

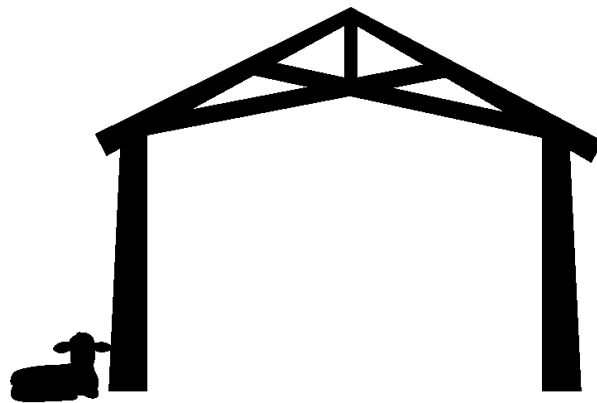


**Creating a  
Crib at Home  
this Advent**

CHILDREN  
**YOUTH**  
FAMILIES  
Guildford

## **When setting up your crib this year, why not try & follow the nativity story.**

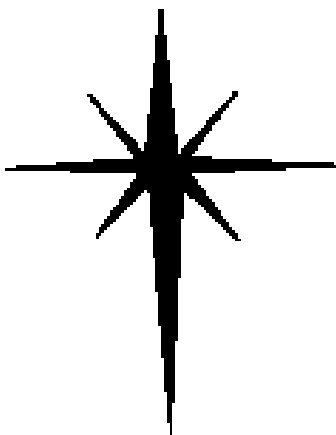
You could make your own figures, or you might have a special family nativity set already. Whatever you use, be gentle with the characters. They tell an important story, so try to keep them safe on their journeys towards the stable.



### **Start with a stable.**

It might be an empty shoebox with straw on the roof, or a space on a shelf with yellow paper hay ready. Find a place in the house where everybody can see the stable, maybe in the hallway or on a shelf in the sitting room.

Make sure there is no one in the stable, except the animals, until Christmas Eve.



### **The Star.**

Find or make a star to put above your stable. How high can you put it? Maybe you could light a candle near the stable too and pray together during advent as you wait for Jesus to arrive.

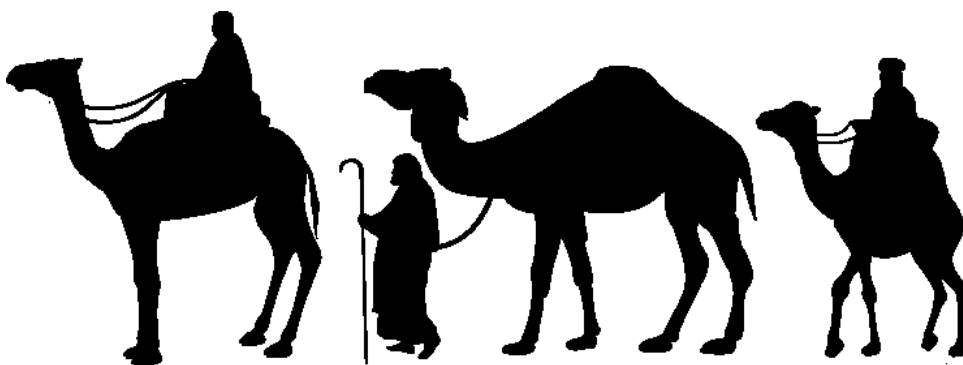


## Mary and Joseph.

Find a starting point for Mary and Joseph (and the donkey if you have one) to begin their journey (maybe in the kitchen, or by the stairs). Move them a little nearer to the crib each day, but make sure they don't arrive at the crib until Christmas Eve.

## The Shepherds.

Scatter the shepherds and their sheep elsewhere in the house until Christmas Day when they arrive to visit baby Jesus. They could stay in their 'field' and have a visit from the Angels on Christmas Eve.



## The Magi.

The Wise Men journey through the house from the furthest point you can find at the beginning of Advent. Move them closer each day.

Don't forget the Magi don't arrive at the stable to visit Jesus until Epiphany on the 6th January. What a long journey they will make!



## **Jesus.**

Place baby Jesus in the Manger on Christmas day. Maybe the youngest child in the house could carry Jesus to the crib and you can all sing a carol together, maybe Away in a Manger.

## **Bless your crib.**

### **Nominate someone to read this.**

Let us ask for God's blessing on this Christmas Crib and upon ourselves as we reflect on the great gift of the God coming as one of us into the world.

God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have shown us your love:  
when our need for a Saviour  
was great  
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this  
manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and raise-up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us,  
Emmanuel, and Saviour of all, who lives and reigns for ever  
and ever.

Amen.