

# THE NEW WELLWYNDER

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

Visit us at [www.newwellwynd.org.uk](http://www.newwellwynd.org.uk)

## Message from Bill

Dear Friends,

I write this as my first month with you draws to a close, and I really do need to start by thanking everyone for both the warm welcome I have received from you, and for the help and support I have also received. I was under no illusion that I had big boots to fill, but it is also very pleasing to find that Robbie has left you in good heart. So thank you to Robbie for that, and thank you to you all for your help and support.

May I also take this opportunity to thank (in alphabetical order) Alistair Weighon, David McKee, Margaret Currie, and Margaret Jack for helping out with 'Delve in at Twelve' and with funeral cover while I try to find my way around. It is always my practice in any case to involve other people in worship where possible, so hopefully we'll hear more from them in the future and from anyone else who wants to get involved.

We enter now a new church year, with the season of Advent. It is a time when we sit quietly and wait patiently to celebrate Christ's birth. Okay, maybe it isn't always as quiet or as restful as that! For many of us it is a season of mad preparations, whether that is shopping for presents or for food, for wrapping presents, for writing cards, for visiting and being visited, for going to the pantomime or to concerts, or for cooking. Phew! That is quite a list. If that applies to you, it is especially important that you take time just to relax, unwind, and think of the reason for the season. Set aside a little time each day to spend in prayer, read a chapter of your bible, sit and contemplate what God did for us through Jesus.

We plan to hold an Advent Bible Study on the Wednesday evenings 6, 13, and 20 December. That will be in the hall at 7:30pm. And yes, that will include prayer and bible reading, but hopefully also some rest and peace as we think together of the truth of God's word. Please do come along to that if you can, even if it is only to sit quietly and catch breath for an hour. Rest is important – see Genesis chapter 2 – and I hope that we can include some rest in the time we spend together.

At this time of year we also remember people who find Christmas difficult, for a variety of reasons. People who are alone, perhaps through death or maybe through circumstance. There are people who struggle financially, who feel pressured into spending money they can ill-afford to spend. Some families are split up, perhaps through work, perhaps through illness, perhaps through imprisonment. Some people simply struggle with the darkness of long winter nights. Jesus spent time with anyone who was finding life difficult, and these are the people that we, too, must try to support.

The Christmas story contains many elements. The one I invite you to consider this year is saying "Yes" to God. God does not force Himself on anyone, we all have a choice. Mary had a choice.

## Forthcoming Services

### **Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December**

11 a.m. Second Sunday in Advent  
**The Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

### **Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December**

11 a.m. Third Sunday in Advent  
**Readings and Reflections with music from the Choir**

### **Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

11 a.m. Fourth Sunday in Advent  
**Nativity Sunday**  
6.30 p.m. Christmas Eve All Age  
Christingle Service  
11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Watchnight  
Service

Refreshments served in the hall from  
10.45 p.m. and Community Carol  
singing in the Church from 11.15 p.m.

### **Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December**

11 a.m. Christmas Day Service

### **Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> December**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February**

11 a.m. Morning Worship

Tea and coffee will be served in the  
Church Hall after morning worship

## **Wednesday Services at 12 noon**

### **Delve in at 12**

Our midweek service on a Wednesday  
at 12 noon will continue during the  
winter months.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion on  
the 6<sup>th</sup> December.**

All services are followed by tea and  
coffee.



Mary could have said "No" when God's messenger, the angel Gabriel, spoke to her. That would have been the easy way out. No awkward conversation with Joseph. No confrontation with her parents. No danger of being stoned to death – which might have happened had Joseph broken off the engagement. By all the rules of society, she should have said "No". Instead, her reply was **"I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said."** (Luke 1:38)

In that answer, by saying "Yes" to God, Mary changed the course of her own life and she changed the course of world history. For the better.

We all like to plan things out, to make arrangements, and to hopefully follow these through. Sometimes God has other ideas, but He never forces us to follow these. We can go the way of the world and stick with our own plans, or we can say "Yes" to God and then enjoy the ride!

