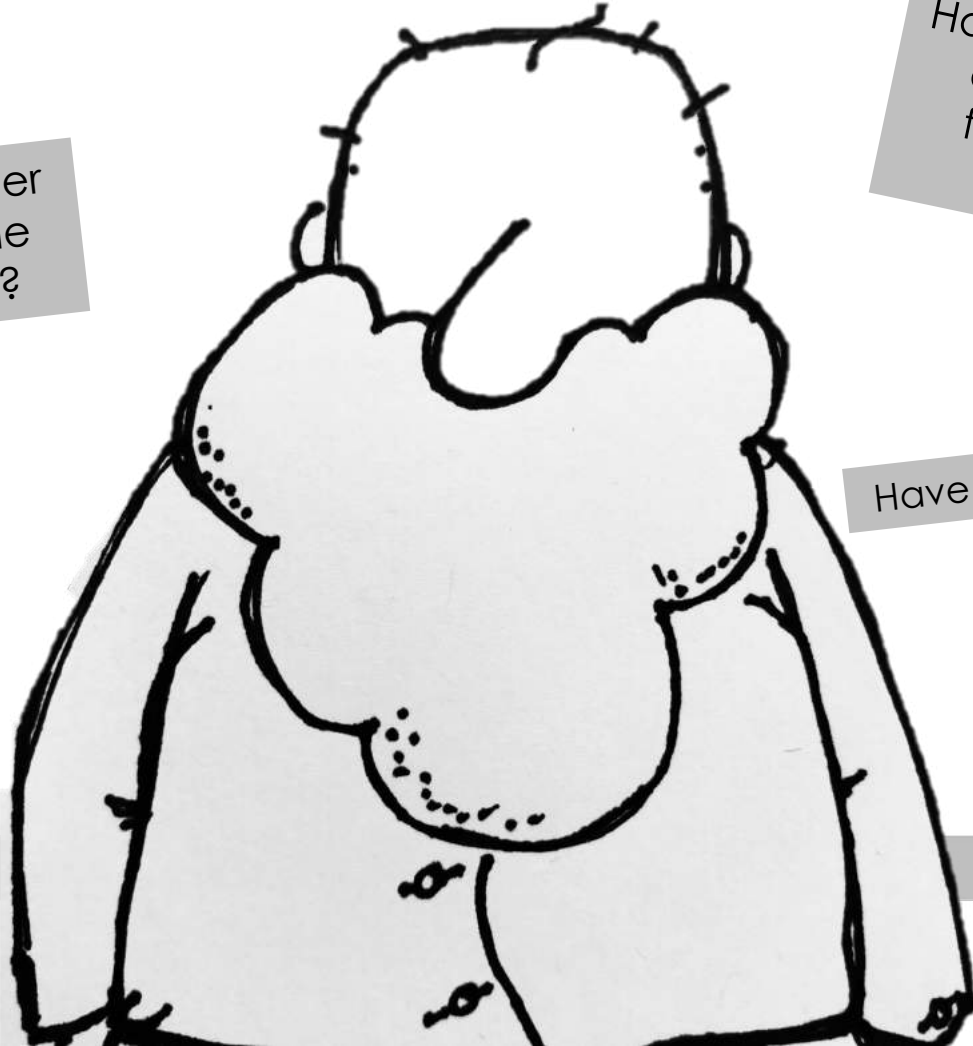
I wonder if it was cold or if it was smelly?

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

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

Have you ever stayed in a shelter?

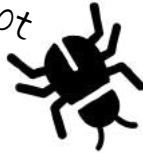
You can read this part of the story in  
Luke 2:6-7



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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.



## 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!



## 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.

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



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# ADVENTure



What things  
can you see  
busy at  
work?

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



What shiny  
things can  
you see  
around  
you?



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!

