

## The Shepherds

- **Ask:** Has anyone got any good news to share today?
- **Activity:** Chinese Whispers spread out across the room as much as you can in a line. The person at one of the ends thinks of a message to pass down the line e.g. Chocolate is yummy, Christmas is coming, Jelly and Ice cream, Shepherds visited baby Jesus. When they have chosen a message, they walk to the first person and whisper it in their ear. Then that person goes to the next person and whispers the message to them and so on until it reaches the other end of the line. The person at the end of the line shouts it out to see if its correct. You could try saying your message joyfully, sadly, happily, angrily etc.
- **Sing:** For Christmas we're hoping to put together a video of clips of all the children singing "Born is the King It's Christmas" by Hillsong Worship check it out at [https://youtu.be/yy-KO73\\_NOY](https://youtu.be/yy-KO73_NOY). If you would like your child to be involved in this video, please encourage them to practise the song and actions, get dressed up in nativity or Christmas costumes – be as imaginative as you like! Take a video in landscape view of your child(ren) singing and doing the actions and send via email to [matt@stjohnscommunitychurch.org.uk](mailto:matt@stjohnscommunitychurch.org.uk) by the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Thank you!
- **Talk:** If you had good news, who would you tell first? In the Nativity story who did the angels tell that Jesus had been born? **The shepherds**. What do shepherds do? **They look after sheep**. Shepherds wander the wilderness finding safe places for their sheep to feed, drink and sleep. Let's take a look at what happened on that first Christmas with the shepherds.
- **Watch/Read:** "The Christmas Story Jesus and the Shepherds" by Saddleback kids at <https://youtu.be/TJIC57EvYFo>, or watch Lottie's 'The Shepherds' session on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfoRgvwNoapVwiU5UCF2ZMg>, or, read Luke 2:8-20 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%20%3A8-20&version=NIV>.
- **Discussion:** What did the angel tell the shepherds? **That Jesus the Saviour of the world had been born in Bethlehem**. I wonder why God told shepherds about Jesus first rather than important people in power like royalty or government? **Shepherds were smelly and looked down upon by others but God still loved them. They were outsiders who lived on the edge of society, outside the towns and cities like the lepers. God loves those on the fringes and the outskirts. God loves those who are lost, lonely, poor, hungry and ill. That's why the shepherds were told first.** After the shepherds had seen baby Jesus, what did they do? **They told everyone about who Jesus was and then joyfully praised God**. Even those who are outcast can joyfully spread God's news and praise him. As it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent and we light the candle of Joy today, can you spread Joy wherever you go this week? Especially to those who are lonely or on their own.
- **Pray:** Dear Jesus, thank you that you love all of us, and especially those who are homeless, lonely, lost and left out. Help us to share the Joy of knowing you with everyone we meet this week. Amen.
- **Make:** 'Kitchen Roll Shepherd'. You will need: A kitchen roll tube, coloured fabric/cleaning pad/paper, string/cord/elastic bands, a pipe cleaner, cotton wool, pens, glue and googly eyes (optional). Cut your kitchen roll tube in half. At the top of the tube draw a face and stick your googly eyes on (if using). Then take your coloured fabric/cleaning pad or paper and wrap it around your tube, cut to size if needed. Then glue your fabric/cleaning pad/paper around the kitchen roll tube for the shepherd's clothes. Using the cord/string wrap it around the middle of your tube to

