

# Trailing Bible Tales

Connecting with your local community  
through Seasonal Interactive Trails



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# Trailing Bible Tales

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This resource will help you to design an interactive trail around your community that involves local shops, churches and the people who live and work close by.

It's a great way to nurture relationships outside your church. There will be few shops that won't want to take part; indeed, most will be pleased to be invited. Easter and Christmas are an easy place to begin – people expect churches to be active at this time – and it will help you gain the confidence to engage with the community around your church at other times in the year. People will get to know you, stop to chat, and eventually ask faith based questions as they become more comfortable.

These resources are for Easter and Christmas, but you can alter them to fit any Bible story you like. The structure, and how you do it, will remain the same; you just need a bit of imagination. For example, you might use the story of Joseph and his Dreamcoat, followed through your community by his brothers, the slave traders and their camels, the Pharaoh. Then you're not restricted to specific seasons if you think it would work. The world is your oyster, really.



1. Think about other links in the community you could partner up with, such as TARA (Tenant and Resident Association) groups, or community forums. If they're already doing things, you could piggyback your trail, or maybe they'd just like to get involved with what you're doing and support it. It gives your project some kudos, and it makes it much easier to get the larger shops and chains on side.
2. If you decide to give prizes, perhaps some local businesses would be happy to donate. The big supermarkets are often happy to do this, and usually have a Community Liaison Officer you can contact to discuss. Some chain coffee shops also like to get involved. Just don't buy the prizes yourself!
3. It's all about the timing, Spike. Begin with the date you want to finish your trail and work your way back. Don't make your last day Easter Sunday or Christmas Eve, people are too busy, so pick your final day carefully. Think about how many weekends you are allowing for working people to take part, think about any Bank Holidays, and times when your venues might be closed. If there is a community event (such as a Christmas fayre, or Christmas lights switch-on) you could give the prizes out at this.
4. Publicity isn't just flyers and posters. Does your community have a Facebook page or an online forum? Are there community noticeboards? And if you do hand out flyers, stop to chat with the venue/people receiving them. Do you have a foot in the door with the local school?



5. Other crafters are vital. You can't make your trail characters all by yourself. If your church doesn't have any crafters, then find out where your local crafting groups are. Spend time with them before, during and after your trail. Nothing pogs someone off more than feeling that the church is interested in them only when they want something. So keep up the contact after your Trail is long gone.
6. Don't be too ambitious. Control the number of venues taking part. More than 40(!) will be waaaay too much to handle well. Liaise with your venues before you do anything else. If you know the number of venues taking part, you can then cut your cloth accordingly.
7. Distribution: it's really useful to have help with this if you've got a lot of venues. But don't just get your helpers involved at distribution. They will need to be a part of the relationship you build up with your venues, so make sure you take them with you (one at a time!) when you visit - also useful to have helpers.
8. Be aware of your venues' locations – as in where they are able to display your trail figures. Places that don't have much window space could display a cardboard version. Or perhaps the venue puts blinds down when closed (florists and clothes shops often do this), in which case a cardboard version could sit between blind and window.





# Exploring Easter



**There are two kinds of Easter trails offered here. One is where Easter chicks are hosted by local businesses, giving people opportunity to find them, usually throughout Holy Week or the schools' Easter holidays.**

**The other is using posters and postcards to create a very simple trail, with Easter resources to give away.**



# Easter Chick Trail

Here's how the Easter Chick Trail works:

- 1. Make a list of all the shops and public places in your community: supermarkets; corner shops; independent shops; charity shops; cafes; chemists; library... Don't be afraid to go to places you might not usually go to, such as tattoo parlours, vape stores, pubs and betting shops. Just remember that your trail is for families and children, so only include these if they have a window people can access without going in if they are underage. You might be pleasantly surprised at the community spirit that resides in the most daunting of places!**
- 2. Back at your church, invite everyone who uses your building to make an Easter chick. So you might want to put up some posters and display flyers asking people to help. There is an example of a poster and a flyer on pages 20 & 23. But don't leave it to bits of paper; it really helps if you talk to people about your plans, so visit the groups that use your church; talk to people at the coffee mornings and lunch clubs; talk to the congregation.**
- 3. To make it easy, provide patterns for people to follow: knitting patterns; crochet patterns; patterns for chicks made from paper etc. You will find some examples on pages 13 - 19. It helps to provide the**







The barber...

materials too, as well as a box in the church where people can leave their creations. You need to make it as easy and pain free as you can for people to join in.

4. Maybe your church is part of a Churches Together group. Why not involve the other churches in making chicks? They might be glad of an Easter project, especially if someone else is doing all the grunt work!
5. Once you know exactly which local businesses are taking part, you need to make a leaflet with a 'tick list' that participants in the trail can use to track down all the chicks. There is an example on page 22.
6. You will need to make your tick list easy to get hold of. Leave copies in all the participating businesses, public spaces and churches. If you have links with the local schools and nurseries, perhaps you can distribute your tick list there too.
7. How do you know if participants have found all the chicks? How do you know they haven't pretended to find them? Partner up each chick with an Easter factoid. Then ask your participants to list each factoid as they find each chick. There is a



## The local DIY store...

- selection for you to choose from on pages 25 –30
8. Something to remember here is that shops are really good at mislaying things, so make sure you have more chicks than you need, and spare copies of your factoids. You will need to call in regularly on your ‘chick hosts’ to make sure they still have their chicks and their factoids. And it’s another perfect excuse to drop by and chat, make friends, cement local relationships.
  9. Make sure you have set a specific timescale for the hunt itself. It’s a really good idea to line it up with the local school holidays. Your ‘chick hosts’ need to know how long your chick will be with them.
  10. There will be times when your ‘chick hosts’ are closed; the Easter bank holiday, or half day closing. You’ll need to include this detail on your participants’ leaflet. It saves disappointment if a participant visits the last host on the last day of the trail to find it closed.
  11. Why not offer a day at the close of the trail when your participants can hand in their tick list?





The butcher....poor little chick looks like he's going to be a snack!

Perhaps you can give them a small reward, like a crème egg or similar. It gives your trail a point, and encourages people to take part. Perhaps Good Friday might work? Churches often have a public witness in a public place. You could set up a table for participants to come to.

12. During the time people are making chicks, you will need nerves of steel. You may be only a day or two away from your launch, and your chick box remains quite empty. But people will often leave it until the very last minute before delivering their contribution. That said, it helps to be a bit belt and braces, and have a few chicks of your own just in case!
13. Remember, once your trail is over, you must revisit all your 'chick hosts' to collect your chicks, factoids, posters and any leftover tick lists. It doesn't help your cause to litter shops with out of date material. It will also make them very happy bunnies (har har!) if you give them something for their support – yet more creme eggs perhaps?



And the baker (there wasn't a candlestick maker, unfortunately).



# Chick Patterns



## Make chicks using cardboard plant pots.

These would be really easy for children to do. At the time of writing you can buy cardboard compostable pots from B&Q, £2.30 for a pack of 48. You can use yellow emulsion to paint them.

Pipe cleaners are readily available from Hobbycraft, or you can simplify by making them a round cardboard base with feet that stick out beyond the edge of the cup. The wings can also be made out of the same yellow card, and the beak out of red card. You can draw the eyes on with a black Sharpie pen/permanent marker. Use PVA glue, which is water soluble, and sticks best to the cardboard pot.



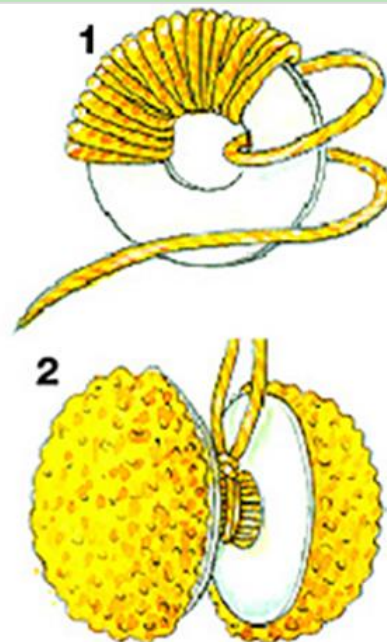
## Pompom chicks

Hopefully everyone knows how to make pompoms!

If not find out here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXFCO3LBJss>

You only need one yellow pompom to make a chick, with card to make a beak, and googly eyes (available from Hobbycraft and Ryman's). Again, PVA glue will stick everything on.



# Knitted Chicks

This pattern is for a crème egg cover, but instead of putting a crème egg inside, ask people to stuff their chicks instead. Wadding is around £4 a bag, which will be more than ample to stuff chicks. It's a pretty easy pattern and shouldn't be too tricky for an experienced knitter. It might need a bit of tweaking to make it stuffable, but that's not beyond the capabilities of a seasoned knitter.

To make the chicks you will need:  
Yellow or Lemon Double Knit wool  
A pair of needles UK Size 11  
Orange felt for the beaks  
Black felt or thread for eyes.  
Cotton wool to stuff  
Coloured ribbon to finish off.

1. Cast on 26 stitches.
2. Knit 1 row.
3. Increase 1 st at the beginning of every row until 42 st. are on the needle.
4. Cast off 11 st. at the beginning of next 2 rows. [20 st].
5. Increase 1 st at the beginning of the next 4 rows [24st]
6. k4 rows
7. k2 then 2 together to last 2 st. k2. [14 stitches].
8. k4 rows.
9. k2 then 2 together to last 2 stitches. k2.
10. Draw wool through remaining stitches and pull tight.
11. Sew with that piece of wool round the edge of work to the beginning stitch leaving the cast on edge open so that egg can be inserted.
12. Stuff the head with a cotton wool ball and sew around



- the neck and gather in.
13. Sew 2 eyes with fine black wool and stick or sew a small diamond shaped piece of orange felt for the beak. Try a few beaks to get the size right.
  14. Tie a thin piece of ribbon around the neck and tie in a bow.

## Crochet Chicks

Courtesy of [www.lookwhatimade.net](http://www.lookwhatimade.net)



You will need:

4mm crochet hook

Double knit yarn (light worsted weight/#3) in 2 colours (or more if you want stripes)

A tiny amount of stuffing

Yarn needle

Buttons for the eyes (alternatively you can embroider some eyes)

Scrap yarn to use as stitch marker (optional)

Abbreviations

**BLO** – Back Loop Only

**CC** – Contrasting Colour





**Ch** – Chain

**FLO** – Front Loop Only

**MC** – Main Colour

**Sc** – Single Crochet

**St/st's** – Stitch/stitches

## Special Instructions

**Running Stitch Marker** – Use a piece of scrap yarn as a running stitch marker. This will form a dotted line up your work, marking the first stitch of every round and giving you a visual confirmation that every round started where it was supposed to. This dotted line should creep slightly to the right (*left, if you are left-handed*).