# ADVENTure

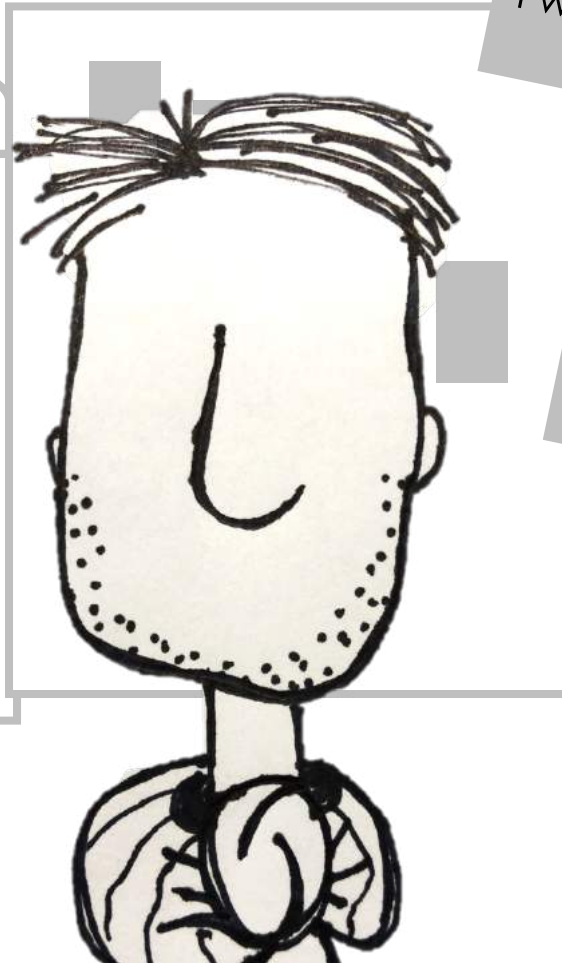
I wonder what Mary & Joseph thought when the shepherds arrived?

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

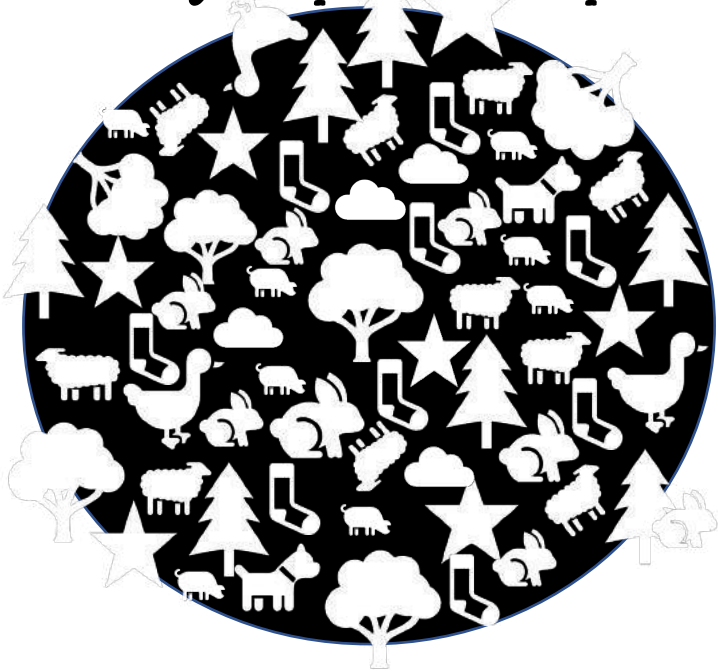




# ADVENTure

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?



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

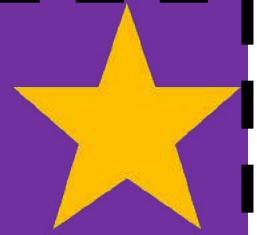


Can you be a sheep dog and guide someone with their eyes closed around a room or around some obstacles?



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As you wander what guides you?

How many star shaped items can you find?

Can you see anything growing towards the light?

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



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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?

# ADVENTure

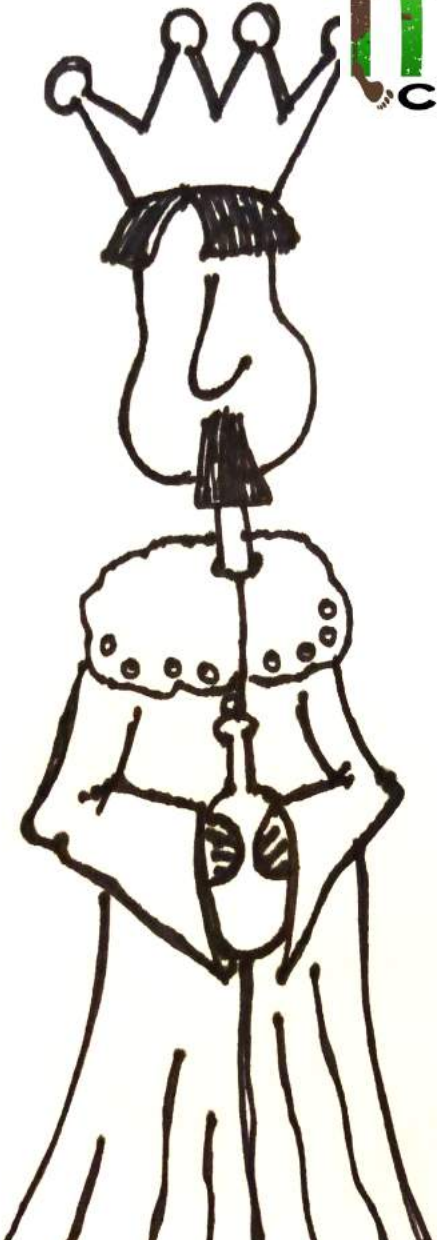
I wonder where you expect to find God?