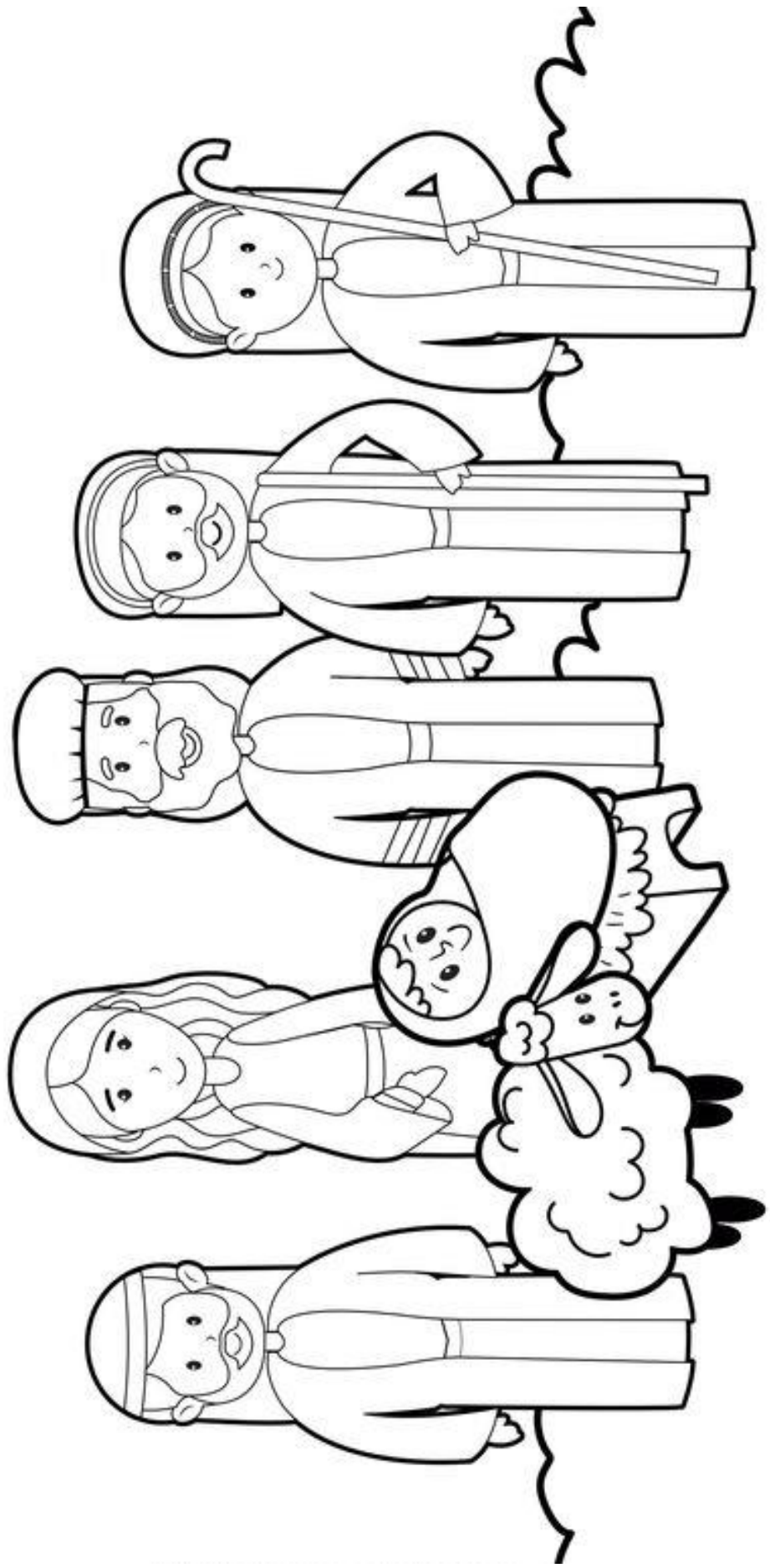
make a belt and tie it in a knot. You may like to use glue to hold it in place. Then take another piece of fabric or paper and measure it around the top of the tube to make a head scarf. Cut to size, then wrap over the end of the tube and hold in place with elastic bands/string/cord. Using the pipe cleaner, make a shepherd's crook/staff and glue it to your shepherd's side. You could give your shepherd arms by wrapping a pipe cleaner around the tube or poking it through the tube. Then take small balls of cotton wool and stick two small googly eyes to each ball to make some sheep.

- **Make:** 'Marshmallow Sheep': You will need: Marshmallows, twiglets/matchmakers, pretzels and a black icing pen. First take a marshmallow and turn it on its side, then poke 4 small twiglets/matchmakers into the bottom of the marshmallow to make the sheep's legs. With the icing pen, draw a face onto one of the sides of the marshmallows. Then break a pretzel in half and stick one half in each side of the sheep's head. How about making a shepherd too, using the matchmakers/twiglets to hold 3 marshmallows together for his body, some matchmakers and twiglets for arms and legs? Use an icing pen for facial features and a matchmaker for a staff.
- **Print:** The sheets below and do the Colouring, Mazes, Word Search and Word Puzzle.
- **Enjoy:** A drink and a biscuit!