## Instructions

### Beak

1. **With CC:** Ch 2. Make 3 sc's in the second ch from the hook. Ch 1 and turn. {3}
2. Make 2 sc's in each of the 3 st's. Ch 1 and fasten off. {6}

### Chick

#### Foundation Chain

**With MC:** Ch 3. The next 3 st's will be worked into the beak you made above. Insert your hook from back to front into the third st of the last row of the beak and from front to back into the 4th st of the last row. This will naturally fold the beak in half. Make a sc through both layers. Make 2 more sc's through both layers of the folded beak Ch 7. **Turn the chain so that the back of**



**the chain is facing you!** *If you don't do this, your beak will be on the inside of your chick!*

## Round 1

Sc in the top loop only of the second ch from the hook, making sure that the back of the chain is facing you. Sc in the top loop only of the next 5 ch's. You should now have 6 sc's. This will bring you to the 3 sc's made into the beak. Sc in the FLO of the next 3 sc's. Sc in the top loop only of the next 2 ch's. Make 4 sc's in the last ch. You will now continue working around the foundation chain, and into the remaining loops of each ch. Sc in the next 2 ch's. Sc in the BLO of the 3 sc's across the beak (so the loops remaining from when you worked into the FLO before). Sc in the next 5 ch's. Make 3 sc's in the last ch, which will already contain a sc

Now you will continue working in a spiral, so you won't turn and you won't join. You will just make the first stitch of the next round in the first stitch of this round. Suggestion: use a piece of scrap yarn as a running stitch marker. Alternatively use a stitch marker to mark the first st of each round.

## Rounds 2 – 12

Sc in each stitch around.

### Adding the Eyes

The easiest way to attach the eyes is to sew them on when you have completed 6 or 7 rounds. Suggestion: sew eyes on over one of the stitches in round 3 (in line



with the top of the beak).

## Round 13

Sc in the next 9 st's. *You should end up in the middle of one of the sides of your chick* Fold the back of the chick flat (using the last st as an edge guide)

Sc into each st and through both layers, stuffing your chick as you go. When you get to the end, ch 1 and fasten off. Work away your ends of yarn.



**On the following pages you will find sample publicity that you can adapt for your own community**



- 1. Advertising poster for your church and participating businesses**
  - 2. Chick request flyer**
  - 3. Double-sided Easter hunt tick list**
- EXAMPLE**



# **'WE'RE GOING ON A CHICK HUNT'**

*(insert church name)* **EASTER TRAIL**



*(insert church name/s)* is/are holding a chick hunt from *(insert start/end dates)*

**Please help us find our chicks!  
They are hiding in the local  
shops**

**Pick up a form from:**

*(insert here where tick list forms can be found)*



**'WE'RE GOING ON A CHICK HUNT'**  
*(insert community)* **EASTER**  
**TRAIL**



*(insert church name/s) is/ are holding*  
a chick hunt for Holy Week *(insert date)*.

**Please help us make some chicks!**

Look out for the patterns or design your  
OWN.



**'WE'RE GOING ON A CHICK HUNT'**  
*(insert community)* **EASTER**  
**TRAIL**



*(insert church name/s) is/ are holding*  
a chick hunt for Holy Week *(insert date)*.

**Please help us make some chicks!**

Look out for the patterns or design your  
OWN.



LOCATION	Fascinating Fact
Co-op, Chapel Street	
Robert Hughes Optician, Chapel Street <i>Not open 30 &amp; 31 March</i>	
Brookes Baker, Chapel Street <i>Early closing 30 March</i>	
Chaps Barber, Chapel Street	
Skin Candi, Chapel Street	
Jems, Chapel Street <i>Open only 27-28 March</i>	
Hair Lounge, Vicar Lane	
Strands, Cross Street	

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Please hand in your completed form:

At the Easter Cross at *(insert venue)* on  
Good Friday *(insert date/time)*

or

At *(insert venue)* on *(insert date)* between  
*(insert start/finish time)*

and receive an Easter egg



Which was your favourite Easter fact?

# We're Going on a Chick Hunt!



*(insert to/from date)*

Easter chicks are hiding in some of our local shops from *(insert start date)*. Can you help us find them?

**Each chick will have an Easter fact – all you need to do is find the chicks and write down the fact you have learnt.**

Then hand in your completed form at the Easter cross *(insert venue)* on Good Friday, *(insert date/time)*, or at *(insert venue)* on *(insert date/time)*



These are resources to use as a part of your Chick Hunt and include:

Fascinating facts. Put one of these with each of your chicks. People can then make a note of these on your tick list.

Name badges. You can use these instead of fascinating facts. Give each of your chicks a name. Write it on the card and fold the card over so it stands up. Put one with each chick, and people make a note of each chick's name on your ticklist. Don't forget to adapt the ticklist so you're asking people to list the

## Fascinating Facts

chicks' names instead of their fascinating fact.

(to use with your chicks)

These facts on pages 25 - 30 will be great with your



chicks. They are mix of Christian, pagan, folklore and other stuff. Mix it up a bit. People don't mind faith based info so much when its mixed in with stuff about bunnies.







**Did you know.....**

**Eggs were a symbol of life to Ancient Egyptians, Persians, Romans and Greeks.**



**Did you know.....**

**Easter is the oldest Christian holiday.**



**Did you know.....**

**Lilies are a flower often associated with Easter. The petals face downward because they are said to be saddened by the death of Jesus on Good Friday.**



**Did you know.....**

**Members of the Greek Orthodox faith often paint their Easter eggs red.**  
**The colour red is symbolic of the renewal of life, and therefore, Jesus' return to life on Easter Sunday.**



**Did you know.....**

**Easter Sunday is the day that Christians remember that Jesus came back to life; it is a day of celebration and the day that we exchange gifts of eggs.**



**Did you know.....**

**Good Friday is the day Christians remember how Jesus died. It is called Good Friday because Jesus died for the *good* of mankind.**



**Did you know.....**

**The word Easter dates back to early England; it is thought to relate to the Pagan goddess of spring and fertility Ēostre (also called Ostara).**



**Did you know.....**

**People used to think hares laid eggs. Hares have their babies in spring. People used to think they hatched from eggs – another reason eggs are linked to new life, fertility and Easter.**



**Did you know.....**

**Easter is celebrated at different times by Eastern and Western Christians. That's because the dates for Easter are based on different calendars – the Julian and the Gregorian.**



**Did you know.....**

**The first historical evidence of the Easter Bunny can be found in a 16th-century German tale: a mysterious creature called Oschter Haws, or Easter Hare, visited children during the night and rewarded them for their good behaviour.**



**Did you know.....**

**The pretzel, a sort of biscuit, thought to have been invented in the first century, used to be linked with Easter because its shape resembles arms crossed in prayer.**



**Did you know.....**

**Simnel cake is a special Eastertime fruit cake decorated on the top with marzipan and 11 marzipan balls representing 11 of Jesus' disciples. Judas is left out because he betrayed Jesus to the authorities.**



**Did you know.....**

**Lent refers to the forty days from the day after Pancake Day to Easter Day – but it doesn't include Sundays!**



**Did you know.....**

**The day after Pancake Day is called Ash Wednesday. You sometimes see people marking this day with an ash cross on their forehead.**



**Did you know.....**

**Easter in the UK takes place at the beginning of spring and a time of sowing seeds, but in Australia it is harvest time, the time for gathering in all the crops that have grown.**



**Did you know.....**

**In Mediaeval times, people were not allowed to eat milk and eggs throughout the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter. So they used them up making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday - what we often call Pancake Day.**



**Did you know.....**

**Lamb is traditionally eaten at Easter. This is because Christians often refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God, and because the Jewish faith eats lamb at Passover – a festival that took place at the time of Jesus’ death, and which still takes place at the same time as the Christian Easter.**



**Did you know.....**

**Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. Christians believe this to be the day Jesus shared his Last Supper with His disciples. Maundy means ‘command’ – the command Jesus gave that ‘we love one another’.**



**Did you know.....**

**The tradition of wearing Easter bonnets is related to the celebration of new life and the coming of spring. The first bonnets were actually circles or wreaths of leaves and spring flowers but the tradition eventually developed into the wearing of extravagant hats often decorated with spring flowers.**



**Did you know.....**

**Decorating and colouring eggs for Easter was the custom in England during the Middle Ages.**

**The household accounts of Edward I, for the year 1290, recorded an expenditure of eighteen pennies for four hundred and fifty eggs to be gold-leafed and coloured for Easter gifts.**



**Did you know.....**

**When eating a chocolate bunny rabbit, 76 per cent of people bite the ears off first. Ouch!**



**Did you know.....**

**Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. This is the day Christians remember that Jesus went to Jerusalem. People were so pleased and excited to see Him that they scattered palm leaves along the road before Him, like we would lay a red carpet today.**

# Name Badges

(to use with your chicks)

Use these if you don't want to use the facts. Give your chicks cutey names. Everybody likes a chick with a cutey name...



**Hello, my name is**



.....

I'm part of the  
Easter Trail

**Hello, my name is**



.....

I'm part of the  
Easter Trail

**Hello, my name is**



.....

I'm part of the  
Easter Trail

**Hello, my name is**



.....

I'm part of the  
Easter Trail

**Hello, my name is**



.....

I'm part of the  
Easter Trail

**Hello, my name is**



.....

I'm part of the  
Easter Trail

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.....

I'm part of the  
Easter Trail

**Hello, my name is**



.....

I'm part of the  
Easter Trail

**Hello, my name is**



.....

I'm part of the  
Easter Trail



# Easter Poster Trail

This is a much simpler version of an Easter Trail, but there may also be some cost that your church will need to cover.

You will need to download the four Holy Week posters from the Unlock website

([http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources\\_outreach.php](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources_outreach.php)).

Try to print them as big as possible for maximum effect.

The originals are A2; if you want them this size, download them onto a memory stick and take them to an outlet with a large printer; some Ryman's stores have one.

Otherwise print them as A3 size. Any smaller, and you will lose the dramatic effect.

If you can, find four churches or public places (like a library) that are willing to allow you to display one of your posters in their noticeboard, or a window. There are only four posters, so for this you need only four venues. It's really important the posters can be seen by everyone from the street, even when the venue is closed. When they were first used, they were displayed in the churches' noticeboards.

Download the Holy Week postcards from the Unlock website

([http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources\\_outreach.php](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources_outreach.php)). The images are the same as the posters, but they are double sided with an Easter fact and an Easter question on the back. If you are going to use these, it is really important



to make these look so good that people will want to collect them. So use good quality card, not paper. People expect churches to create poor quality resources on the cheap, so surprise them this time. It's well worth the extra cost. The value in printing these postcards well is their collectability. The first time these cards were used, they were professionally printed on silk coated card. They were beautiful, and all 500 sets of 4 were given away – to local shops; church user groups; schools; youth groups... Non-church goers asked for copies; that won't happen if they look cheap!