We all have different plans for how we will spend Christmas, and we have different preferences. Whatever you are doing, I do hope you have an enjoyable and a blessed time. It is right that we celebrate Christmas, because that is when God showed us that He loves us and showed us His great plan to bring us home to Him. Please choose to say "Yes" to this plan of God's.

***Happy Christmas to you all.***

***Bill***

***Locum Minister***

### **The Christmas Story Today!**

As we recall once again the story of Jesus' birth, a tale that weaves together the faith of a young woman chosen to bear the Son of God and the righteousness of a man who willingly accepts the profound responsibility of raising the Saviour of the world. With each retelling, this remarkable story continues to inspire faith, hope, and goodwill among all the people of God. It reminds us that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. As we immerse ourselves in the biblical verses that recount this pivotal moment in history, we find that the story of Jesus' birth remains a beacon of love, peace, and eternal significance. So, as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season, let us remember the miraculous events, the prophecies fulfilled, and the divine grace that unfolded in the birth of Jesus. It is a story of God's boundless love for humanity, a love that took the form of a vulnerable baby, born in a humble stable, to bring salvation and eternal life to all who believe. The Christmas story in the Bible is a testament to the enduring power of faith, the triumph of love, and the promise of eternal hope. May it continue to touch our hearts and inspire us to share the good news of great joy with the world, for in the birth of Jesus, we find the ultimate gift of God's grace and love! A blessed Christmas to one and all.

***The Editor***



### **Welcome Teams**

#### **Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Team Leader: David Watt  
Linda Francis, Margaret Jack,  
Allister Jack, Alison Sefton,  
David Walker, Andrew Paul

#### **Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Team Leader: Irene Yates  
Alex Anderson, Avril Cockburn,  
Allison Gray, Beatrice Holden,  
George Lowden

#### **Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

Team Leader: Harry Shaw  
Freda Gilchrist, Lynne Cartwright,  
Lynne Thompson, John Clydesdale,  
Maureen Paterson

#### **Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> December**

Team Leader: Barbara Watt  
William Watson (Sen),  
Gordon Waddell, Colin MacPherson,  
Lesley MacPherson, Carol Randall

#### **Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January**

Team Leader: Elizabeth Robertson  
George Lawson, Una Lawson,  
George Grant, Morag Stewart,  
George Murchison

#### **Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January**

Team Leader: David Gillespie  
Christine Cassells, Christine Gibb,  
Anne Grainge, David Paterson

#### **Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Team Leader: Bobby Forrest  
Mairi Mitchell, Jim Thomson,  
William Watson, Jean Kinniburgh,  
Alison Sefton

#### **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January**

Team Leader: Maggie Weir  
Anne Learmonth, Irene Bremner,  
Liz Riddell, Jim Nimmo

#### **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February**

Team Leader: Moira Gartshore  
Matt Fleming, Margaret Jarvie,  
George Randall, Ronnie Wright,  
Elaine McGuire

### **Thank You**

**Alistair and Ann Peacock** would like to thank everyone at the New Wellwynd for the lovely flowers received on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were very much appreciated.



## **The Power of Forgiveness**

Forgiveness is a powerful tool that can help heal relationships and mend broken hearts. It's not always easy to let go of grudges, but doing so can bring immense relief and allow us to move forward. During the festive period a little bit of forgiveness could:

- Help repair relationships with loved ones
- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Bring a sense of peace and closure
- Help us let go of negative emotions and focus on the good things in life.

So, if you're struggling with hurt or anger towards someone this Christmas season, consider the power of forgiveness. You may be surprised at how much lighter and happier you feel once you let go of those negative emotions.

*Phil Osopher*

## **Bernie the Reindeer!**

Everybody knows Rudolph, but nobody knows the second most famous reindeer in the world - Bernie the Reindeer! Santa Claus did not know what to do with Bernie. He did not like the cold or to be outside in the snow. He was too clumsy for the toy workshop as his antlers kept knocking things over and he ate everything he cooked in the kitchen. At last, Santa noticed that Bernie was always talking. Then, in a bright flash, he realized what Bernie could do. Bernie could answer the phone! Everybody was constantly calling, and Bernie would be perfect for this role. So Bernie got a job answering the phones and chatting to people all day long! Remember: Just like Bernie, there will always be something that you are good at. Even though, it might take some time to figure out!

