**The Christmas Story**

On the 25th December we celebrate Christmas, the birthday of Jesus who was called Christ.

Before Jesus was born, his parents, Mary and Joseph went to a town called Bethlehem. It was very busy and they couldn’t find anywhere to stay. A friendly innkeeper let them sleep in his stable with the animals. Jesus was born and Mary wrapped him in cloths and put him in the manger. A star appeared in the sky over the stable.

Out in the field some shepherds were looking after their sheep, when suddenly an angel appeared. The shepherds were very scared. The angel told the shepherds not to be scared because he brought good news. He told them that Jesus had been born and that he would be the person who would save the world. He told the shepherds to go and see Jesus. Then there were lots more angels who sang *Glory to God* and *Peace on Earth.*

The shepherds went to see the baby Jesus. They knelt down in front of the manger and were very happy that they had found the one who had been sent by God. When they left, they told everybody they could find about Jesus and about how he was going to save the world.

Later on some wise men came from the East to see Jesus. They brought special gifts because they knew that Jesus was a King. They were surprised that he had been born in a stable and not in a palace. They worshipped Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

And so……..

Each Christmas we celebrate Jesus being born. God gave us Jesus as a present to show that he loves us. Each Christmas we give each other giftsto show people that we love them.

**Christmas Nativity Trail**

It’s that time of year again, when all your favourite Nativity characters are off to find baby Jesus? This year, the shepherd, the wise men and even Mary and Joseph, have got waylaid in the London Road shops round Highlands. Can you find which character has got lost in which shop and fill in the chart below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of shop** | **Which character did you find** |
| Greetings |  |
| Barnardo’s |  |
| B J Meats |  |
| Scent |  |
| Housebrite |  |
| Affinity |  |
| The Perfect Plaice - Fish & Chips |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Thank you for taking part in the Highlands nativity trail**

Have you found all the characters?

Have you written their names in the spaces?

Would you like to enter a prize draw?

The Highlands Nativity Trail is an activity in collaboration with the shopkeepers on the London Road and Highlands Methodist Church. It begins on the 3rd December and the draw will take place at our Church Christingle Service on 24th December 5pm where all the characters will hopefully make it in time to meet baby Jesus. You are warmly invited to this service.

**So what do you do now?**

1. Tear the sheet in half.
2. Take home the story and picture of the crib
3. Clearly enter your details below
4. Place this side of your leaflet in the letterbox at Highlands Methodist Church, Highlands Boulevard.

Name……………………………………………………………………………….

Contact phone number……………………………………………………

Email……………………………………………………………………………….

**Highlands**

**Christmas Nativity Trail**