Make a list of all the shops and public places in your community: supermarkets; corner shops; independent shops; charity shops; cafes; chemists; library....This time you can only really include places that are accessible to families. These are the places where you will leave your postcards.

The next step is to visit all the places you have earmarked. Explain that you want to set up an Easter trail whereby people collect the Easter cards from the shops they visit.

It really helps to wear a name badge and to have some easily-seen ID on a lanyard. The Unlock office ([office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk)) may be able to help you with this. It also helps to have a jar of sweets or biscuits with you. It helps to break the ice, and people will warm to you if you offer them something nice without wanting anything in return.

Decide on your timescale for leaving your postcards



with your hosts.

The big Holy Week posters will be on display, but in four places only. They are your trail, but it may not be obvious, especially if you are using churches or public buildings people don't automatically visit, so make sure you put posters up in the places you leave your postcards. Your posters should tell people where they can find them. Use your poster too, to explain there are four Easter cards to collect, to encourage people to look for them.

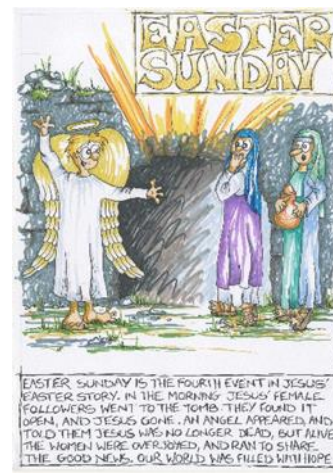
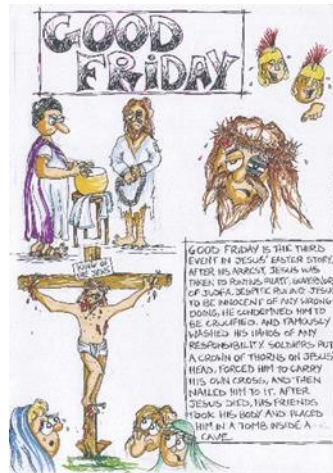
Don't leave complete sets with your hosts; mix them up a bit to force people to go to different places.

On the day when your church would normally witness (usually Good Friday), gather up any leftover cards from your hosts and present them with a full set of their own (even more important then, that your postcards are good quality – no-one wants to be given a cheap gift!). Done well, you are unlikely to be refused, especially if you give them a crème egg too.

As a bit of an alternative to this trail you could display a Holy Week poster in every venue that has Holy Week postcards, but do bear in mind that because of their size a lot of shops may not want to take them. Don't be tempted to print off smaller versions of the Holy Week posters; their impact comes from their size. This is why this trail works best with just four posters, one in each of your four main venues. And of course there is a cost benefit to using only four venues for your Holy Week Posters; printing off a large number of A2 posters will be pretty expensive,



and because they are essentially photocopies, they are unlikely to do more than one season. Paper gets tatty very easily and very quickly.



## Holy Week Posters

To download your posters, click here:

[http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources\\_outreach.php](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources_outreach.php).

## Holy Week Postcards

You will need to download these from the Unlock website

[http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources\\_outreach.php](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources_outreach.php),

but there is an example of what they look like on page 37





## Maundy Thursday

Fact: Did you know that 'Maundy' means 'command' because this is the day Jesus asked us to love one another.

Question: Can you remember a time when you shared a celebratory meal with someone? The disciples (Jesus' friends) had bread and wine; what did you eat?



Artwork by Siggý Parratt-Halbert  
[www.stinkingweasel.co.uk](http://www.stinkingweasel.co.uk)

# Publicity

**Poster for your hosts.**

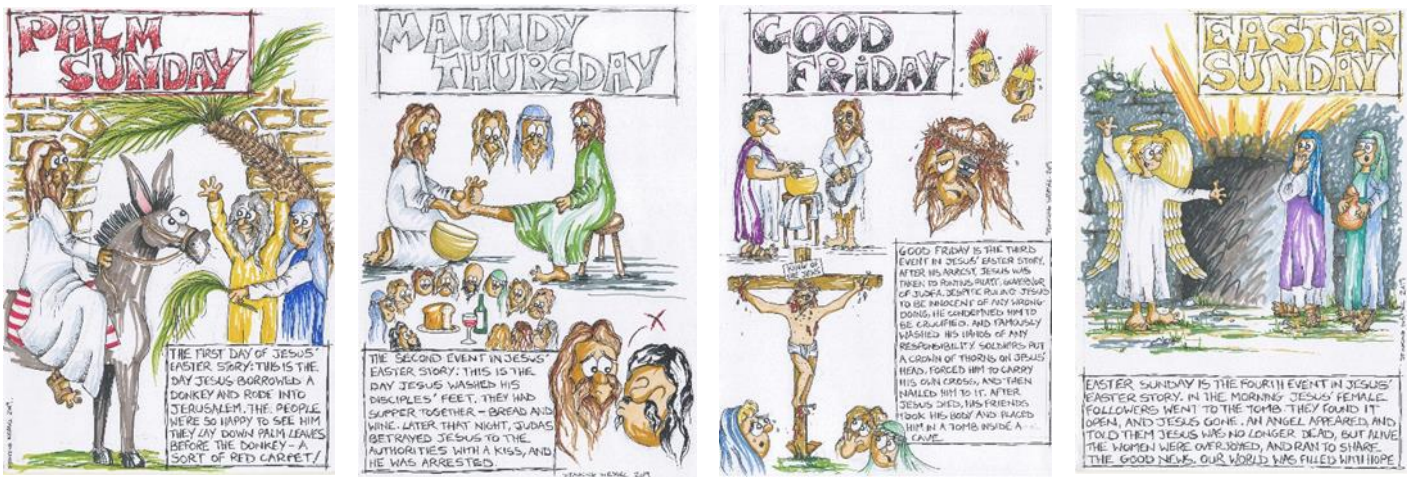
**Flyer** (just in case you'd like to spread the word among your church's users, and other churches in your community)



*(Insert community name here)*

# EASTER TRAIL

*(insert church/s names) is/are holding an Easter Trail from (insert start/end dates)*



**There are four posters to spot around *(insert community name)*. You'll find them *(insert hosts)*.**

**Look out for the postcards. You'll find them in your local shops.**

**Why not collect the set? There are four different Easter designs**



Artwork: Siggy Parratt-Halbert [www.stinkingweasel.co.uk](http://www.stinkingweasel.co.uk)

*(Insert community name here)*

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**Why not collect the set? There are four different Easter designs**



Artwork: Siddy Parratt-Halbert [www.stinkingweasel.co.uk](http://www.stinkingweasel.co.uk)

*(Insert community name here)*

# EASTER TRAIL

*(insert church/s names) is/are holding an Easter Trail from (insert start/end dates)*



**There are four posters to spot around *(insert community name)*. You'll find them *(insert hosts)*.**

**Look out for the postcards. You'll find them in your local shops.**

**Why not collect the set? There are four different Easter designs**



Artwork: Siddy Parratt-Halbert [www.stinkingweasel.co.uk](http://www.stinkingweasel.co.uk)





# Exploring Christmas



Creating a Christmas trail can be similar to the Easter trail, where people look for nativity characters that have been left with local businesses to be displayed throughout Advent; or you can have just Joseph and Mary moving from shop to shop throughout Advent until they reach the stable on the closing day, ideally as close to Christmas Eve as is practically possible; or you can have a whole nativity that moves around, with the current host passing it to another host every few days. The last two trail ideas are a lot of work, with the first idea being a little easier in terms of input. Here you will find instructions on how to do all three so you can take your pick depending on how brave and organised you are!

## Here's how the simple Christmas trail works:

1. Make a list of all the shops and public places in your community: supermarkets; corner shops; independent shops; charity shops; cafes; chemists; library.....Don't be afraid to go to places you might not usually go to, such as tattoo parlours, vape stores, pubs and betting



shops. Just remember that your trail is for families and children, so only include these if they have a window people can access without going in if they are underage. You might be pleasantly surprised at the community spirit that resides in the most daunting of places!

2. The next step is to visit all the places you have earmarked. Explain that you want to set up a Christmas trail, putting Nativity figures inside their shop/window for people to find over a given time period.
3. It really helps to wear a name badge and to have some easily-seen ID on a lanyard. The Unlock office may be able to help you with this. It also helps to have a jar of sweets or biscuits with you. It helps to break the ice, and people will warm to you if you offer them something nice without wanting anything in return.
4. Back at your church, invite everyone who uses your building to make a Nativity figure. It's best not to include Joseph, Mary, Jesus and the Three Kings, as the number of these figures is pretty specific! They will still be a part of the trail though – if your church has a Nativity, you could use the Kings, Mary and Joseph from this. But you can have as many shepherds, sheep, goats, cattle, donkeys and angels as you want.
5. To get your figures, you might want to put up some posters and display flyers asking people to help. There is an example of a poster and a flyer on pages 106-107. But don't leave it to bits of paper; it really helps if you talk to people about your plans, so visit the groups that use your



church; talk to people at the coffee mornings and lunch clubs; talk to the congregation.

6. To make it easy, provide patterns for people to follow: knitting patterns; crochet patterns; patterns to make characters from paper etc. You will find some examples on pages 47– 83. It helps to provide the materials too, as well as a box in the church where people can leave their creations. You need to make it as easy and pain free as you can for people to join in.
7. Maybe your church is part of a Churches Together group. Why not involve the other churches in making your figures? They might be glad of a Christmas project, especially if someone else is doing all the grunt work!
8. Unlike Easter, Christmas is a really busy time, so it's unlikely people will make use of a tick list to find all your figures, but if you would still like to do this, then there is an example you can use on p 113. If you decide not to use a tick list, put posters in your hosts' windows to let people know there are figures to find – and of course you could still do with using posters to advertise your trail even if you DO use a tick list.
9. If you are using a tick list you will need to make your tick list easy to get hold of. Leave copies in all the participating businesses, public spaces and churches. If you have links with the local schools and nurseries, perhaps you can distribute your tick list there too.



10. How do you know if participants have found all the characters? How do you know they haven't pretended to find them? Partner up each figure with a Christmas factoid. Then ask your participants to list each factoid as they find each figure. There is a selection for you to choose from on pages 93 to 104

11. Something to remember here is that shops are really good at mislaying things, so make sure you have more figures than you need, and spare copies of your factoids. You will need to call in regularly on your 'Nativity hosts' to make sure they still have their Nativity figures and their factoids. And it's another perfect excuse to drop by and chat, make friends, cement local relationships.

12. Make sure you have set a specific timescale for the hunt itself. It's a really good idea to line it up with the local school holidays, but you can have your figures on display throughout Advent. Your 'Nativity hosts' need to know how long your figure will be with them. It is recommended you gather your figures before your hosts close on Christmas Eve. You also need to make sure your hosts know there is absolutely nothing for them to do. They will be really busy, and any threat of extra things for them to do will throw them into a panic.