## **Christmas Coal**

Two naughty boys begged their father to open one present on Christmas Eve. With a knowing look, their father handed them two big boxes filled with coal. "Just remember, this is only the first present." He wanted them to learn a lesson, but not to be too disappointed. Upon opening the coal, the two boys jumped up and down in excitement. Confused, the father looked at them, asking, "Why are you so excited about coal?" The youngest boy looked at him in exasperation. "You said this is only the first present, and we really didn't think Santa would bring us that train!"

## **Church Flowers**

On Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December the Flower Calendar for 2024 will be ready in the Church. The Calendar is located on the wall on the right hand side of the door as you leave the Church to go into the hall. If you wish to choose a specific Sunday to put flowers in the Church, please write your name against that date. If you are happy for the flower committee to organise and arrange your flowers just give your donation (about £25) to one of the Flower Conveners. Flowers will then be collected from the florist and arranged on your behalf. You may, however, wish to buy and arrange your own choice of flowers. You are very welcome to do so, but please let the flower Conveners know in advance. The flower service is very much appreciated – thank you.

Flower Conveners: Avril Cockburn (01236 769134), Margaret Jack (01236 767898)

**Marion Denholm** would like to express her sincere thanks for the Church Flowers she recently received following her short stay in hospital following her hip operation. The kindness and prayer support of the congregation was very much appreciated. Thanks also to Robbie for his love and care over the past months and especially for his home visit which again was very much appreciated.

**Margaret Goldie** would like to thank everyone at the New Wellwynd for the lovely flowers received on the occasion of her Ninetieth Birthday. Greatly appreciated.

## **Senior Circle**

The last meeting of the Senior Circle for 2023 is Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December when Avril and Helen will introduce us to some Arts and Crafts. The meeting commences at 2pm. Doors are open at 1.30pm for refreshments and some Christmas treats. Looking ahead to 2024 we will welcome Barbara Watt on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, George Randall on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, followed by Stewart Bone on the 5<sup>th</sup> February. We look forward to welcoming old and new friends to the Session Room on any or all of these dates. A happy and peaceful Christmas to one and all.

*Liz Riddell*

## **CAMEO**

Forthcoming meetings of CAMEO include our Advent Evening on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, a Beetle Drive on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January and our Burns Night on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January. All will be made welcome.

*Jean Kinniburgh*

## **Coffee Morning**

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 was the last Coffee Morning of the year. We would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us throughout the year. The first Coffee Morning in the New Year will be on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Irene and Mairi*



## The Whinha' Bible – A Christmas Tale

Isaac's heid began tae nod. His haun slowed doon scratchin th' dug's heid. It wis gie hard fur a boy o' ten tae stay awake a' nicht in th' field. The dug licked his face. "Whit? Oh, guid boy," Isaac said. He rubbed his een an stretched. The sky wis clear an fu o' stars. Isaac wis gled his faither thought he wis auld enough tae help wae their flocks o' sheep. Isaac's faither an his uncle soon came by tae check oan him. The three o' them sat tae share a loaf o' breid an some cheese. Suddenly, a bricht licht washed ower them fae above. They wir scared. They looked up tae see a gie big group o' beautiful angels. Wan o' the angels spoke tae them. "Dinnae be afraid," th' angel said. "I bring ye guid news o' great joy! Today a saviour is born in Bethlehem. He is Christ the Lord. Go tae th' city an ye'll find th' baby lyin in a manger. Jist follow that bricht star."