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

# ADVENTure

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

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## The BIG DIPPER

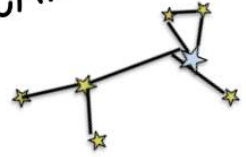


If the sky is clear ask someone to go with  
you or look outside at the night sky. Can  
you see any of these shapes or maybe  
you notice the stars making another  
shape?

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CANIS MAJOR



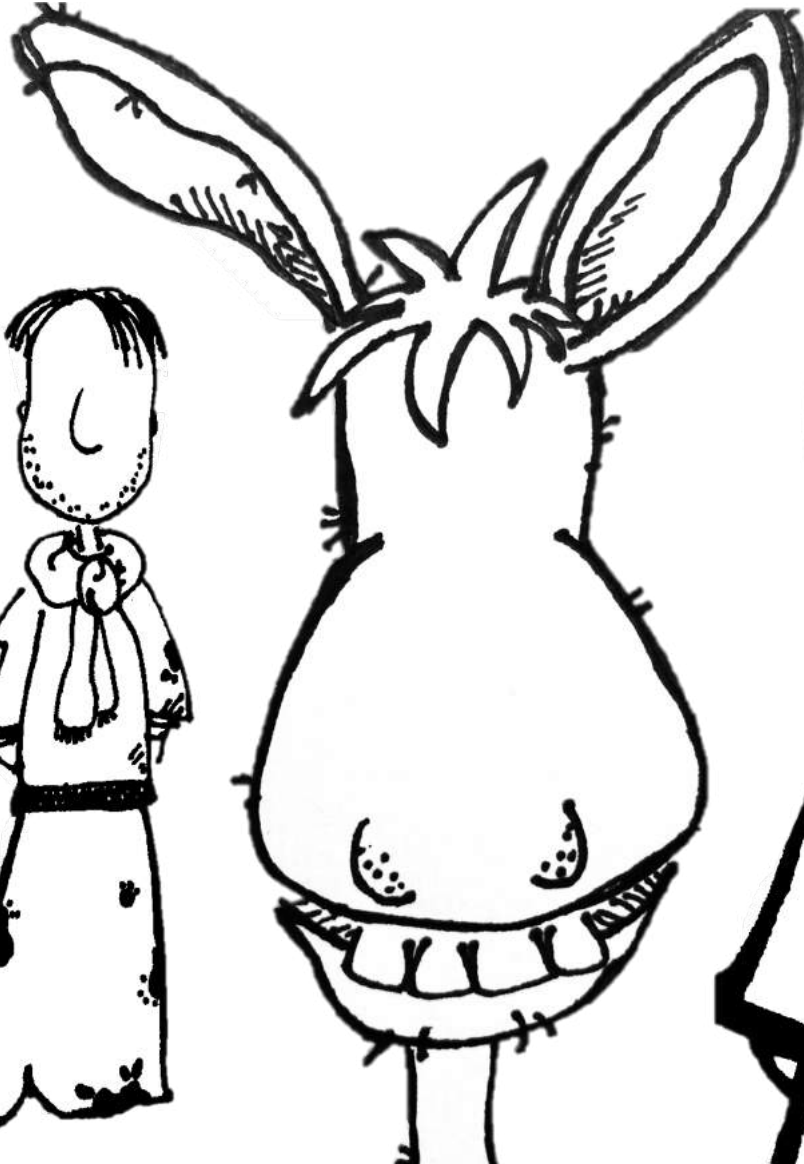
You could make a star decoration  
out of 5 twigs or sticks (equal  
length), fasten them together and  
then decorate. Maybe you could  
add some items you find that are  
golden or that smell nice.



We hope you have enjoyed our

# Muddy Church ADVENTure

and meeting all our characters. But who is missing?



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?

