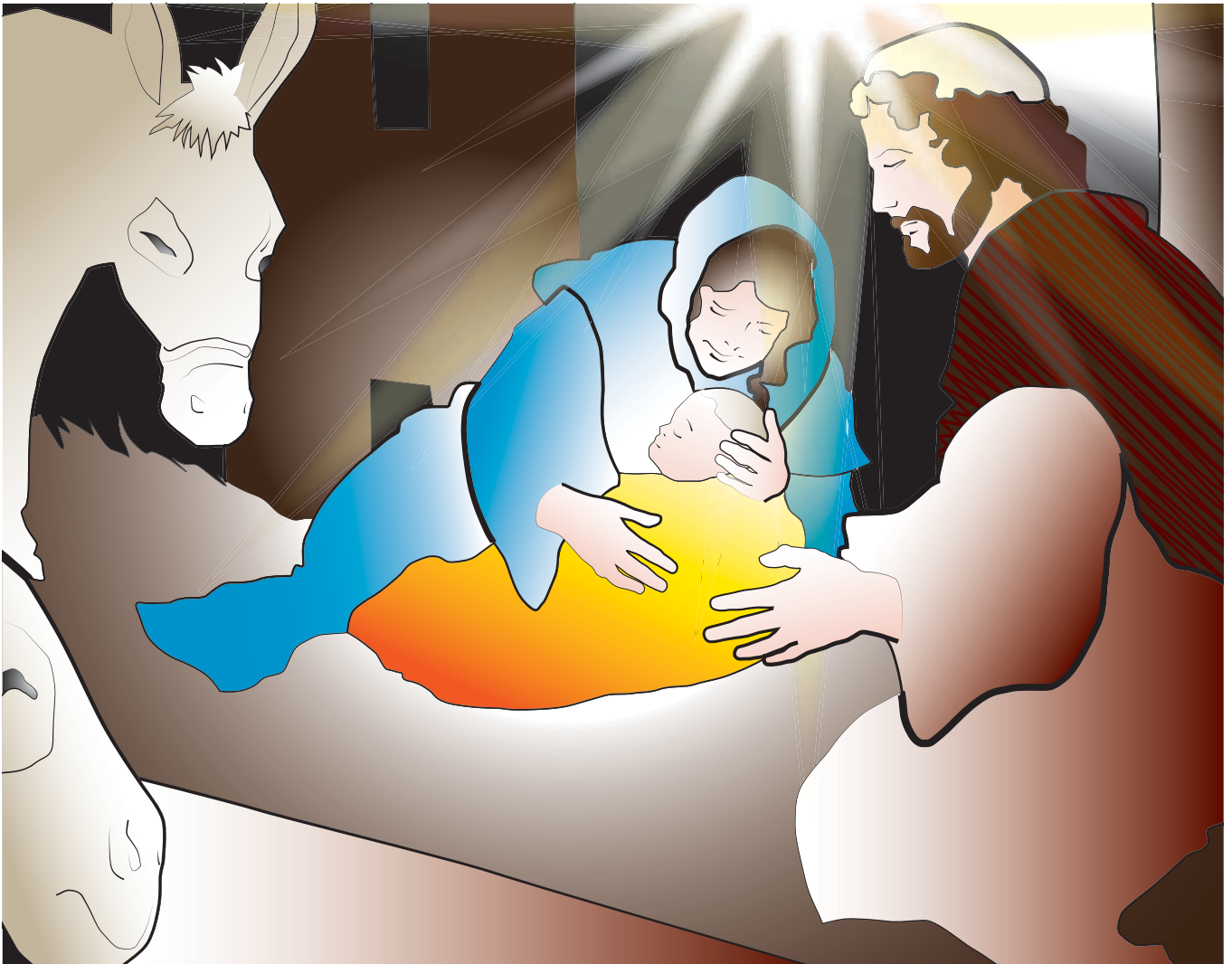


The story of Christmas



A plain English version
in words and pictures

Who and what are in the Christmas Story ?

- 1 Mary wants to do what God asks of her
- 2 The angel visits Joseph
- 3 Mary visits Elizabeth
- 4 Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem
- 5 The birth of Jesus
- 6 The shepherds and the angels
- 7 The Wise Men travel to worship Jesus
- 8 The visit of the Wise Men
- 9 Jesus, Mary and Joseph travel to Egypt
- 10 Jesus, Mary and Joseph return from Egypt



Jesus



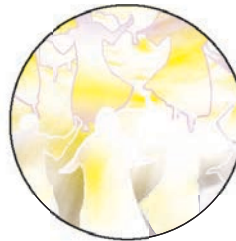
Mary



Joseph



An angel



The angels



Elizabeth



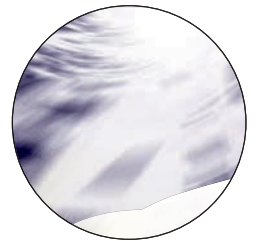
Bethlehem



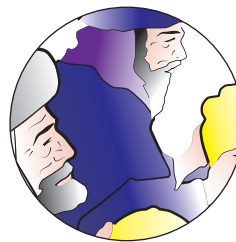
The innkeeper



The shepherds



the star



The Wise Men



donkey

1 Mary wants to do what God asks of her

Luke 1:26-30



An angel came to visit Mary and said, "Hello special lady. God is with you!" Mary was confused when the angel said "Do not be afraid. God loves you."