Hunners o' angels then appeared an sang praises tae God. Then whoosh, they aw disappeared! Only that wan bricht, shinin star ower Bethlehem wis left in th' sky. The shepherds' wir amazed. "We need tae go an fun this saviour," said Isaac's faither. "We must hurry!" said Isaac. Th' shepherds began tae round up their flocks an herd them hamewards. Wance the sheep wir penned up, Isaac an his faither, an his uncle walked quickly tae Bethlehem, whaur th' star wis shinin doon oan th' stable behind th' inn. There they fun Mary, Joseph, an th' baby in th' stable. Jesus wis bundled in clean cloths an sleepin in a feedin trough ful o' fresh hay. Th' licht fae th' star shone back fae th' wee weans face. Th' shepherds fell tae their knees. Isaac knelt by th' manger an said a wee prayer, thankin God fur givin a saviour tae th' world. Isaac's faither thanked Mary and Joseph for lettin them see th' baby. When th' shepherds left, they then telt everywan about th' miracles they hid witnessed that nicht.

The star shone ower Bethlehem baith day an nicht. Wan nicht a group o' men oan camels past th' shepherd's field. Isaac went tae th' edge o' th' field and shouted out tae them. "Did ye see th' wan they ca' Jesus?" he asked. "We did!" th' men replied. These men wir nae like any men Isaac hid ever seen. They wir th' Three Wise Men. "We saw th' star fae oor lands far awa'. We've travelled a lang way tae see this child ca'd th' Saviour. The Kings fae oor countries hiv sent precious gifts tae gie tae him." Isaac said tae th' Wise Men, "You didnae come by my fields when you came tae Bethlehem." "You're richt," said th' tallest man. "We asked King Herod where tae find this saviour." "The King didnae ken," continued th' man, "but he telt us tae find oot so he micht worship him tae." "We followed the star tae th' hoos whaur young Jesus wis stayin, an gied oor gifts o' gold, frankincense an myrrh," said th' shortest man. "Then we wir warned in oor dreams by an angel nae tae return tae Herod but tae go hame anither way," said th' auldest man. "So that's whit wir daein. An noo we hiv met you, my young frien." "I am Isaac," said th' young shepherd. "I'm tellin everywan about God's glorious star lichtin th' way tae the King o' Kings." Merry Christmas tae wan an aw'

*George Randall*



## Nearly New

Everyone at the Nearly New would like thank one and all for their continued support throughout the past year. The total amount raised from the sale of many varied items was £5,315. This makes a running total of £50,977 since starting way back in 2006. The Nearly New is now closed for the time being and will reopen in the New Year on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2024!

*Liz Hannah*

## Some thoughts for a New Year!

"The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart."

"If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough."

"When the world is so complicated, the simple gift of friendship is within all of our hands."

"Keep smiling, because life is a beautiful thing and there's so much to smile about."

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace."

"Be happy, be bright, be you. Happiness depends on yourself."

### Useful Contacts

**Locum Minister:** Bill Henderson  
01698 829938

**Session Clerk Pro Tem:** David Watt  
01698 853921

**Treasurer:** David Watt  
01698 853921

**Gift Aid:** David Walker  
01236 747075

**Roll Keeper:** Allister Jack  
01236 767898

**Hall Convener:** John Clydesdale  
07512912016

**Magazine Editor:** George Randall  
01236 763102

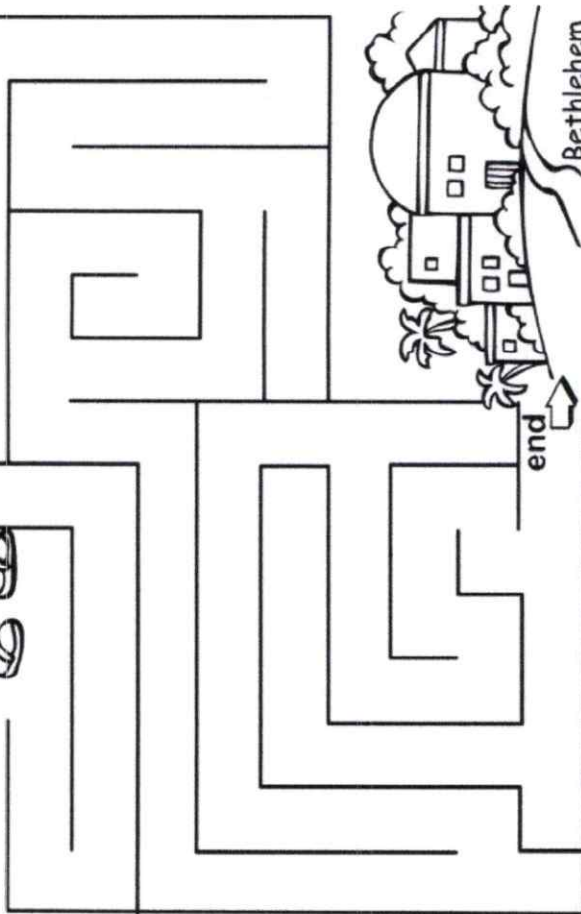
**Organist:** David Stewart  
07774674345