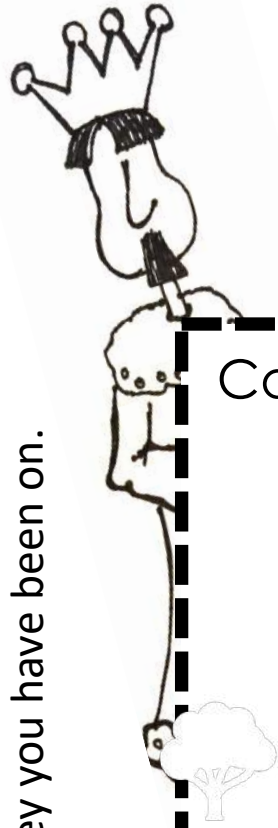
I wonder what you would say to Jesus?



# ADVENTure

I wonder why this was the greatest gift?

# ADVENTure



Can you add yourself to this story?



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.

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

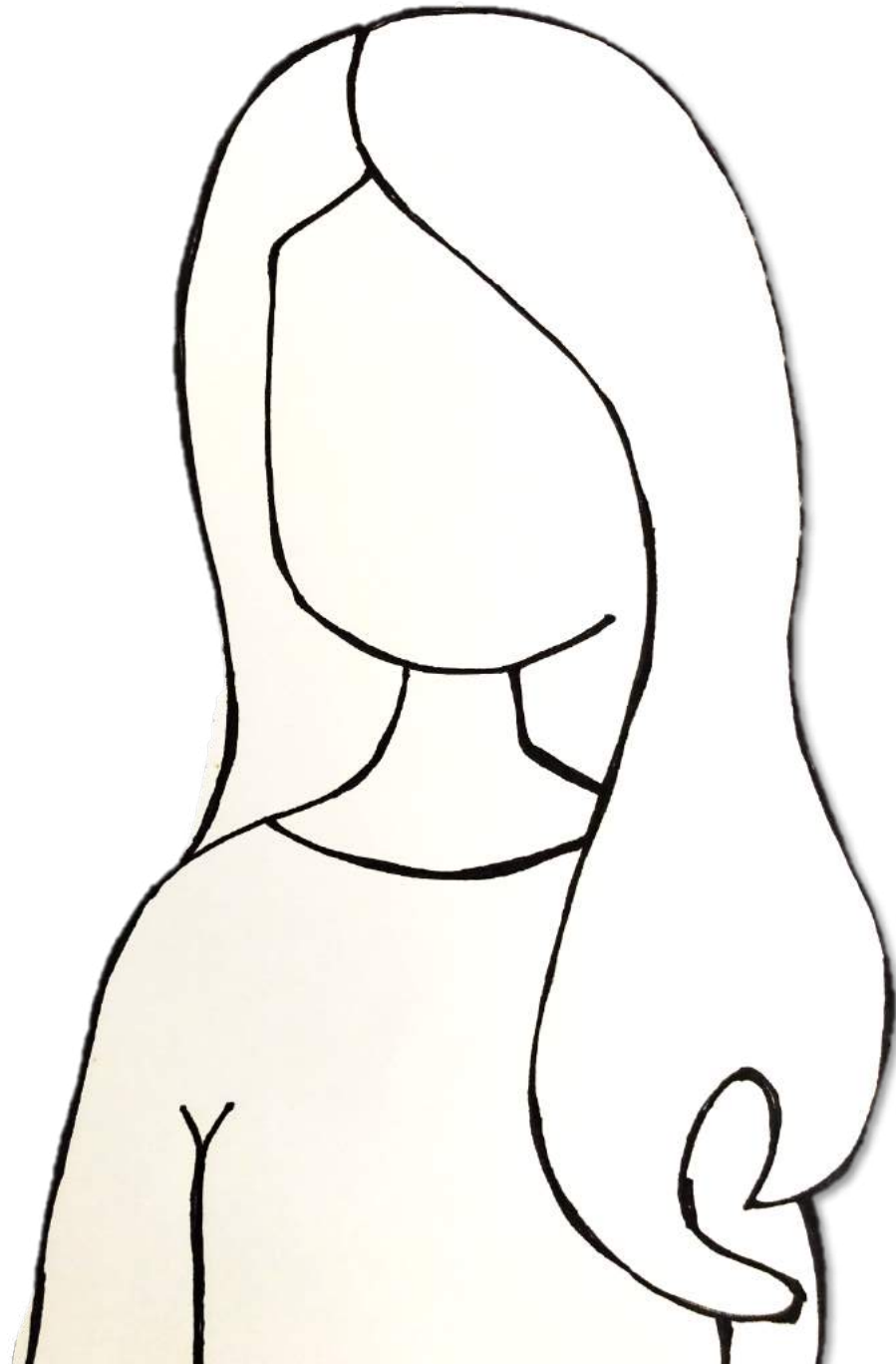
The characters are available so you can put the picture up in places if you are doing a trail or you can add them to other material you are using if you want to.