The angel told Mary "You will have a baby and you will call him Jesus. He will be very holy. He will be called the Son of God."

Mary asked how this was possible; but the angel said to her "Nothing is impossible for God." Mary said to the angel that she was willing to do what God wanted of her. She wanted to serve God.



An angel



Mary

Who is in the
Christmas story?

2 The angel visits Joseph

Matthew 1:20-21



Mary was preparing to marry Joseph, and it was a surprise for him to learn that Mary was going to have a baby.

An angel came to visit him in a dream and said to Joseph "Do not be afraid to marry Mary. Mary is going to have a baby boy who will be called Jesus – the Son of God."

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel told him to do and married Mary.



Joseph



An angel

Who is in the
Christmas story?

3 Mary visits Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-56



The angel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was also going to have a baby, even though she was very old, so Mary went to visit Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth saw Mary and they hugged, the baby inside Elizabeth leapt for joy. Mary said, "Oh, how I praise the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!"

Mary stayed at Elizabeth's house for three months and then went back home.



Mary



Elizabeth

Who is in the Christmas story?

4 Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25



Bethlehem



donkey



Joseph



Mary



The innkeeper

They made a law in those days that everyone in the world had to register in the town their family had come from.

Joseph's family came from the House of David from Bethlehem. So Joseph went there with Mary to Bethlehem, a place in the Holy Land.

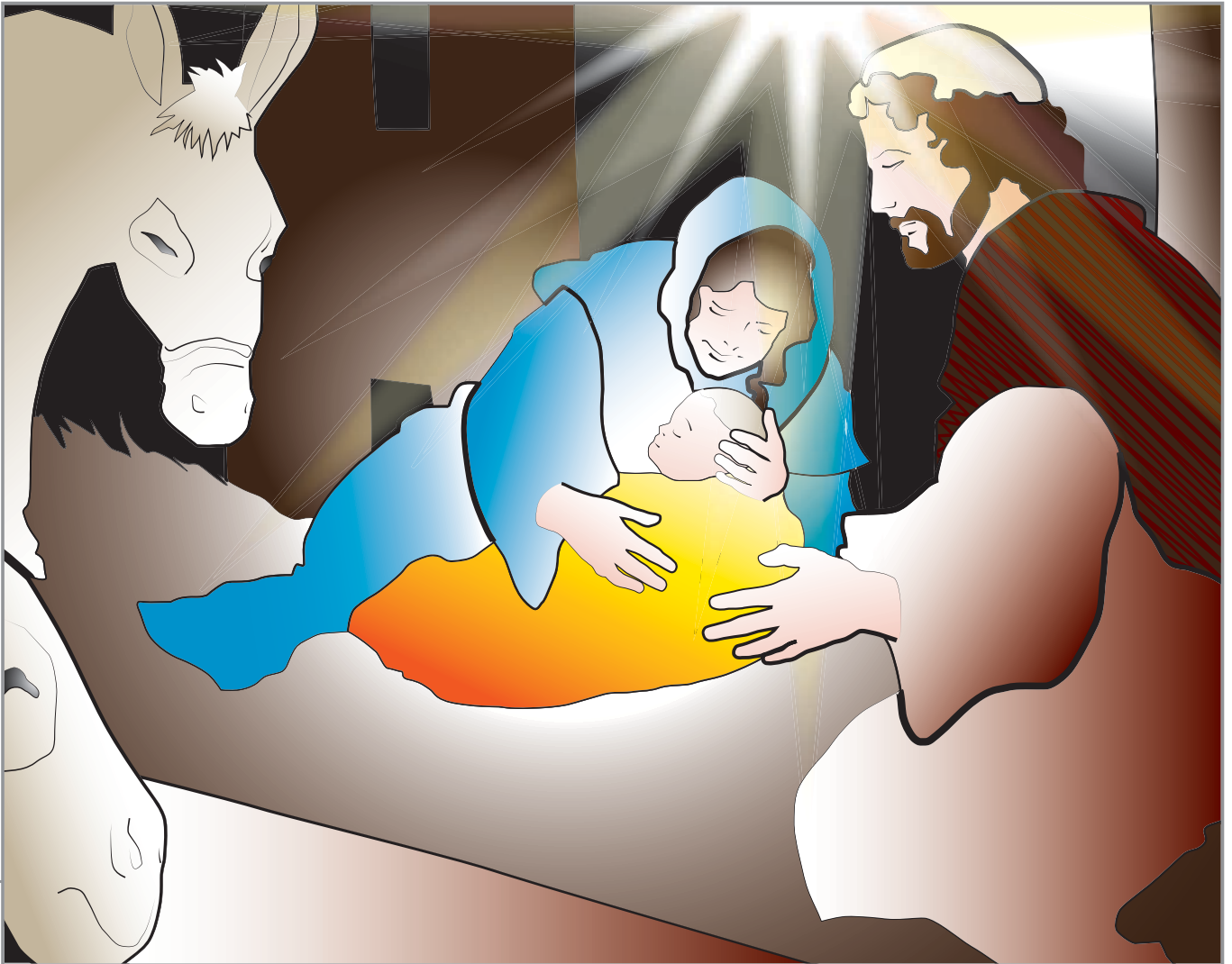
It was not an easy journey because it was nearly time for Mary's baby to be born. When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room for them at the inn.

