



## St Peter's Messy Church

[messychurch.org.uk](http://messychurch.org.uk) @The Bible Reading Fellowship2019

**December 2020**

**Theme: Christmas – celebrating the birth of Jesus!**



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**At the time of putting this together, none of us know what Christmas will be like this year. Will we be able to share Christmas with family and friends? Will we be able to attend any organised Christmas services or celebrations?**

**In such unprecedented times, one thing is certain – wherever we are, whoever we are with, we can still remember and celebrate the very first Christmas when Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem.**

**We hope you and your family keep well and have fun this Christmas, however you celebrate.**

**Happy Christmas!**

***From the Messy Church Team***

## Bible reference: Luke 2: 4-18 The International Children's Bible

### The Birth of Jesus

**2** At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. **2** This was the first registration<sup>[a]</sup> taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.

**4** So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. **5** Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) **6** While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. **7** She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

### Some Shepherds Hear About Jesus

**8** That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. **9** An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. **10** The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. **11** Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. **12** This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box."

**13** Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

**14** "Give glory to God in heaven,  
and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God."<sup>[b]</sup>

**15** Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about."

**16** So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. **17** And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. **18** Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

### **1. Ice cream cone angel**

**You will need:** An ice cream cone, fondant icing in white, yellow and brown, silver cake decoration balls, thin card or gold paper doilies, paper plate (optional piping set)

Make an angel by turning the cone upside down and using the white fondant icing to make a robe and an icing head. Use the silver balls for eyes and yellow or brown icing for hair. Use the card or the doilies to make the wings. Stand the angel on the paper plate and, if you wish, pipe frilly icing round the base of the cone for decoration.

**Another angel option can be found on page 7.**

**Talk about:** the part played by God's messengers in the birth of Jesus – Gabriel announcing the news to Mary and to the shepherds, and the choir of angels.

### **2. Printed/hand painted wrapping paper**

**You will need:** large sheets of paper, Christmas shaped blocks, foam shapes or stamps, paints, crayons or felt pens

Decorate your own wrapping paper by printing, drawing or colouring your own Christmas designs,

**Talk about:** the gifts given to baby Jesus by the shepherds and the wise men. How do we feel when we give and receive gifts?

### **3. Christmas cards**

**You will need:** Mediumweight card, collage materials, coloured pencils or felt-tipped pens, glitter. PVA glue, scissors

Make Christmas cards to send to family members or friends.

**Talk about:** the way Christmas is a good time to remember how special friends and families are – this year in particular when we haven't been able to see them as much as we would have liked.

After all, Jesus did not just appear by magic – he was born into a family.

#### 4. Donkey dung

**You will need:** Fondant icing, cocoa powder, paper plate

Mix cocoa powder with the fondant icing. Form into small, revolting blobs/pats on the paper plate

**Talk about:** the messy journey Mary and Joseph had to make with the donkey – it was a journey of about 80 miles, so no way could Mary walk such a distance! That little donkey had a very important part to play.

#### 5. Christmas Star

**You will need:** Art materials, card, string or ribbon

Draw a large star shape on card – silver card would be good. Decorate it as you wish with the materials you have. Punch a hole and thread the string or ribbon through so that it can be hung up.

**Talk about:** The way stars were used by travellers to guide them. How the Christmas Star was larger and brighter than any seen before – it guided the wise men to the stable where the new king was born.

#### 6. Junk stable

**You will need:** a selection of boxes and containers, empty paper towel rolls general junk, string, sticky tape, paper/material scraps, straw (or shredded paper/shredded wheat!)

Use the junk to make your own nativity scene. Choose the biggest box for the stable. Figures could be made from cut up empty paper

towel rolls playdo, or you could use children's play figures (eg playmobile, lego) and make suitable robes and headdresses for them. Animals could be made or borrowed from children's playsets. Don't forget to sprinkle plenty of 'straw' around and to hang the star above the stable.

**Talk about:** Jesus' birth place and the visitors he received. Not forgetting the animals in the stable.



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## Celebration

### SONGS:

**At the moment we may not be able to sing any Christmas songs/carols outside our own homes but here are a few suggestions to find on Utube or ask Alexa to sing and enjoy together. You may, of course decide to search for any traditional carol, whatever is your favourite.**

Away in a Manger – Kids music CYP

Born is the King (It's Christmas )- Hillsong Worship (really lively, the children will love it!)

Mary's Boy Child – Boney M

**Join Tony in his Christmas Celebration – a festive mix of magic and his own special way of sharing the Christmas story and message with us all - see the tab below.**

XX

**FOOD – Christmas party food!**

### **Messy Grace**

Three, two, one

One, two, three

Thank you God

For our tea!

Aaaaamen!

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**Don't miss these church family events this Christmas!**

**\*Follow the Star Christmas Treasure Trail – 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.**

**\*Caroltingle Service    Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm OR  
Christmas Eve 4.00pm & 5.30  
(identical services, booking  
required)**

(This service will be recorded for the website)

**\*Christmas Day            9.00 am OR 10.30am  
(identical services – booking  
required)**

**See the Christmas Card and/or website for full details.**



# A Christmas Angel

To make one angel, you will need scissors and glue.  
If you want a whole host, trace this pattern on to more sheets of paper.

- 1) Cut out angel's head and neck flap.
- 2) Cut out angel's dress around solid line.
- 3) Apply glue to neck flap, and stick carefully behind small crosses at top of dress.
- 4) Apply glue to flap at back of dress and join to form a cone.
- 5) Cut out semicircle for wings. Fold carefully along dotted lines to form a closed-fan shape, with patterned section on outside.
- 6) Cut out shaded areas through all thicknesses.
- 7) Apply line of glue along centre line of wings and stick to back of angel's dress.