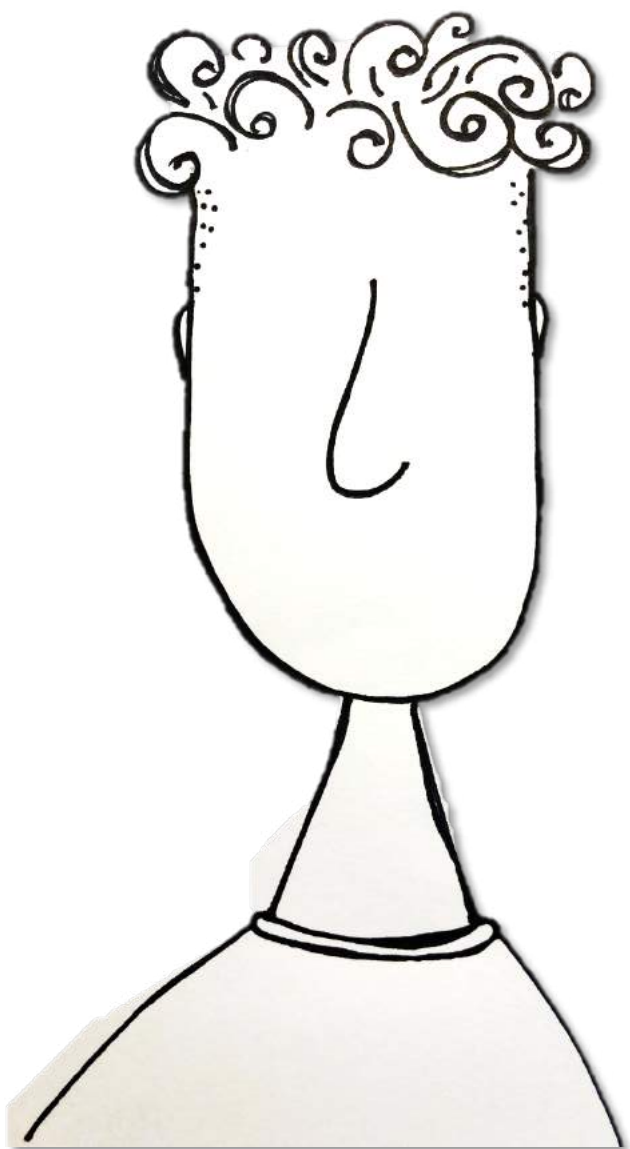
The characters are all hand drawn and come without facial details and without colour. This is to let people reflect for themselves as to how they may look, they can be coloured individually or details added as people would like.

I wonder what their faces may have looked like?