13. Why not offer a day at the close of the trail when your participants can hand in their tick list? If your church has a portable nativity, set it up somewhere in your community (not necessarily your church), with all



of your re-gathered Nativity figures. Make sure people know they can come here to hand in their ticklist and perhaps you can give them a small reward, like a chocolate reindeer or similar. It gives your trail a point, and encourages people to take part. It's a good idea to do this even if you choose not to use a ticklist. Most folk like to see a Nativity, and it gives you opportunity to witness.

14. During the time people are making your Nativity figures, you will need nerves of steel. You may be only a day or two away from your launch, and your Nativity collection box remains quite empty. But people will often leave it until the very last minute before delivering their contribution. That said, it helps to be a bit belt and braces, and have a few figures of your own just in case! You can always ask your congregation to donate figures from their own Nativity set just in case.

15. On the last day of your trail you must revisit all your 'Nativity hosts' to collect your figures, factoids, posters and any leftover tick lists. It doesn't help your cause to litter shops with out of date material. It will also make them very happy bunnies if you give them something for their support – chocolate reindeer perhaps?



# Nativity Patterns



## SHEPHERD FIGURE

*(see picture on next page)*

### Materials

One pair 3.00mm knitting needles, or the required size to give correct tension

Polyester filling

5cm circle of stiff cardboard for each figure

Fabric glue

### Measurements

Figures: approx 15cm high.

Tension. These items have been designed at a tension of 26 sts and 36 rows to 10cm over stocking st, using 3.00mm needles.





## Abbreviations

Alt: alternate

beg: begin, beginning

cm: centimetres

cont: continue

dec: decrease, decreasing

fol: follows, following

garter st: every row knit

inc: increase, increasing

include: inclusive, including

K: knit

'M1' (make 1): pick up loop which lies before next st, place on left-hand needle and knit into back of loop  
tog: together.

NOTE: All pieces are worked in stocking st unless otherwise stated.

Using 3.00mm needles and robe coloured wool, cast on 35 sts.





Work 20 rows stocking st.

Shape waist. Next row. (K3, K2tog) to endà28 sts.

Work 11 rows.

Shape neck. Next row. (K2tog) to endà14 sts.

Purl 1 row.

Change to flesh colour and work 2 rows.

Shape head. Next row. Inc in every stà28 sts.

Work 13 rows.

Shape top of head. Next row. K1, (K1, K2tog) to endà19 sts.

Purl 1 row.

Next row. K1 (K2tog) to endà10 sts.

Break yarn, thread end through rem sts, draw up and fasten off securely.

## Base

With right sides of work facing, pick up and knit 35 sts from cast on edge, using same colour yarn.

Knit 2 rows. Purl 1 row.

Shape base. Next row. (K3, K2tog) to endà28 sts.

Purl 1 row.

Next row. (K2, K2tog) to endà21 sts.

Purl 1 row.

Next row. (K1, K2tog) to endà14 sts.

Next row. (P2tog) to endà7 sts.

Break yarn, thread end through rem sts, draw up and fasten off securely.

## Arms (make 2 pieces)

Using sleeve colour (same as robe, or different colour), cast on 6 sts.

Work 2 rows.

Inc one st at beg only of next 6 rowsà12 sts.



Work 4 rows.

Change to flesh colour and work 5 rows.

Shape base of hand. Next row. (P2tog) to end 6 sts.

Break yarn, thread end through rem sts, draw up and fasten off securely.

## To make up

Join body seam from centre of base to neck edge. Glue card circle in base and stuff body firmly. Stuff head firmly, then sew up head seam. Run a gathering thread through first row of flesh colour on head, draw up to shape neck and fasten off securely. Join arm seams, leaving shaped edge open. Stuff firmly, then position and sew onto body. Embroider features as follows: fastening off ends of yarn at back of head, count 9 sts up from neck edge in centre of face and work 5 sts in flesh colour over one knit st to form nose. Work French knots in black for eyes, leaving 3 knit sts between, work 2 straight sts in red for mouth. If desired, blush cheeks lightly with red pencil.

## Hair Loops

Make loops by winding yarn around pencil 3 times. Sew loops tog securely then slip off pencil. Darn the yarn ends into the figure securely.

## Twisted Cord

Cut a length of yarn, 4 times required finished length, and knot end tog. Fix knot to a surface with a drawing pin (or get someone to hold it), pull yarn



taut, place a pencil in looped end, twist yarn tightly. Bring looped and knotted ends tog and let cord twist. Knot ends and trim.

## To Make Up

Sew veil in place, join short ends of headband; sew in place over veil. Wrap brown twisted cord around bodice, crossing at front and back and tying at front. Cut a 15cm length of bendable straw, leaving 2.5cm in straight piece before pleated section of straw. Cover with knitted strip as for lantern pole, bend end for crook; sew to hand and base of robe.

## WIDDLE FAT SHEEPY CROCHET PATTERN



### About the pattern

Using thick/thin yarn and a 3.75 mm hook the body came in at just one quarter ounce.

The pattern is flexible in terms of yarn and sheep expressions (position the head where you would like it



for a sheep that is gazing, quizzical, sad, excited, you get the idea!) - so you can make a whole itty bitty flock for your sock drawer, if you so choose.

There are two options for faces - a flat face, which is an almost two dimensional face, which has a more abstract look, or a more traditional puffy face for your slightly more realistic tiny sheep needs.

## Skill level: Intermediate

Stitches used: magic loop, chain (ch), single crochet (sc), single crochet decrease (dec), single crochet puff stitch (foot puff), slip stitch (sl st), double crochet (dc), half double crochet (hdc), crochet in the back loop

Pattern contains some less often used shaping directions

## Materials:

Hook for a comfortably firm stitch.

Recommended:

3mm hook for sportweight

3.5mm hook for worsted

3.75mm hook for heavily textured yarn

.....or size needed to achieve a fabric firm enough to show no holes for escaping polyfill

Yarn (for most weights 12 yards or less)

Poly fill or other stuffing (such as torn stockings)

Optional: embroidery floss or yarn or beads or paint for adding eyes

Optional: essential oils for scenting your sheepty-turned-sachet (I bought mine from the grocery store)



## Gauge:

None, just aim for that tight fabric that is still comfortable to work in.

Most yarn sizes yield a sheep that is two inches tall, or less.

## Unusual stitches:

Single Crochet Puff Stitch ..... (foot puff)

(Insert hook into stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through first loop only) x 5

Yarn over, pull through five loops on hook.

Yarn over, pull through two loops on hook.

Foot puff made.

## The Pattern

The Face:

working in magic loop

round 1 row 1: 5 sc, 1 sc in first sc to join (5 sc)

row 2: ch 1, turn, 4 sc in next 4 sts

row 3: ch 1, turn, 4 sc in next 4 sts, 1 sc in ch 1 st (5 sc)

row 4 (flat face): ch 5, turn, sl st in sc, sc, hdc, hdc, sc, sl st in next sl st, ch 5, sl st in same sl st

Fasten off, leaving at least a 9 inch tail of yarn.

row 4 (puffy face): ch 5, remove hook from loop, turn, insert hook in sc, pick up dropped loop and pull



through sc, sl st, sc, dc, sc, sl st in back loop, ch 5, remove hook from loop, turn, insert hook in sc back loop, pick up dropped loop and pull through sc,  
row 5: ch 1, sc in back loops of next 3 sc, sl st in next back loop

Fasten off, leaving at least a 9 inch tail of yarn.

Insert a small ball of filling behind the face when you attach it to the body, sewing with the long tail.

Unless you want a super-sonic, streamlined, angry fat sheep don't sew the ears to the body.

If desired, add eyes now.

## The Adorably Round Body:

working in magic loop

round 1: 5 sc (5 sts total for round))

round 2: 2 sc in each of next 5 sts (10 sc)

round 3: (1 sc, 2 sc in next sc) x 5 (15 sc)

round 4: (2sc in next sc, sc in next two sc) x 5 (20 sc)

round 5: (sc in next 3 sc, 2 sc in next sc) x 5 (25 sc)

round 6: sc across (25 sc)

round 7: 4 sc, foot puff, 1 sc in next st, foot puff, 18 sc (25 st total)

round 8 & 9: sc across (25 sc each row)

round 10: 4 sc, foot puff, 3 sc, foot puff, 16 sc ( 25 st total)

round 11: sc across (25 sc)



Pause - this is a good time to sew the face on, if you so choose. Play with the position to give your sheepy the character you like.

round 12: (sc in next 3 sts, dec over next two sts) x 5  
(20 sc)

round 13: (dec, sc in next two sts)x 5 (15 sc)

round 14: (sc, dec)x 4, ch 7, insert hook through side of last dec AND through next sc in row 13, yarn over, pull up new loop through sc, yarn over, pull through all three loops, dec (counts as 10 sts)

Pause - stuff your sheepy.

round 15: 5 dec

Fasten off.



# Knitted Sheep Pattern

These sheep have little coats, but as they are made separately, they can be used or not depending on the knitter.



### Pattern (sheep)

Use DK yarn for the head, body, legs and ears and size 2.75 mm needles (US size 2). This finer needle gives the required tighter fabric.

Different yarns vary in the way they knit up but here is the pattern I used. Please adjust if necessary to suit your own requirements. Both stocking stitch and reverse stocking stitch, are suitable, it's a matter of personal choice.

### Body

Cast on 14 stitches, knit 16 rows. With a large sewing needle take the stitches off onto a length of yarn and draw up. With wrong sides facing stitch the long edges together. You should now have a tube. Turn to the right side, stuff and draw up the open end to make a fat sausage shape.





## Legs (knit 4)

Cast on 6 stitches and knit 8 rows. Cast off. Roll up the knitted piece as tightly as you can to form a tiny sausage shape and stitch down the open edge (no stuffing required). Stitch the tops of the legs to the body.



## Head

Cast on 9 stitches and knit 10 rows. Take stitches off onto a sewing needle and draw up. With right side facing (because head is too small to turn inside-out) neatly oversew the long edges together. Lightly stuff the head and gather the open end. To give the head a realistic curved shape push the threaded needle from the nose end through the head and out of the top. Pull until you have the required curved shape then fasten off. Decide which end is better for the nose and stitch the head to the body (see picture above).

## Ears (knit 2)

Cast on 3 stitches and knit 2 or 3 rows. Remove stitches onto sewing needle and draw up, this makes the pointed end of the ear. Oversew down the ear to the base and stitch it to the top of the head (see picture above).

Now you can give the sheep a face. Embroidery thread works well for this.

Now comes the fun part...dressing the sheep. Different



coats can be made from different yarns, in other words anything goes!

You could use a 3.75 mm (US size 5) to make a softer fabric.