# A LONG JOURNEY

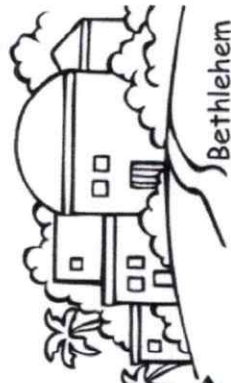
Help Mary and Joseph find the way to Bethlehem.



start



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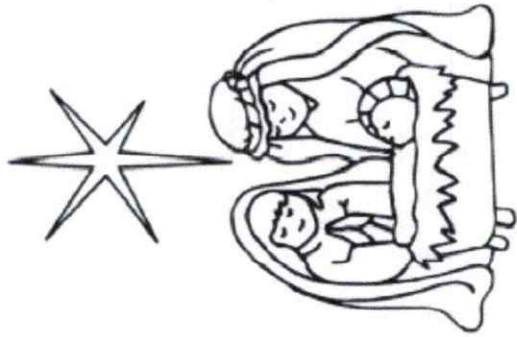


Joseph and Mary went on a long journey from the town of Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem.  
(Luke 2:1-5)

## Nativity Word Scramble

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

1. STRA      ---
2. MAGREN      ---
3. MYAR      ---
4. SEPHE      ---
5. DOEYKN      ---
6. AEGLN      ---
7. JPHOES      ---
8. JSSEU      ---
9. KIGSN      ---
10. STBALE      ---



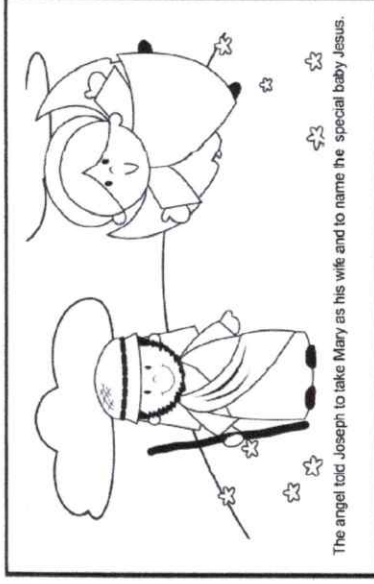


# The Story of Jesus' Birth

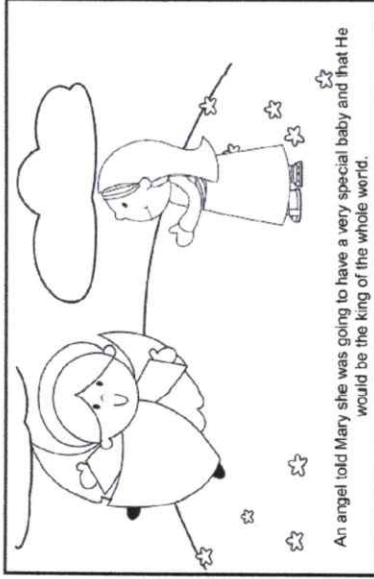
## A King is Born!



