

Family Advent Hunt 3: Visitors

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?

Where would you like to visit if you could go anywhere?
Who would you visit if you could?

Why did you choose this place and person?

When a new King or Queen is born, I wonder who would be invited to visit? Who would be the first visitors?

In the Christmas story, the first visitors were Shepherds. They were probably poor and smelly and didn't have many friends? Not many people wanted to be shepherds. I wonder why God chose them rather than someone important?

THE STORY....

In the hills above Bethlehem some Shepherds were looking after their sheep. All of a sudden an angel appeared in the sky above them. They were frightened and surprised. The angel said, 'Do not be afraid. I bring good news for everyone in the world. Today, in the town of Bethlehem, a Saviour has been born! You will find him lying in a manger.' A choir of angels then appeared singing 'Glory to God in the highest! Peace and goodwill to everyone on Earth.'

The Shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found the baby Jesus lying in a simple manger in a Stable where they worshipped the new baby, Christ the Lord. It was exactly as the angels had told them.

When they returned to their sheep, they told everyone they met what they had seen and heard and sang praises to God.



The Shepherds in our story were looking after their sheep. While you are on your walk today see if you can collect some things to make a picture of a sheep – you may like to use, sticks, leaves, stones and other things that you find.



One place that visitors to Ely may go to is Jubilee Gardens. Can you find the sculpture of the creature that Ely is associated with? What is this of? _____
– Can you take a photo next to the sculpture with you pretending to be this creature?



The shepherds in our story were looking after their sheep on the hillside. There are not too many hills in Ely to visit, but can you walk or even run up Cherry Hill. You may like to go as it is getting dark so you can see the lights guiding you up and down the hill.



Near St Mary's Church is a building that helps visitors to Ely find out what they should see or do in our city. What would you recommend? _____

This building was also previously home to a historical figure....

– what is this building now? _____

– who used to live here? _____

– how long did this person live in Ely for? _____

The angel that visited the Shepherds came with a message of peace. On the green outside the church is a symbol of peace and freedom. Jesus is sometimes referred to as the Prince of Peace. Christians also believe Jesus brought light in the darkness just as this structure would do when lit. What is this structure and when was it erected?

At the front of church there is a crib scene. Which characters have joined the stable? As you look at the stable you may like to wonder why God chose the Shepherds? What would the Shepherds have felt when they saw the baby Jesus? What would they have told their friends about it? Jesus came for everyone, not just the popular, rich or famous. He came for you and me. You may like to spend a moment of quiet thanking God for sending his son for everyone.