## Basic coat

Cast on 10 stitches and knit the required number of rows to wrap over the sheep's back from one side to the other. Cast off. Fold in half and with wrong sides facing. Stitch together the edges at one end to form the back end and a very short seam (about 1cm) at the front. This will fit under the sheep's head. You must leave an opening large enough at this end for the sheep's head to pass through. Turn right side out.



The coat on the left hand side of the picture was made using a curly boucle yarn (garter stitch) and a grey DK for the other coat (moss stitch).



# Fester the Goat Knitting Pattern



Fester is a tiny goat about 12.5cm tall not counting horns. His horns can be knitted or crocheted, and both versions are included in this pattern. Fester's body & legs are knitted all in one piece so he is relatively easy to make

### Materials

50g White 8ply/DK yarn.

Small amount Grey 8ply/DK yarn for horns & hooves.

Small amount pink yarn for nose & mouth.

2 black beads, black sewing thread for eyes – or black yarn if not using beads.

3.25mm knitting needles

4mm crochet hook if crocheting horns.

Fibrefill for stuffing.

### Head – make 1

Using 3.25mm needles & white cast on 11 sts.



**Row 1** – P

**Row 2** – K, increasing in every st – 22 sts.

Starting with a P row st st 9 rows.

**Next Row** – (K2,K2tog) to last 2 sts, k2 – 17sts.

Starting with a P row st st 3 rows.

**Next Row** – (K2, k2 tog) to last st, k1 – 13sts.

Starting with a P row st st 5 rows.

**Next Row** – K2tog to last st, k1 – 7sts.

P 1 row.

Thread yarn through remaining sts & fasten off tightly.  
Leave a long thread for sewing up.

With right sides out & using mattress stitch, sew up seam from tip of nose (cast off end) leaving the cast on edge open for stuffing. Stuff firmly then sew a gathering st around edge & pull tightly to close, fasten off.

## Ears – Make 2

With 3.25mm needles & white cast on 10sts.

St st 4 rows.

**Next Row** – Working in st st, decrease both ends of this row & following k rows until 2sts remain.

P one row.

K2 tog, fasten off.

Fold ear in half at the cast on edge & sew across, sew this edge to side of head, use photo as a guide.

## Horns (crochet) – make 2

With 4mm crochet hook & grey ch 6, turn.

Miss first ch, 1dc in next 5 ch, 1ch, turn

Dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in last dc, 1ch turn,

Dc in 6dc, 1ch turn,



Next row

K8, leave these on a stitch holder, cast off 8sts, K remaining 8 sts.

Working on these 8sts for leg, st st 13 rows white.

Change to grey & st st another 4 rows.

Cast off.

Transfer remaining 8sts to needle with wrong side facing.

Join yarn & K 13 rows starting with a p row.

Change to grey, st st 4 rows.

Cast off.

## Under Body

Work as for upper body to \*.

St st 5 rows instead of 27 rows.

Continue as for upper body from #

& complete other 2 legs.

## Tail

With 3.25mm needles & white cast on 6 sts.

St st 2 rows.

Dec each end of this & alternate rows until 2 sts remain.

P 1 row

K2tog fasten off.



Dc in next 5 dc,  
Fasten off.

Fold horns in half & sew up to the point.

## Horns (knitted) – make 2

With 3.25 mm needles & grey cast on 9sts.

**Row 1** – K

**Row 2** – K, inc 1 at the end of row.

**Row 3** – Inc 1, K to end.

**Row 4** – K, inc 1 at end of row.

**Row 5** – K

**Row 6** – K to last 2 sts – k2tog.

**Row 7** – K2tog, k to end.

**Row 8** – K to last 2 sts – k2tog.

Cast off

Fold horns in half & sew up to the point.

Sew horns to top of head. Sew beads on for eyes. Using pink satin stitch a nose & use a back stitch for the mouth.

## Upper Body – make 1

Using Grey starting at bottom of leg, co 8sts.

St st 4 rows.

Change to white & st st 14 rows.

Leave this leg on left hand needle, leaving enough yarn to cast on another 8sts.

Do another leg the same.

With the 1st then 2nd legs together on needle K across 2nd leg, cast on 8sts from first leg (for body). K across these sts & remaining 8sts from first leg – 24sts. \*

St st 27 rows. #



## Make Up

Under Body

Upper Body



With right side facing out fold upper body in half along backbone. Using mattress stitch for all seams, sew down the front edge of body approx 3cm.



Leave the back seam open for stuffing at this stage.

Join the lower body to upper body, start at the lower edge of hoof, up the inside leg across tummy & back down other leg & bottom of hoof. Do the other side the same.



View of under body.

Sew up the front of legs, until you meet up with the front seam of upper body, making sure both legs are of equal length as you sew towards the front seam. Sew the back legs up, but leave the back seam to stuff.

Stuff firmly with fibre fill, using a chopstick or something similar to push the stuffing well into the legs first, then finish stuffing body. Sew up the back seam.

Sew head to body at front top corner of body, attach it with some wide stitches to secure it. Fold tail in half a little & sew that on to the back. All done.

This goat doesn't have a beard on him because he looks like a baby goat & kids don't have beards do they? If you want him to have one use the tail pattern; it make an acceptable beard.



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# Crochet Donkey



## Making Your Donkey

Use double knit wool and size 3.5mm crochet hook to obtain correct size and gauge.

### Head

Round 1: In nose colour, chain 5.

Round 2: Sc into 2nd chain from hook and into each of next 2 chains, then 4 sc into the last chain.

Continue on the other side of the chain: sc in each of next 2 sts, 3sc into last chain. (12 sts).

Round 3: Inc 1 in next stitch, 3 sc, inc 1 in each of next 2 stitches, 3 sc, inc 1 in next 2 stitches. (18 sts).

Round 4: (2sc, 1 inc) x 6. (24 sts).

Round 5: (3sc, 1 inc) x 6. (30 sts).

Round 6: (4sc, 1 inc) x 6. (36 sts).

Round 7: 36 sc.

Round 8: (5 sc, 1inc) x 6. (42 sts).

Rounds 9 & 10: (2 rounds) 42 sc.

Round 11: (13 sc, 1 inc) x 3. (45 sts).



Rounds 12 & 13: (2 rounds). 45 sc.  
Round 14: (13 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (42 sts).  
Change to main body colour.  
Round 15: (12 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (39 sts).  
Round 16: (11 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (36 sts).  
Round 17: (10 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (33 sts).  
Round 18: 33 sc.  
Round 19: (9 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (30 sts).  
Round 20: (8 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (27 sts).  
Round 21: 27 sc.  
Round 22: (7 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (24 sts).  
Round 23: (6 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (21 sts).  
Round 24: (5 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (18 sts).  
Round 25: (4 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (15 sts).  
Round 26: (3 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (12 sts).  
Round 27: 6 dec. (6 st).

## Body

Round 1: In main body colour; 6 sc in a magic ring.  
Round 2: Inc in each of the 6 chains.  
Round 3: (1 sc, 1 inc) x 6. (18 sts).  
Round 4: (2 sc, 1 inc) x 6. (24 sts).  
Round 5: (3 sc, 1 inc) x 6. (30 sts).  
Round 6: (4 sc, 1 inc) x 6. (36 sts).  
Round 7-9: (3 rounds) 36 sc.  
Round 10: (5 sc, 1 inc) x 6. (42 sts).  
Rounds 11-13: (3 rounds) 42 sc.  
Round 14: (5 sc, 1 dec) x 6. (36 sts).  
Rounds 15 & 16: (2 rounds) 36 sts.  
Round 17: (4 sc, 1 dec) x 6. (30 sts).  
Rounds 18 & 19: (2 rounds) 30 sc.  
Round 20: (3 sc, 1 dec) x 6. (24 sts).  
Rounds 21 & 22: (2 rounds) 24 sc.  
Round 23: (2 sc, 1 dec) x 6. (18 sts).



Round 24: 18 sc.

Round 25: (1 sc, 1dec) x 6. (12 sts).

Round 26: 2 sl st, sc, hdc, dc, 2 tblc, dc, hdc, 2 sl st. (12 sts).

## Forelegs (make 2)

Round 1: In hoof colour; 6 sc in magic ring.

Round 2: Inc in each of the 6 chains. (12 sts).

Round 3: (1 sc, 1 inc) X 6. (18 sts).

Round 4: BACK LOOPS ONLY, 18 sc.

Rounds 5-8: (4 rounds) 18 sc.

Change to main body colour;

Round 9: (1 sc, 1 dec) x 6. (12 sts).

Round 10: – 14. (5 rounds). 12 sc.

Round 15: (2 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (9 sts).

Rounds 16-20: (5 rounds) 9 sc.

Round 21: 4 dec. (5 sts).

Stuff, and then close up.

## Hind Legs (make 2)

Round 1: In hoof colour; 6 sc in a magic ring.

Round 2: Inc in each of the 6 chains. (12 sts).

Round 3: (1 sc, 1 inc) x 6. (18 sts).

Round 4: (2 sc, 1 inc) x 6. (24 sts).

Round 5: BACK LOOPS ONLY, 24 sc. Rounds 6-9: (4 rounds) 24 sc.

Change to main body colour;

Round 10: (2 sc, 1 dec) x 6. (18 sts).

Rounds 11-13: (3 rounds) 18 sc.

Round 14: (4 sc, 1 dec) x 3. (15 sts).

Rounds 15-19: (5 rounds) 15 sc.

Round 20: 1 hdc, 1sc, 7sl st, 1 sc, 1 hdc, 4 dc.



## Ears (make 2)

Round 1: In main body colour; chain 6 in magic ring.

Round 2: 6 sc.

Round 3: (2 sc, 1 inc) x 2. (8 sts).

Round 4: 8 sc.

Round 5: (3 sc, 1 inc) x 2. (10 sts).

Round 6: 10 sc.

Round 7: (1 sc, 1 inc) x 5. (15 sts).

Round 8: 15 sc.

Round 9: (2 sc, 1 inc) x 5. (20 sts).

Rounds 10-12: (3 rounds) 20 sc.

Round 13: (3 sc, 1 dec) x 4. (16 sts).

Round 14: 16 sc.

Round 15: (2 sc, 1 dec) x 4. (12 sts).

Rounds 16-18: (3 rounds) 12 sc.

## Tail

In body colour chain 6 and use hoof colour to make the tuft.

## Assembly

The head should be attached to the body approx. 1/3 of the way down the head. The photographs can be used to help with the placement of the body parts and of the facial features and ears. Eyes and nostrils should be done in doubled up hoof colour. The body parts, where open-ended, should be attached openly, whereas the ears should be flattened and attached closed in a curved fashion.

For the mane use doubled up short lengths of hoof colour. Fold them in half and pull the middle under a stitch, then pull the tails through the resulting loop and



pull tight. Repeat this in 3 rows, using photograph for correct placement. Once finished, trim to a uniform length, getting shorter as they travel down the back.

