



Charity No 251394

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Do you know that angels are God's special messengers? We hear quite a lot about them in the Christmas story, sometimes just one or sometimes in a great crowd. We don't know the names of most of them, but one in particular, Gabriele, seemed to be given all the important messages about Christmas.



It was Angel Gabriele who gave Mary the message that God wanted her to be the mother of his special son.

He then had to encourage her to believe that she could do this so that at last Mary accepted God's plan for her.

However, she was engaged to be married to Joseph, a carpenter in the village of Nazareth. When he heard that Mary was going to have a baby, he felt at first that he could no longer marry her. However, Gabriel visited him in a dream and explained God's plan to him.

So the marriage went ahead, and Mary and Joseph made plans for this new baby. Very shortly before he was born, there was an order from the Roman Governor that every man had to be registered in the town where he was born.

So Mary and Joseph had to set out on a long journey to Bethlehem, Joseph's home town. When they arrived there the town was very busy with other travellers and they couldn't find anywhere to stay. At last one innkeeper told them that there was a place behind his inn where the travellers stabled their animals. Grateful for somewhere under shelter, Mary and Joseph settled into the stable just in time. That night Jesus was born.



Mary settled the baby in a manger, the place where the food for the animals was put. But they were all alone, and God wanted the world to know about the birth of His son. So he sent a whole crowd of angels (I'm sure Gabriel would have been among them) to tell others the news. He chose to send them to some shepherds, out on the hills outside Bethlehem. Shepherds were considered unimportant people by others because they

were often dirty and smelly from living out with their sheep all the time. But now they were the most important people to God and were the first to visit the baby Jesus.

There would be more visitors for the baby, but we will learn more about them at Epiphany, in January.





Make some Christmas Angels

Take a piece of A4 paper, you could use wrapping paper, (approx. 21cm x29cm) and fan fold it along the long edge. Then bend it in the middle until the two halves meet. Stick the two halves together. Make the head out of a wooden bead if possible (or cut a circle of card). If using a bead draw on the features, making sure the hole through it runs from top to bottom of the face. Thread a pipecleaner through the bead, leaving a loop at the bottom. Insert the loop into the fold of the fan and twist to form the neck. Make another loop at the top to hang your angel. Add wool for hair and a smaller piece of folded paper for the wings.

Advent Word Search

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

Words to Find

Words can be found left to right, up and down, and diagonally.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus