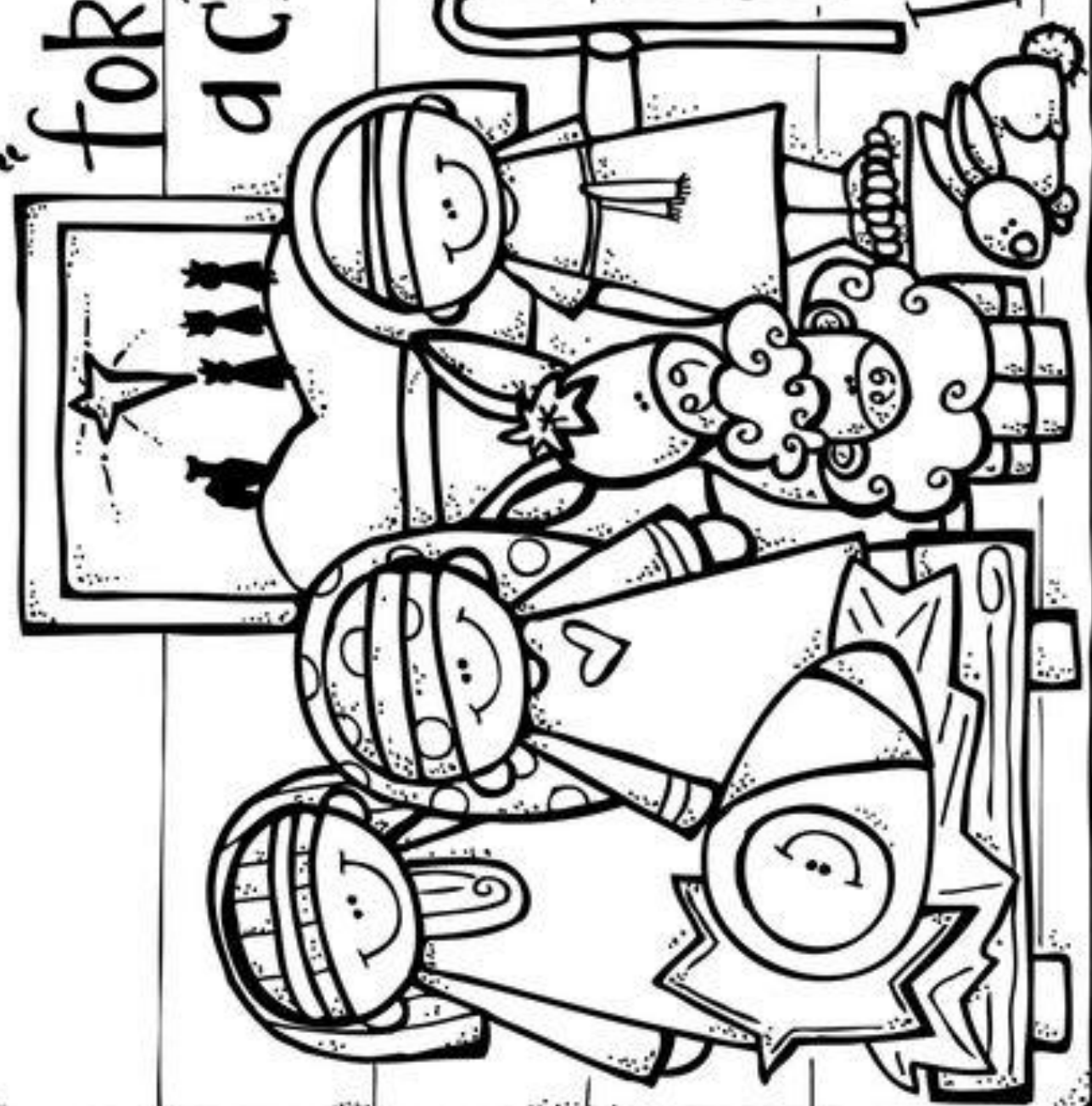
Donut hole and marshmallow  
*Lambs*





for untous  
a child is  
born...  
and his  
name shall  
be called  
Wonderful!

