



**Shem the shepherd has lost his sheep!** He wants to go and see the baby, Jesus, who the angels spoke about, but he must find his sheep first! He knows that he went into these shops - will you help him find his missing sheep?

Each sheep has a name. When you find them write their names in the boxes below.

Tesco	Montagu's
The Entertainer	Trespass
Mamas & Papas	Boots
Clarks	Next
HairOTT	Little Soles
Sweets & Treats	Vision Express
Marks and Spencer	Imagin
Starbucks	Explore Learning
Cineworld	Mystery location!



# The Christmas Story

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



Before Jesus was born, 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 fields, 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 had brought good news. He told them that Jesus had been born and that he would be the person who would save not just their people but 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 were filled with hope and told everybody they could find about Jesus and about how he was going to save the world.

Later on, some wise visitors 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 God loves us and to give us hope for the future. Each Christmas we give each other presents to show people that we love them.

What gift would you give to Jesus? There's space for your answer on the other side of this leaflet.

## What do I do now?

1. Find the sheep in the shops. Write down the names of the sheep.
2. There is one bonus sheep who has not got lost and is close to where she's meant to be. Can you find her?
3. Take the completed leaflet home. Colour in the picture and write down what your gift for Jesus would be.
4. Bring your leaflet along to our **Crib Service** at **4pm on 24th December** in Whiteley Community Centre and be part of the story.

If you live further away why not find out what your local church is doing?

### Advent and Christmas with **WHITELEY CHURCH**

You would be very welcome at any of our Advent & Christmas services:

(all in Whiteley Community Centre unless stated otherwise)

Sunday 3rd December 4-6pm **Messy Christingle** **First @ 4** **Messy Christmas**  
at **Cornerstone C of E Primary** donations to The Children's Society

Sunday 10th December 10.15am **Nativity Service**

Join in with a retelling of the Christmas story at our all-age morning service.

2.30-4.30pm **Carol Singing in the Shopping Centre**

Sunday 17th December 6.30pm **Carols by Candlelight**

Carols and readings with Western Wards Community Choir

Tuesday 19th December 5-7pm **Carol Singing in the Shopping Centre**

Sunday 24th December 4pm **Crib Service**

Help to assemble the crib and sing carols as the Christmas story is told.

followed at 6.30pm by carols outside the Solent Hotel

with Salvation Army brass and led by representatives from local churches

Sunday 24th December 11.15pm **Midnight Communion**

All are welcome at this service **at the Solent Hotel**

Monday 25th December 10.15am **Christmas Day**

Family Communion. All are welcome

My gift for Jesus would be:



Thank you for taking part in the 'Messy Nativity' Sheep Trail  
an activity made in collaboration with **WHITELEY CHURCH**

We meet each Sunday for Worship in Whiteley Community Centre,  
Gull Coppice at 10.15am on 2nd and 4th Sundays and at 4pm  
on 1st and 3rd Sundays for 'First @ 4 Messy Church' (not January and August) or  
'Outside the Box'. All ages are welcome at all services.  
Check our Facebook page for details.



[www.whiteleychurch.org.uk](http://www.whiteleychurch.org.uk)