



Family Advent Hunt 2: Journeys

TRAIL



As you are out and about on your walks this week, see if you can find the following... Let us know how you get on. Perhaps a parent or carer could post a photo on Facebook or email us at office@stmarysely.org?

What's the longest journey you have ever been on? How far is the furthest you can walk?
Lots of people in the Christmas story went on journeys...

- Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem;
 - The Shepherds hurried down from the hills;
 - The Wise Men travelled from far off lands following the star.
- What would you take if you were going on a long journey?
Where would you like to stay when you arrive? Read the story below and think about how you would feel if the only place to stay was amongst the cows and donkeys!



THE STORY....

About the time that Mary was to have her baby, the Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken to make sure everyone was paying their taxes. This meant going to the place your family were from so that you could be 'counted'. For Joseph this was Bethlehem.

It was a very long journey, taking several days. Mary was heavily pregnant and they would have travelled on foot and perhaps by donkey. The road would have been very uneven and dusty.

When they arrived in Bethlehem Mary and Joseph tried to find somewhere to stay. However, lots of people had also returned to the town and all the places were full. Eventually an innkeeper, seeing that Mary was pregnant, allowed them to stay in his stable, among the animals.

That night Mary had her baby and laid him in the manger...

★ People make journeys in lots of different ways. Unlike Mary and Joseph we often have different types of transport to help us travel. Can you spot any of the following on your walk?

- Bus ★ Taxi ★ Train ★ Car ★ Bicycle ★ Scooter ★ Boat ★

★ A compass can help a traveller find their way. Can you find the points of the compass on the Market Square...? There is also a biblical message that can be found here - where in the bible is it from?

★ Sign posts can also help us on our journeys. They can show us the way or give us instructions. Can you find the following signs on your walk? Do you know what they mean?



★ At the end of our journey it is good to have somewhere to stay. In Ely there are lots of different places to stay. Can you find these three hotels or inns on your walk?

1. A Baby Sheep might stay here: _____?
2. Someone who uses rhyme or prose might stay here: _____?
3. Somewhere to stay if you arrive by boat, close to the water's edge (Hint: past the Cutter): _____?

At the front of church there is a crib scene. Which characters have joined the stable? The innkeeper helped Mary and Joseph. As you look at the stable you might like to think about those who help us on our journeys: parents, carers, grandparents, teachers, doctors, nurses and many others. You might like to spend sometime now quietly thanking God for these people. At Christmas we remember that God also helps us on our journeys by sending us his son, Jesus, to be the light of the world.