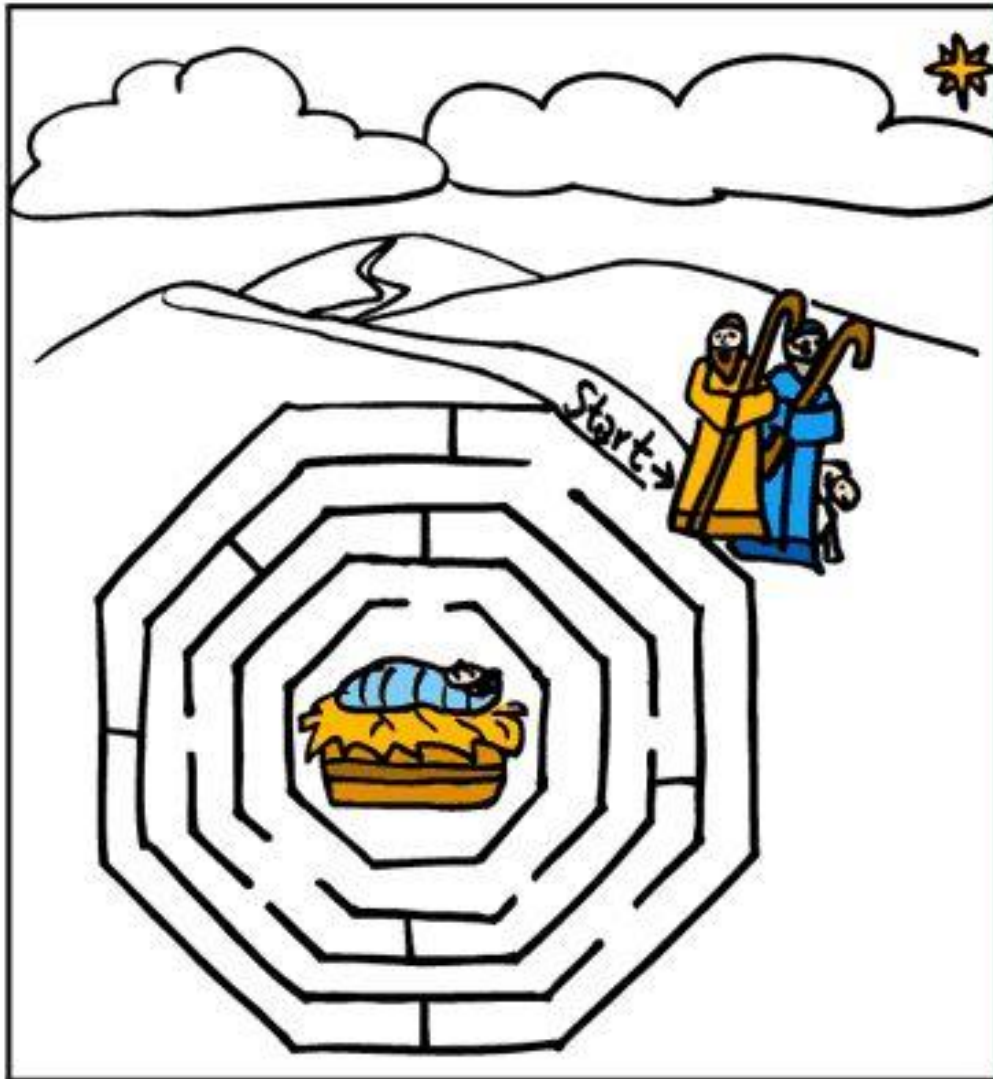
Isaiah 9:6



## Luke 2:12

And this will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. When the angel spoke to the shepherds, she told them how to find the baby Jesus. It wouldn't be a big sign on the highway but a way of recognizing that it was indeed the baby Jesus. The sign was they would find him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

**Guide the shepherds through the maze.**



## Baby Jesus and the Shepherds Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

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

ANGEL	FIELDS	JESUS	MARY	SHEEP
BETHLEHEM	FLOCK	JOSEPH	SAVIOR	SHEPHERDS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus

It was night. In the fields near \_\_\_\_\_ a company of \_\_\_\_\_ kept watch over their flocks. Probably they were holy men, and often thought of God in the stillness of the early morn. And now they may have been thinking of the coming of the promised \_\_\_\_\_.

While watching their \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord came to these shepherds, and a dazzling light shone round about them. They were much afraid; but the angel said, " \_\_\_\_\_ not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great \_\_\_\_\_, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a \_\_\_\_\_, which is Christ the Lord." And suddenly there was with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, " \_\_\_\_\_ to God in the \_\_\_\_\_, and on earth \_\_\_\_\_, good will toward men."

When the angels had departed, the shepherds returned to Bethlehem; and there, in a stable, they found the infant Jesus, lying in a \_\_\_\_\_, watched over and cared for by His mother Mary and Joseph. And so great was the surprise and joy of the shepherds that they went out and told all they met of the wondrous things which they had seen.

- |              |            |            |               |
|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. angel     | 4. flocks  | 7. joy     | 10. peace     |
| 2. Bethlehem | 5. Glory   | 8. manger  | 11. Saviour   |
| 3. Fear      | 6. highest | 9. Messiah | 12. shepherds |