### Abbreviations

sc – Single Crochet

hdc – Half double crochet

dc – Double crochet

tblc – Treble crochet

sl st – Slip stitch



# Knitted Angel



You will need:

## For the doll

3/4 oz (20 g) of dark beige DK yarn

Small amounts of black and red DK yarn for the features

A small amount of dark brown DK yarn for the hair

1/2 oz (15 g) of polyester toy stuffing

## For the clothes and wings

3/4 oz (20 g) of white DK yarn

A small amount of dark yellow yarn

A small amount of pale green DK yarn for the wings

A small amount of purple DK yarn for the hair band

A small white heart-shaped button and some bright green thread for the dress



## Equipment

A pair of size 2/3 (3 mm) knitting needles

A D-3 (3.25 mm) crochet hook

A yarn needle to sew the figure and clothes together

## Make the Standing doll



## Front

The front of the doll is worked as one piece, from the tip of the feet to the top of the head.

- Cast on 5 sts for the first foot.
- Work 6 rows in st st, beg with a K row.
- Break yarn and leave sts on the needle.

## Second foot

Work 6 rows in st st on these sts only, beg with a K row.

\* Next row: K5 sts across second foot, cast on 5 sts, K5 sts across first foot. [15 sts]



Next row: P.

*\*Work 8 rows in st st, beg with a K row.*

**\*\*** Next row: K1, k2tog, K to last 3 sts, ssk, K1. [13 sts]

-- Work 7 rows in st st, beg with a P row.

-- Next row: K1, k2tog, K to last 3 sts, ssk, K1. [11 sts]

-- Work 23 rows in st st, beg with a P row.

-- Next row: K1, k2tog, K to last 3 sts, ssk, K1. [9 sts]

-- Next row: P.

-- Next row: K2, ml, K1, ml, K to last 3 sts, ml, K1, ml, K2.

-- Next row: P.

-- Repeat last 2 rows once more. [17 sts]

-- Next row: K2, ml, K to last 2 sts, m1, K2. [19 sts]

-- Next row: P.

-- Next row: k2tog, K2, (k2tog) twice, K3, (ssk) twice, K2, ssk. [13 sts]

-- Next row: p2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. [11 sts]

-- Next row: (k2tog) twice, k3, (ssk) twice. [7 sts]

-- Next row: p2tog, P3, p2tog. [5 sts]

-- Bind off remaining 5 sts firmly.

## Back

The back of the doll is worked as one piece, from the base to the top of the head.

-- Cast on 15 sts.

-- Work 2 rows in st st, beg with a K row.

-- Continue as front from **\*\*** to end.

## Base

-- Cast on 5 sts for the first foot.

-- Work 6 rows in st st, beg with a K row.

-- Break yarn and leave sts on the needle.

-- On the same needle, cast on 5 sts for the second





foot.

\* Work 6 rows in st st on these sts only, beg with a K row.

\* Next row: K5 sts across second foot, cast on 3 sts, K5 sts across first foot. [13 sts]

-- Work 5 rows in st st, beg with a P row.

-- Next row: k2tog, K to last 2 sts, ssk.

-- Next row: P.

-- Repeat last 2 rows once more. [9 sts]

-- Next row: k2tog, K to last 2 sts, ssk. [7 sts]

-- Next row: p2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. [5 sts]

-- Bind off remaining 5 sts.

## Arms

-- Make two identical pieces. Each arm is knitted as one piece from the top of the arm to the tip of the hand.

-- Cast on 7 sts.

-- Work 24 rows in st st, beg with a K row.

-- Next row: K1, k2tog, K1, ssk, K1. [5 sts]

-- Bind off pwise.

## To make up the basic standing doll

-- Join the doll pieces at the sides and around the head.

-- Stuff the doll, using one small piece of stuffing at a time. Don't stuff the doll too firmly -- it should feel fairly squashy.

Place the feet of the base and the feet of the doll front right sides together and seam around the edges using a backstitch. Turn the feet the right way out so that the base is in its final position. Join the remainder of the base to the main part of the doll by taking your yarn under a loop near the edge of the base and then under



a horizontal loop on the first row of the main part of the doll. This technique is similar to the mattress stitch and will form a neat, professional finish.

Seam the long edges of the arms together using the mattress stitch and oversew the arm tops in place at either side of the body so that the tops of the arms are about  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths in (1 cm) below the doll's neck.

Using the black yarn, make two French knots for the eyes. Untwist a short piece of red yarn into two even strands. Using one of the strands, embroider a "V" shape for the mouth. For the hair, use the crochet hook and dark brown yarn to crochet two chains, each 14 in (35 cm) long. Arrange the first chain in four even-sized loops and secure these to one side of the head. Do the same with the second cord, securing it to the other side of the head.

## Dress

Make two identical pieces for the front and back. The dress pieces are knitted from the bottom to the top (neck) edge.

-- Cast on 22 sts in white.

-- K 4 rows.

-- Join dark yellow yarn and work 2 rows in st st, beg with a K row.

Break yarn and continue working in white yarn.

-- Work 2 rows st st, beg with a K row.

-- Next row: K2, k2tog, K to last 4 sts, ssk, K2.

-- Next row: P.

Repeat last 2 rows three times more. [14 sts]

Work 16 rows in st st, beg with a K row.



Mark beg and end of last row with a piece of contrasting yarn or thread.

Work 5 rows in st st, beg with a K row.

K 3 rows.

Bind off loosely.

Seam the dress pieces together 2 sts along at each side of the neck opening and join the shoulder seams.

For the sleeves, spread the two dress pieces apart.

With the right side of your work facing you, pick up and K 14 sts between the two thread markers on one side of the dress.

Work 9 rows in st st, beg with a P row.

Next row: K2, m1, K to last 2 sts, m1, K2.

Next row: P.

Repeat last 2 rows three times more. [22 sts]

Bind off loosely.

Complete the second sleeve in exactly the same way.

Remove the thread markers. To make up, join the underarm and side seams. Sew the button in place using bright green thread.

## Wings

Make two identical pieces. Cast on 8 sts in pale green.

-- K 2 rows.

-- Next row: K2, (m1, K2) 3 times. [11 sts]

-- Work 3 rows st st, beg with a P row.

-- Next row: (K2, m1) 5 times, K1. [16 sts]

-- Next row: P.

-- Next row: K2, (yfwd, k2tog) 6 times, K2.

-- Next row: P.

-- K 2 rows.



-- Bind off loosely.

Sew the wings to the back of the doll once the dress is in place. The right side of the wings should face the back of the doll so that you see the wings' right side when you look at the doll from the front.

## Hairband

For the hairband, use the crochet hook and purple yarn to crochet a chain 7-1/2 in (19 cm) long. Wrap the hairband around the angel's head and tie in a knot.



# Nativity Characters Using Dolly Pegs



You will need

Short [wooden model pegs or dolly pegs](#)

[Felt](#)

[String](#)

[Wire](#)

[Fabric glue](#)

Raffia – [natural](#) and [white](#)

[Fabric scissors](#)

[Gems](#), [jewels](#), beads, sequins – anything pretty



Thin [gold ribbon](#)

Hessian

## Instructions

For all the characters, wrap felt around the pegs to make a simple cone-shape body, sticking together the edges of felt with fabric glue. The cone body will allow them to stand.

Attach extra felt to the cone shape using glue to give all the characters decorative clothing.

Embellish each figure to suit his or her character. So:

The angel has felt wings and a wire halo wrapped in thin gold ribbon.

The shepherd has a wire fork, string belt and hessian headpiece.

To make the hands, cut a small circle from nude, brown or olive colour felt.



# Nativity Figures from Paper

### How to Make

To make Mary, make a cone out of light blue paper.

Draw a face onto a skin coloured sheet of paper, then stick to the top of the cone with tape.

Cut out a headdress shape from dark blue paper, and stick it to the back of the head. To make Joseph repeat steps 2 and 3 using orange and green paper.

## Shepherd Using Cup and Ball

It would be easy to adapt these instructions to make angels. Just change the colours of your fabric and paint, and use wire to make a halo.

### You will need

Polystyrene ball

Paper cup

Paint

Brown wool

Wiggle eyes

White and pink craft foam (or white/coloured card)

Scrap of white fabric

Ribbon

Felt tips

Glue

Scissors



## Instructions

Paint the ball pale brown and the cup a darker brown and leave to dry. Glue the ball to the bottom of the cup.

Cut two arms from white foam and two hands from pale brown. If you don't have foam you could use coloured card, or white card coloured with felt tips. Glue one hand to the end of each arm and the other ends of the arms to the body.

Tie a piece of ribbon around the middle of the cup as a belt.

Glue on some wool as hair.

Make a headscarf by placing a square of fabric on the head and tying in place with a length of ribbon. Secure in place with a bit of glue.

Finally, add two eyes and draw on a face. You could use googly eyes, or you could draw them on.

## Sheep Using Lego

**Thanks to:**

<https://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-15-LEGO-Animals/>

**Black/White Sheep**





# Cardboard Donkey

Thanks to [www.artistshelpingchildren.org](http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org)

## You will need

A donkey pattern (see below)

Two clothes pegs (wooden ones with a spring)

Card

Felt tips or crayons to colour the donkey's body

Paint (for painting the pegs)