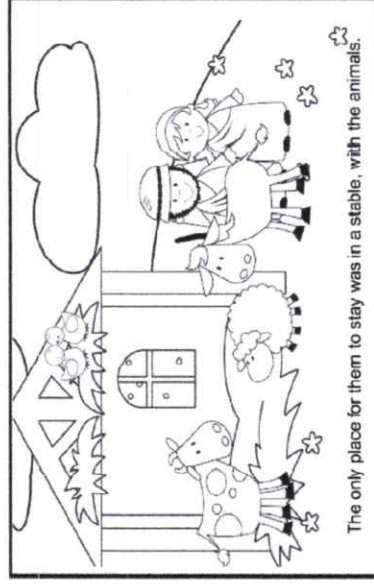
## Kids' Corner



The angel told Joseph to take Mary as his wife and to name the special baby Jesus.



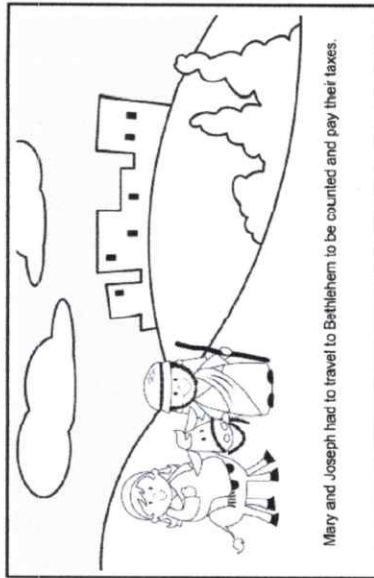
An angel told Mary she was going to have a very special baby and that He would be the king of the whole world.



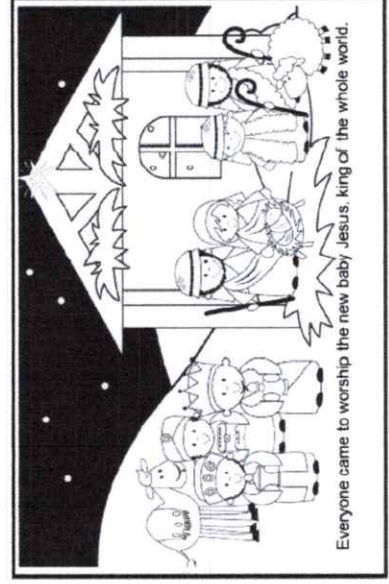
The only place for them to stay was in a stable, with the animals.



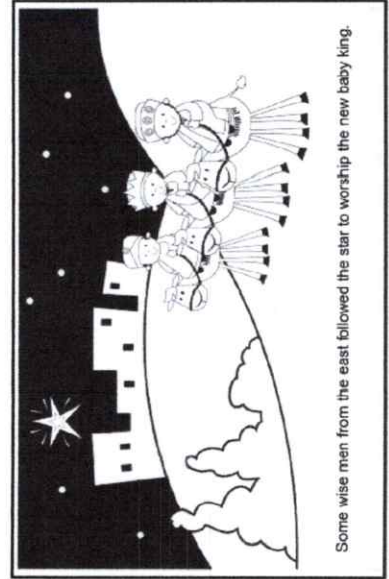
When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem the city was full and there were no open rooms to stay in.



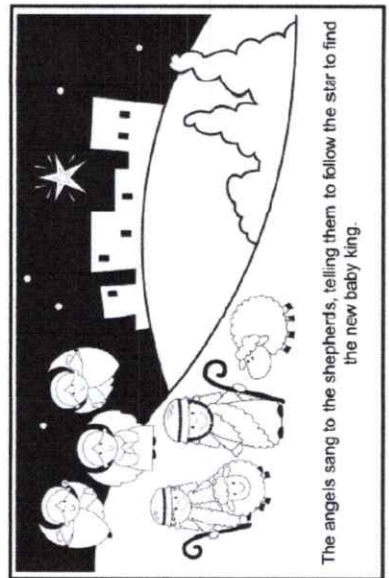
Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted and pay their taxes.



Everyone came to worship the new baby Jesus, king of the whole world.



Some wise men from the east followed the star to worship the new baby king.



The angels sang to the shepherds, telling them to follow the star to find the new baby king.