#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Wise Men from the East, who studied the sky and the stars, had seen the large star that shone over the stable where Jesus lay and they set out on their journey, travelling on their **CAMELS** to go and worship him.

On their way through Jerusalem they asked "where is the baby born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the East and we have come to worship him". King Herod was upset about this. He was King, not some baby, so he sent the Wise Men on their way telling them to let him know when they had found the baby.

# Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

**MELCHIOR** comes bringing Gold as his gift; a sign of Kingship to a baby lying in a manger.

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

CASPER comes with Frankincense as his present, a present fit for a king.

# Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

**BALTHAZAR** comes with a gift of Myrrh...a strange gift for a baby as it was normally used when someone died.

The three Wise Men went into the Stable and saw Jesus with his mother, Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him.

Then they returned to their own country by a different road because God had warned them, in a dream not to tell Herod that they had found the Christ Child Jesus.

# What next?

We have told the story of the coming of Jesus to the world.

We have prepared for his coming.

We have welcomed his coming.

Along with Shepherds and Wise Men we have given and received gifts.

Christmas is over but JESUS STAYS WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Designed by Rev Elaine Halls elaine.halls@methodist.org.uk 07484775553

# Advent... Epiphany



# ...one day at a time

This is a different sort of Advent Calendar! Start-

ing on the 1<sup>st</sup> **December** you colour in something every day, as the story of the birth of Jesus is told. With this Advent Calendar Jesus is not born until Christmas day and the Shepherds and the Wise Men, Kings or Magi, do not arrive until after Christmas. There is something to colour in every day until Epiphany on 6<sup>th</sup> January, the traditional time for the three Kings to appear.

So, each day read a bit more of the story as it is told here, and colour in the relevant picture. All the bits of the picture are numbered – On 1<sup>st</sup> December colour in number 1, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> number 2 etc... be careful though not to colour in J1, J2 etc until January!

# Tuesday 1st December

Bethlehem is getting busier as the days go by; Emperor Augustus has said that a census must be taken across the Roman Empire, so everyone travels to the place where their family comes from.

A STABLE stands quietly housing animals and their feed.

# Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

The **GROUND** is getting dry and dusty, the grass is withering in the heat, and under all the trampling of peoples feet.

..be careful not to colour in the paths yet!

# Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

The days are long and hot and the SKY seems to be blue all day long.

# Friday 4th December

At night it doesn't seem to get really dark as the little **STARS** glisten and twinkle, lighting the way for those still travelling and those sleeping out of doors.

# Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December

By the stable there is an old **BROOM** propped against a large **ROCK**. The broom is used to sweep out the stable and many a traveller has rested on the rock.

# Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December

The HILLS in the distance almost disappear with all the people crowding into Bethlehem.

# Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December

The old **COW** moos gently in the stable, her breath warming the cool night air.

#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

An old stone WATER TROUGH gives the cow somewhere to drink water from.

<u>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December</u> Nearby hangs a large bundle of fresh **HAY** for the animals to feed on.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December

A COCKEREL scratches around on the floor seeing what bits of grain it can find.

#### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Yet another PERSON crowds into the little town, trying to remember where their relatives live. Its a long time since they came here, things change.

# Saturday 12th December

There is a large **TREE** near the Stable which gives both food and shelter.

# Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December

The PATHS to the town get more and more crowded.

# Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Another pair of weary feet on yet another **VISITOR** crowd along the path.

# Tuesday 15th December

The stable is also home for a LAMB as well as the cow and cockerel.

# Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Another TREE casts its shadow over the little stable.

<u>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December</u> Another <u>LITTLE LAMB</u> has crept into the stable to snuggle with the other animals for warmth

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

The Inns and Guesthouses are filling up to overflowing, but still another VISITOR arrives in town looking for a bed.

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December

In amongst the hustle and bustle the Innkeeper finds time to spread fresh STRAW on the floor of his stable.

# Sunday 20th December

After laying clean straw the Innkeeper hangs a LANTERN in the stable to give light to the dark corners.

#### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

An unknown **DONKEY** joins the other animals in the stable, they welcome him, but who is he? He has travelled a long way with his owners and he is as tired as they are.

# Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

The Innkeeper moves the rickety old MANGER to stand on the clean straw on the floor of his stable.

#### Wednesday 23rd December

Here is JOSEPH who has had to travel from Nazareth in Galilee to register himself in the Emperor's census.

# Thursday 24th December

Here is MARY, tired after the long journey she'd made with Joseph. She is about to have a baby, her first child. This stable is the only place that Joseph and Mary were offered, the town is so busy. Strange, because an Angel had told her that this child would be a special child.

# Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December - CHRISTMAS DAY

It is Christmas Day because the BABY JESUS has been born in the stable, surrounded by all the animals. Mary wraps him in clean blankets and lays him gently in the Manger full of straw; he will be safe there.

# Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December

A large **STAR** shines over the Stable; it seems to light the world.

#### Sunday 27th December

An ANGEL, a messenger from God, appears to Shepherds as they sit in the fields at night taking care of their sheep. The angel says there is Good News, that their Saviour has been born in Bethlehem.

# Monday 28th December

A little LAMB from the flock is taken by the shepherds as they go and find the baby Jesus. The shepherds have nothing else to take as a present, they hope the lamb will be a good present.

<u>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December</u>
The <u>SHEPHERDS</u> arrive at the Stable in Bethlehem to see Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus lying in the manger. They tell Mary why they have come and she treasures their words. They give Mary, Joseph and Jesus the lamb they have brought with them.