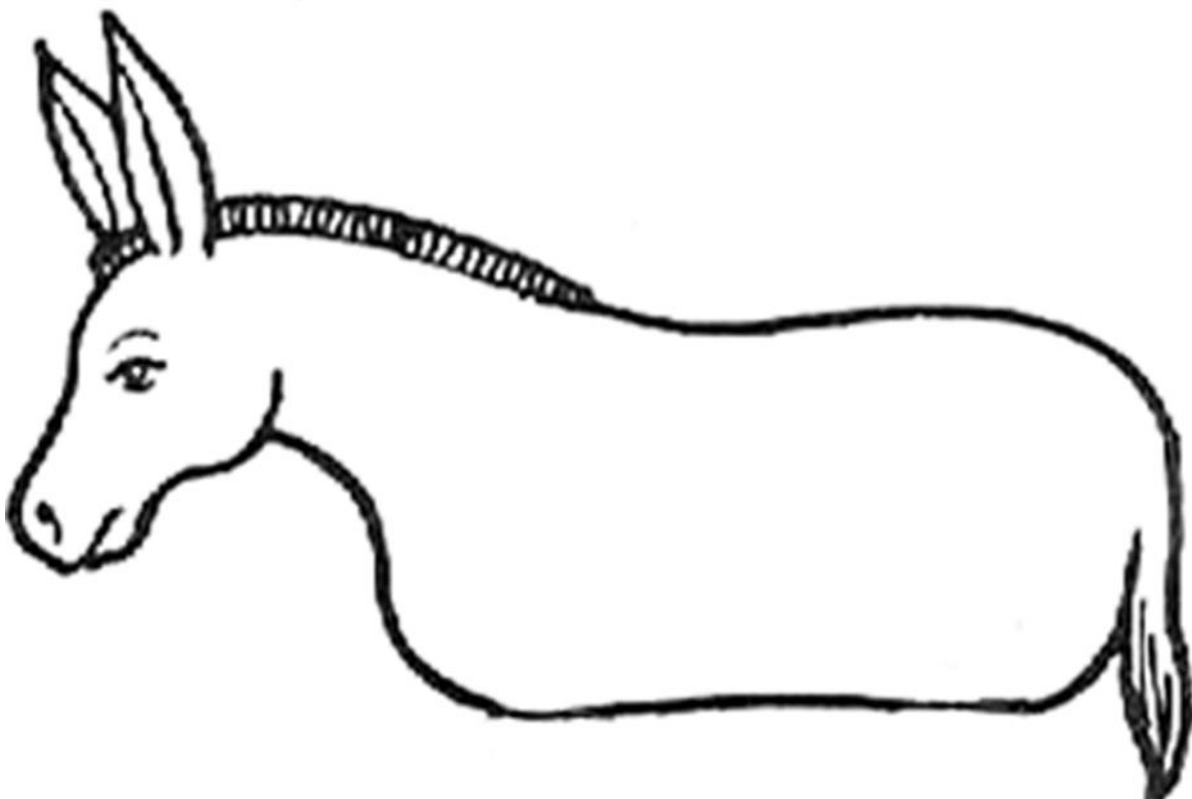
Scissors

## Method

Cut out the donkey shape and colour him in

Paint the clothes pegs the same colour as the body

When everything is dry, clip the pegs on to the body for his legs



# Cardboard Cow

Thanks to [www.artistshelpingchildren.org](http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org)

## You will need

Two clothes pegs (wooden ones with a spring)

Cardboard or paper plates

Paint, to paint the pegs

Felt tips or pencils to colour the body of the cow

Glue

Scissors



## Method

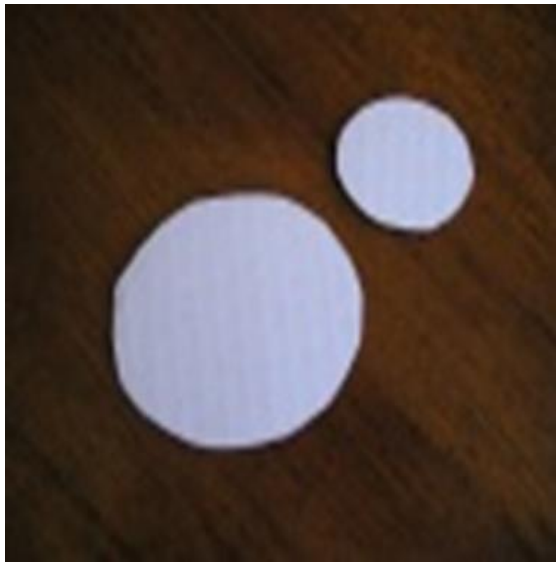
If you want your cow black and white as in the picture, paint your clothes pegs white. You can choose any colour you want – your cow doesn't have to be black and white.

From your cardboard or cardstock or paper plates, cut two ovals, one big, one small.

Glue the smaller one onto the larger one to make your calf's body.



If you want him to have ears, cut out some ear shapes (like almonds) and glue to the small card.



Colour your card to match the clothes pegs. Don't forget to give him a smiley face. When everything is dry, add the clothes pegs to the large circle that makes the cow's body.



**Flyer asking for Nativity crafters**

**Flyers to leave with the shops**

**Posters advertising the trail**

**Nativity Trail ticklist example (doublesided).**

**This is if you decide to make it an ‘official’ trail. You can use this as a template, you just need to add your community’s details. Make sure you duplicate the rows for your duplicate figures – and have a fascinating fact for each. Tough call when you’ve got lots of sheep!**

**Instructions for your ‘host’, so they know to hold on to their figure until you pick it up, and your contact details in case their figure gets lost (it does happen!)**



## 'A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY'

*(insert community) ADVENT TRAIL*



*((insert church) is holding an Advent trail around (insert community).*

**Please help us make:**

**sheep, donkeys, cows, goats,  
and shepherds.**

Help yourself to patterns and wool

Bring your beautiful creations to  
*(insert church) by (insert date)*

ready for their journey around *(insert community)*



## 'A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY'

*(insert community) ADVENT TRAIL*



*((insert church) is holding an Advent trail around (insert community).*

**Please help us make:**

**sheep, donkeys, cows, goats,  
and shepherds.**

Help yourself to patterns and wool

Bring your beautiful creations to  
*(insert church) by (insert date)*

ready for their journey around *(insert community)*



## ‘A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY’

**(insert community) ADVENT TRAIL**



**(insert church) is holding an  
Advent trail around  
(insert community)**

Mary, Joseph and all the characters  
of the Christmas story are travelling  
through *(insert community)* on  
**(insert to/from date)**  
on their way to Bethlehem.

Pick up a form where you see a poster,  
try to find them all, and see them at the  
Christmas stable at *(insert venue)*  
on **(insert date/time)**.



## ‘A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY’

**(insert community) ADVENT TRAIL**



**(insert church) is holding an  
Advent trail around  
(insert community)**

Mary, Joseph and all the characters  
of the Christmas story are travelling  
through *(insert community)* on  
**(insert to/from date)**  
on their way to Bethlehem.

Pick up a form where you see a poster,  
try to find them all, and see them at the  
Christmas stable at *(insert venue)*  
on **(insert date/time)**.



# 'A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY'

## (insert community name) **ADVENT TRAIL**



***(insert church)***  
**is holding an**  
**Advent trail around *(insert community)***

Mary, Joseph and all the characters  
of the Christmas story are travelling  
through *(insert community)* on *(insert to/from date)*  
on their way to Bethlehem.

Pick up a form where you see a poster,  
try to find them all, and see them at the  
Christmas stable at *(insert venue)*  
on *(insert date/time)*



<b>CAN YOU FIND</b>	<b>Fascinating Fact</b>
<b>Mary and Joseph</b>	
<b>Wise Man</b> – there are three of these, all in different places	
<b>Shepherd</b>	
<b>Sheep</b>	
<b>Donkey</b>	
<b>Cow</b>	
<b>Goat</b>	

<b>Participating Shops</b>	
Co-op, Chapel Street	Village Fruit & Veg, Cross Street
Robert Hughes Optician, Chapel Street	F & C Willey, Butcher, Cross Street
Brookes Bakery, Chapel Street	Lloyds Pharmacy, Cross Street
Chaps and Chicks Barber and Hairdresser, Chapel Street	Extra Care Charity Shop, Cross Street
Skin Candli, Chapel Street	Mojo's Beauty, Marketplace
Jems Nail Bar, Chapel Street	Hairmaster Hairdresser, Marketplace
Strands Hairdresser, Cross Street	Scrummy Bites Café, Marketplace
Lynz Bargainz, Cross Street	Mirage, Marketplace
Karen's Barber's, Cross Street	Rags to Riches, Marketplace
Mortimer's Café, Cross Street	Blondies Beauty, Market Street
Woodhouse Bargains, Cross Street	Memory Lane Tearoom, Market Street
Woodhouse Bargains, Cross Street	Woodhouse Library, Skelton Lane

Please hand in your completed form at *(insert venue)* on *(insert date/time)*

See which Christmas characters completed their journey to the stable, and get a prize.



# 'A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY'



*(insert to-from date)*

**The characters in the Christmas Story are journeying to Bethlehem through *(insert community)*.**

**Can you find them?**

Hand in your completed form at *(insert venue)* on *(insert date/time)*

Find out who has made it safely to the Christmas stable, and receive a prize.



What was your favourite Christmas fact?

.....

.....

.....

.....



## **‘A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY’**

**(insert community) ADVENT TRAIL**



**Thankyou for taking part in the  
(insert community) Advent Trail**

Your Christmas character will be with  
you until *(insert collection date)*.

Your character will be collected in the late af-  
ternoon in time for the display  
at *(insert venue) (insert date)*.

Please don't throw your character away!

If you have any problems or queries,  
please contact *(name)* on *(phone)*.



## **‘A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY’**

**(insert community) ADVENT TRAIL**



**Thankyou for taking part in the  
(insert community) Advent Trail**

Your Christmas character will be with  
you until *(insert collection date)*.

Your character will be collected in the late af-  
ternoon in time for the display  
at *(insert venue) (insert date)*.

Please don't throw your character away!

If you have any problems or queries,  
please contact *(name)* on *(phone)*.













## Name Badges (to use with your Christmas characters)

If you use more generic figures for your trail rather than nativity figures – like sheep, for example - you can give them names even if you don't go down the ticklist route. It makes it a bit more interesting for the participants. And everybody likes a sheep with a name...





<p>Hello, my name is</p> <p>.....</p> <p>I'm part of the Christmas Trail</p>  <p>= = = = =</p>	<p>Hello, my name is</p> <p>.....</p> <p>I'm part of the Christmas Trail</p>  <p>= = = = =</p>
<p>Hello, my name is</p> <p>.....</p> <p>I'm part of the Christmas Trail</p>  <p>= = = = =</p>	<p>Hello, my name is</p> <p>.....</p> <p>I'm part of the Christmas Trail</p>  <p>= = = = =</p>
<p>Hello, my name is</p> <p>.....</p> <p>I'm part of the Christmas Trail</p>  <p>= = = = =</p>	<p>Hello, my name is</p> <p>.....</p> <p>I'm part of the Christmas Trail</p>  <p>= = = = =</p>
<p>Hello, my name is</p> <p>.....</p> <p>I'm part of the Christmas Trail</p>  <p>= = = = =</p>	<p>Hello, my name is</p> <p>.....</p> <p>I'm part of the Christmas Trail</p>  <p>= = = = =</p>



**Did you know.....**

**The first artificial Christmas trees were developed in Germany in the 19th century, due to a major continuous deforestation.**



**Did you know.....**

**The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' meaning 'arrival' or 'coming'.**



**Did you know.....**

**Advent - the period leading up to Christmas  
- starts on the Sunday nearest to 30  
November. It ends on the Sunday before 25  
December.**



**Did you know.....**

**In Germany, Heiligabend, or Christmas  
Eve, is said to be a magical time when  
the pure in heart can hear animals  
talking.**



**Did you know.....**

**The first artificial Christmas Tree wasn't a tree at all. It was created out of goose feathers that were dyed green.**



**Did you know.....**

**Robins on cards were a joke 150 years ago when postmen wore red tunics and were named after them.**



**Did you know.....**

**Xmas is a common abbreviation of the word Christmas. Contrary to popular belief, the 'X' in 'Xmas' doesn't take 'Christ' out of 'Christmas'. That's because in the Greek alphabet, the letter X ('chi') is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ or Christos.**