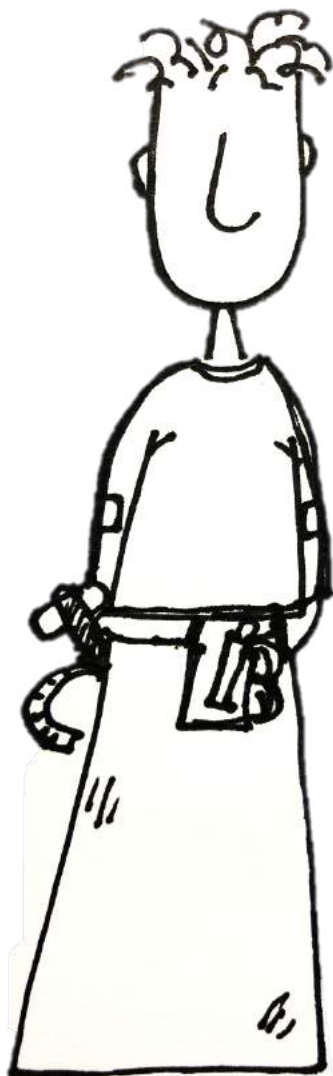


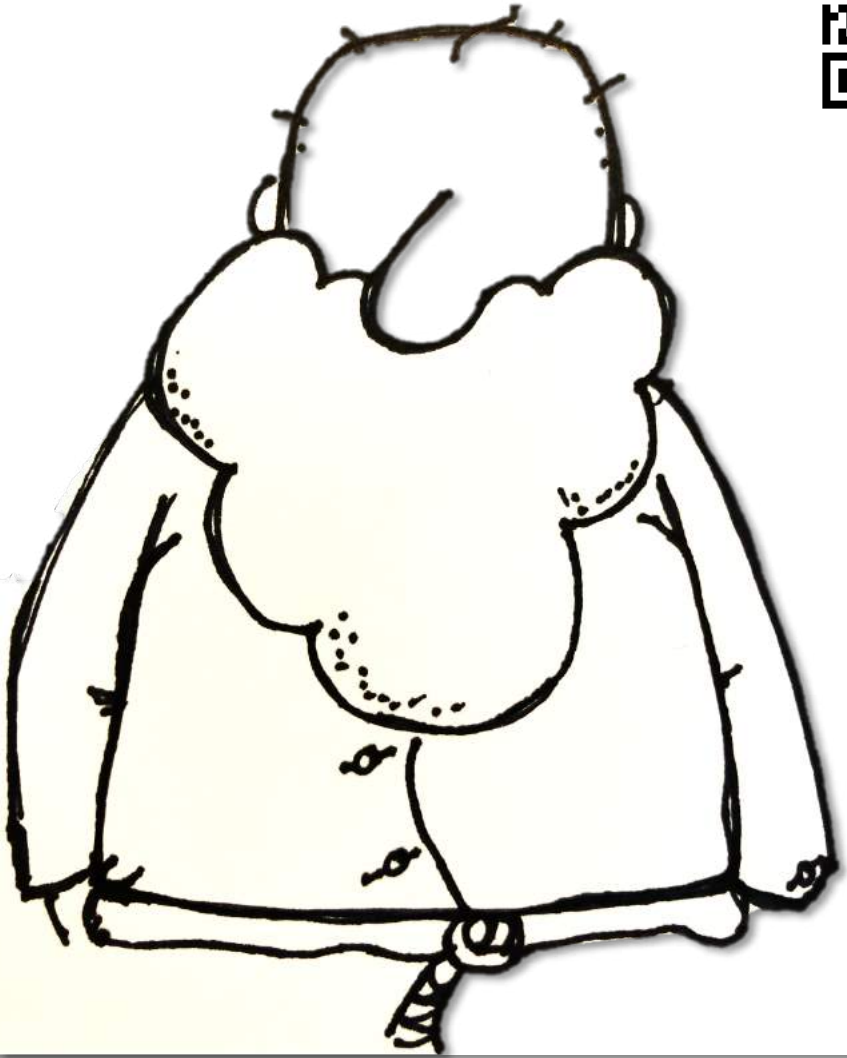
Mary



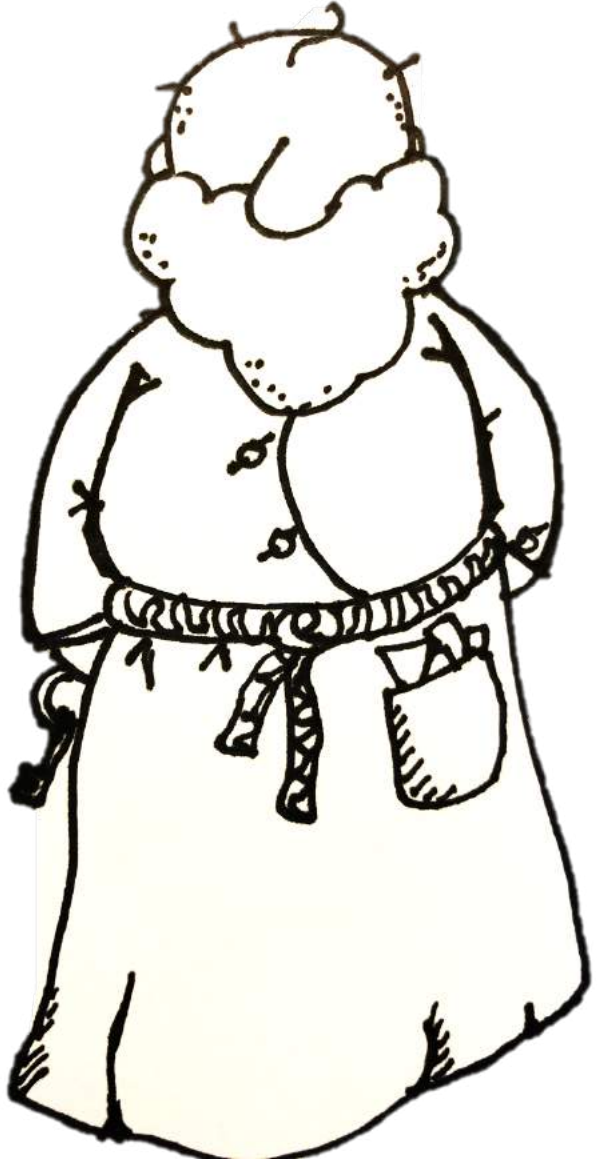