The only place the innkeeper could offer them was a place in the stable with the farm animals.

Who is in the Christmas story?

5 The birth of Jesus

Matthew 1:25, Luke 2:6-7



While Mary and Joseph were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby.

And they named him Jesus, as the angel had said.

Mary wrapped him in a cloth and laid him in a manger which was soft because it had hay in it for the animals.

Who is in the Christmas story?



Jesus



Mary



Joseph



donkey

6 The shepherds and the angels

Luke 2:8-18



Near to where Jesus was born, there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their sheep. Suddenly, an angel stood before the shepherds, and they were afraid.

The angel said to the shepherds "Do not be afraid. Today in Bethlehem, the Son of God, was born. He is called Jesus and you will find him in a stable laying in a manger." Suddenly, more angels appeared praising God, and saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to people on earth".



The shepherds



The angels

Who is in the
Christmas story?

7 The Wise Men travel to worship Jesus

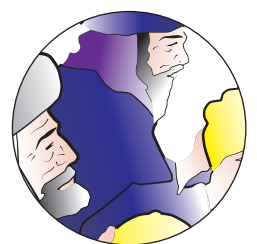
Matthew 2:1-6



After Jesus was born, Wise Men from far away came to Bethlehem asking “Where is the child who was born the King of the Jews? For, we have seen his star and have come to worship him.”

When the King who was called Herod heard this, he called for the Wise Men and asked them when the star had appeared.

Then King Herod told them to report back to him when they had found Jesus, so that he, too, could worship him.



The Wise Men

Who is in the
Christmas story?

8 The visit of the Wise Men

Matthew 2:7-12



The Wise Men were very happy when the star led them to Jesus. When they entered the stable and saw Mary with Jesus, they gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh*, and praised God for showing them Jesus.

* Frankincense and Myrrh are used in perfumes as they have a pleasant smell.

The Wise Men were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod. Herod was frightened by Jesus because he thought Jesus would be more popular than him. And so he wanted to kill him.

Who is in the Christmas story?



Jesus



Mary



Joseph



The Wise Men

9 Jesus, Mary and Joseph travel to Egypt

Matthew 2:13-15



After the Wise Men left, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Take the baby and Mary and go to Egypt. Remain there until I tell you it is safe to return. King Herod is looking for Jesus and he wants to kill him."

So, Jesus, Mary and Joseph got up at night time and went to Egypt, and they remained there until the death of King Herod.

Who is in the Christmas story?



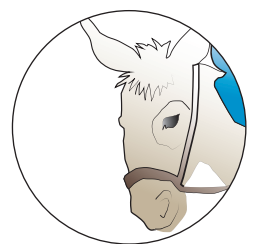
Jesus



Mary



Joseph



donkey

10 Jesus, Mary and Joseph return from Egypt

Matthew 2:19-23



When King Herod died, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him it was now safe to return home from Egypt.

The angel said, "Get up, take Jesus and Mary and go back to Israel. Those who wanted to kill Jesus are dead."

So, Joseph took Mary and Jesus and went home.

Who is in the Christmas story?



Jesus



Mary



Joseph



donkey

The God who Speaks: The Year of the Word



The God who Speaks is an exciting initiative between Bible Society and the Catholic Church which focuses on celebrating, living and sharing God's word throughout England and Wales.

Our Vision

Scripture is foundational to the life of the Catholic Church and so we want to enable deeper Scriptural engagement in every diocese.

We want to create new and renewed encounters with Christ through the Scriptures. We want to achieve transformation in the faith and life of our Church and in the public arena through evangelisation, education, creative arts and social action.

Our Themes

1 Celebrating God's Word

enriching our worshipping and spiritual community.

2 Living God's Word

enriching our social action and outreach.

3 Sharing God's Word

enriching our formation, proclamation and evangelisation.

The Bible inspires learning, culture, art, music and literature. It enables science and faith to build up mutual understanding through dialogue. It challenges technology and social media to open up new ways to encounter and share Christ in the world. The Bible can break down barriers and build strong communities through working together for the common good.

For more information about this Scripture initiative go to godwhospeaks.uk



straight forward stories from Bible Society