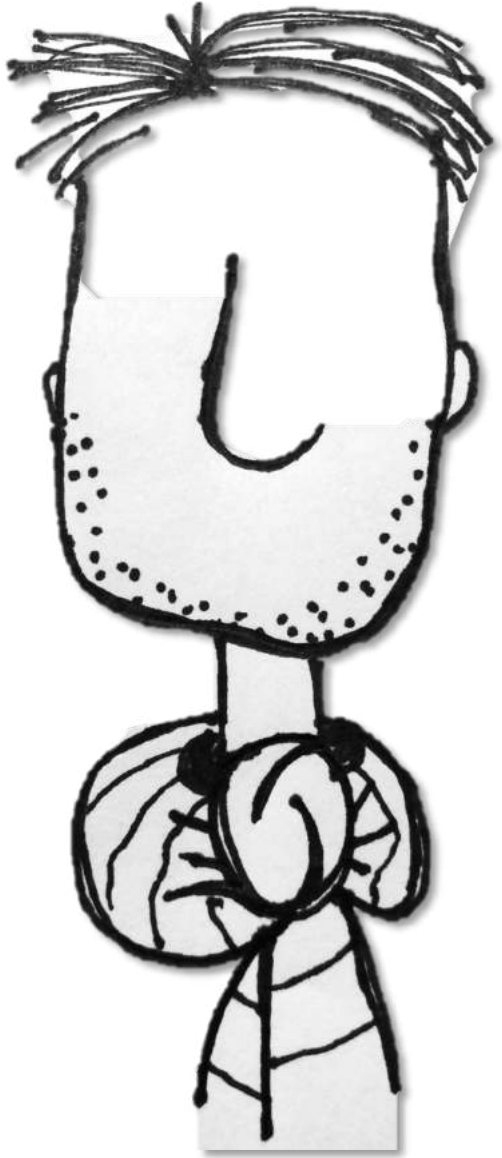
Josep





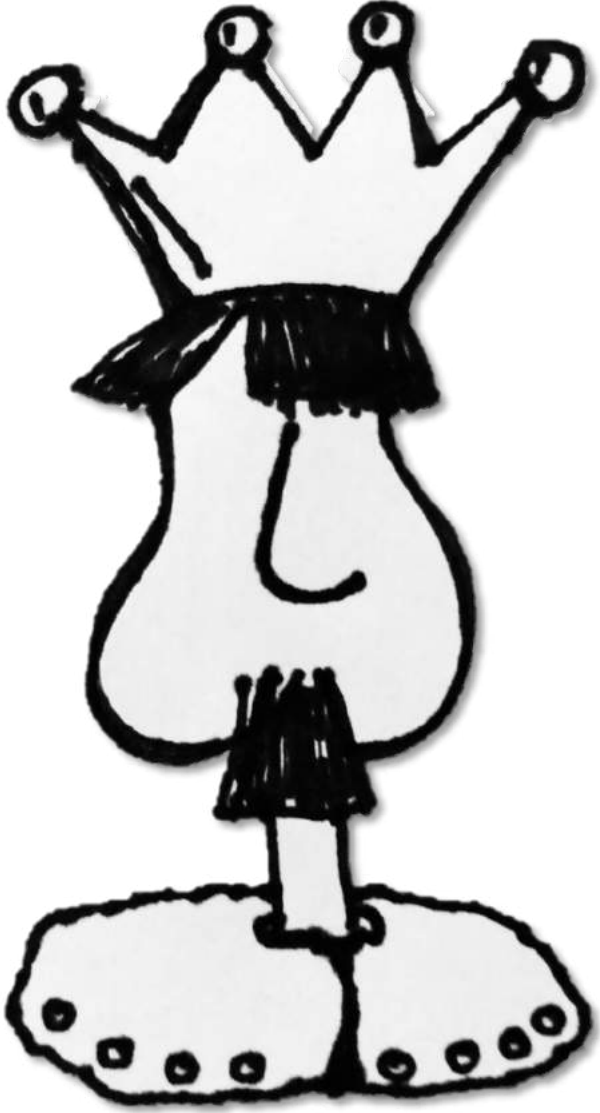
Giver of Snelter





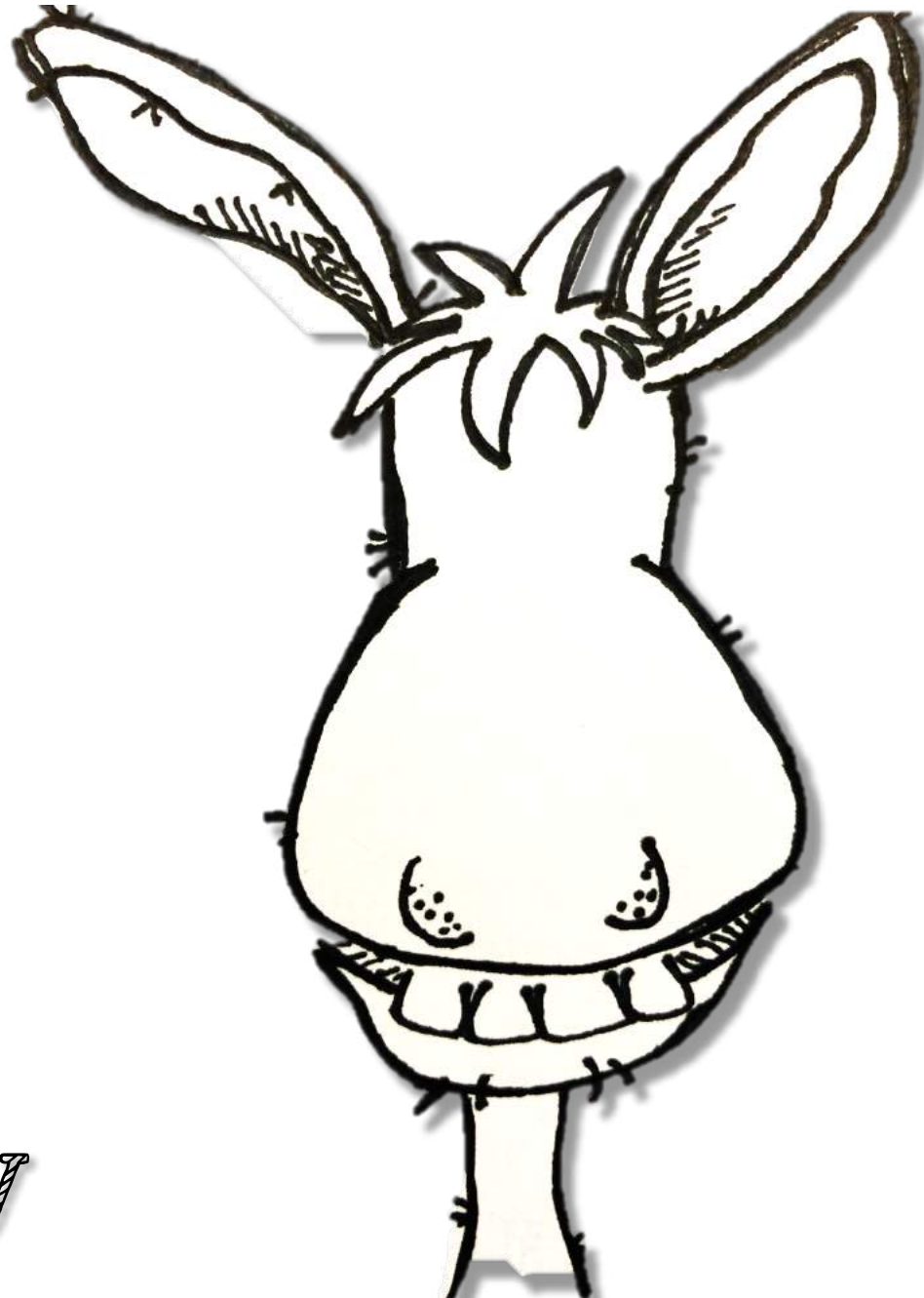
Shepherd











Masi or Wise Man





The  
Donkey

<p>Mary</p> 	<p>Joseph</p> 	<p>Donkey</p> 
<p>Shelter</p> 	<p>Shepherd</p> 	<p>Magi</p> 
	<p>Final</p> 