**Did you know.....**

**The Bible doesn't actually mention what date Christmas falls on. It wasn't until the 4th century that the Roman church decided the 25 December was when Christians should celebrate Jesus's birth.**



**Did you know.....**

**Before turkey, the traditional Christmas meal in England was a pig's head and mustard.**



**Did you know.....**

**The word Christmas comes from the Old English 'Cristes maesse' meaning 'Christ's Mass'.**



**Did you know.....**

**Jingle Bells wasn't originally written as a Christmas song. Have you noticed it doesn't even mention Christmas, Advent or Jesus!**



**Did you know.....**

**The Bible doesn't actually mention what date Christmas falls on. It wasn't until the 4th century that the Roman church decided the 25 December was when Christians should celebrate Jesus's birth.**



**Did you know.....**

**The first Christmas celebrated in Britain is thought to have been in York in 521AD.**

**Did you know.....**

**Saint Francis invented the Nativity set in the 13th century**



**Did you know.....**

**Jesus was probably born during the Spring, because the shepherds who visited him were tending to their flock in the fields - which they would have been doing in the spring when lambs were being born.**



**Did you know.....**

**Christmas is only recently a 'family' holiday. Christmas was originally celebrated as an adult form of 'trick or treat', but with the 'treat' consisting of booze and the threatened 'trick' consisting of bodily harm or destruction of property.**







**Did you know.....**

**The Bible doesn't say that an innkeeper turned away Mary and Joseph (only that there was no room at the inn).**



**Did you know.....**

**Jesus was probably born in a cave and not a wooden stable.**



**Did you know.....**

**The first association of trees with Christmas comes from Saint Boniface in the 7th century AD, when he chopped down a tree sacred to Thor to prove to people that the Norse gods were not legitimate.**



**Did you know.....**

**The Bible doesn't say that Mary, the mother of Jesus, gave birth to Jesus the day she arrived in Bethlehem, only that it happened 'while they were there'.**



**Did you know.....**

**In the desert environment a donkey is able to hear the call of another donkey 60 miles away.**



**Did you know.....**

**The Bible doesn't say that Mary, the mother of Jesus, rode a donkey.**



**Did you know.....**

**Grey donkeys have a cross on their back and shoulders, said to be there because a donkey carried Jesus' mother to Bethlehem, and carried Jesus into Jerusalem.**



**Did you know.....**

**Contrary to popular belief, sheep are extremely intelligent animals capable of problem solving. They are considered to have a similar IQ level to cattle and are nearly as clever as pigs.**



**Did you know.....**

**Egyptians believed that sheep were sacred. They even had them mummified when they died, just like humans.**



**Did you know.....**

**Donkeys came to England with the Roman invasion of Britain in 43CE.**



**Did you know.....**

**Goats have accents. Just as human voices will vary in cadence and inflection by geographical region, a particular goat's bleat will sound different from that of a goat in a different country.**



**Did you know.....**

**Cows can live to the age of 25 years old if people would let them. But dairy cows are so worn out with almost constant pregnancy so humans can drink their milk, they usually survive only eight years.**



**Did you know.....**

**Sheared sheep don't recognize each other and fight for a few days to re-establish a hierarchy.**



**Did you know.....**

**Sheep are mentioned in the Bible more than 500 times, more than any other animal.**



**Did you know.....**

**Goats were one of the first animals to be domesticated.**



**Did you know.....**

**People first domesticated cows about 5000 years ago.**



**Did you know.....**

**The average domestic cow sleeps only about four hours a day.**



**Did you know.....**

**Shepherding is among the oldest occupations, beginning some 5,000 years ago in Asia Minor.**



**Did you know.....**

**Cows can walk up a flight of stairs, but once there, they can't walk back down. Their knees just don't bend the right way.**



**Did you know.....**

**The very first shepherd was Abel. He was also humanity's first murder victim, slain by his brother Cain. You can find these characters in the Book of Genesis in the Bible.**



**Did you know.....**

**It is thought that shepherds in Biblical times would break the legs of lambs that constantly wandered away. The shepherd would then set the broken leg and carry the lamb on his shoulders until the leg healed, after which time the lamb would remain by the shepherd's side for the rest of its life.**

**So beware the pictures of the kindly shepherd carrying a lamb!**



**Did you know.....**

**King David is the best known shepherd of Bible history. It was he who killed Goliath with one stone shot from a catapult. He also wrote the beloved Psalm 23, 'The Lord is my Shepherd'**



**Did you know.....**

**Epiphany is the name given to the day 12 days after Christmas on 6 January, when the wise men are said to have visited the baby Jesus. Some think this was three years after He was born!**



**Did you know.....**

**The Bible does not say that there were three wise men (no number is specified) or that they arrived the day/night of Jesus' birth.**



**Did you know.....**

**The Star of Bethlehem - the one the wise men followed to find the little baby Jesus - was probably a comet, or the planet Uranus (stop sniggering at the back).**



**Did you know.....**

**Sometimes we call the wise men 'Magi'. It comes from the Greek word 'magos' (where the English word 'magic' comes from). Today we'd call people like them astrologers.**



**Did you know.....**

**In legend (not the Bible) the three wise men were all given names. One was called Gaspar (or Caspar). He had brown hair and a brown beard (or no beard!) and wore a green cloak and a gold crown with green jewels on it. He is the King of Sheba. Gaspar brought Jesus Frankincense.**



**Did you know.....**

**The word Epiphany, referring to the time between Christmas and 6 January when the wise men are commonly thought to have arrived at Jesus' stable, comes from the Greek word meaning 'show' or 'reveal'.**



**Did you know.....**

**In legend (not the Bible) the three wise men were all given names. Balthazar had black skin and a black beard (or no beard!) and wore a purple cloak. He is the King of Tarse and Egypt. Balthazar brought Jesus Myrrh.**



**Did you know.....**

**The angel who told Mary she was going to give birth to Jesus is called Gabriel.**



**Did you know.....**

**The accounts of what we think of as the angels in the Christmas story are not referred to as angels. They are called messengers and are not described as possessing wings or halos.**



**Did you know.....**

**There is no reference to angels singing anywhere in the Bible.**



**Did you know.....**

**Although they are often called the 'Three Kings', the Bible does not refer to them as kings**

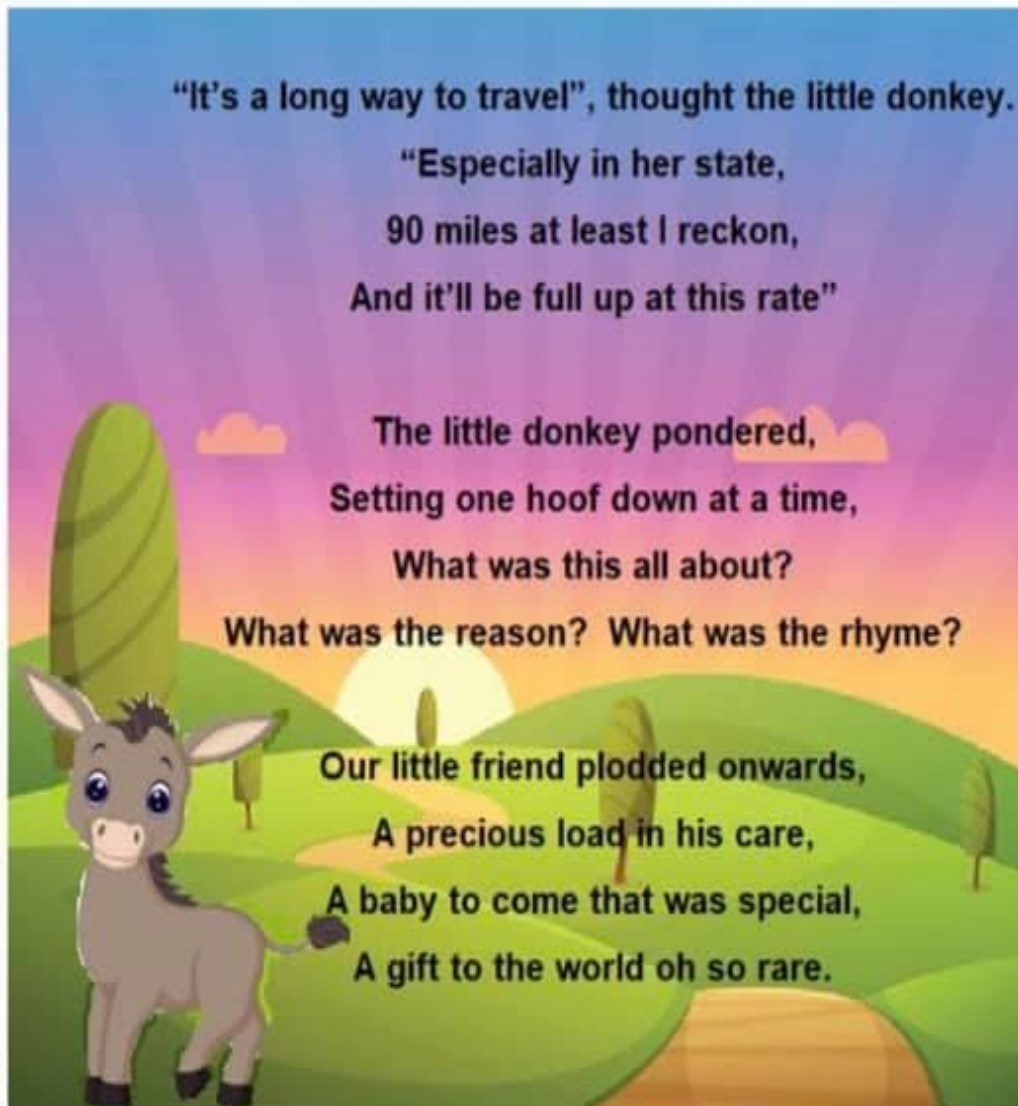




To give you some more ideas, you will find further examples of the ways in which Seasonal Trails have been used on pages 106—115. Now you can design your own.

# Heanor Christmas Trail

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December to  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020



Our little donkey 2,000 years ago might not have understood what he was carrying to Bethlehem, but that little baby was born despite difficult times; that family survived despite hardship; and we remembered them every year.

As you search for our donkeys throughout Heanor take hope that difficult times do pass, and remember the people helping one another in 2020 and beyond.

We are grateful to all the artists and crafters who have taken the time to make donkeys for us, and to all the businesses in Heanor who have hosted one of our friends this year. Special thanks go to Frosts for help with prizes.

# Heanor Christmas Trail



Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December to  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Paper entries can be posted through the letterbox at [redacted] no later than the end of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Entries can also be made using the QR codes that can be found at each location by the donkey's name.

We will need to contact the winners, so please ensure the child's name and a contact number are written below.

Prizes will be delivered in time for Christmas Day as long as we are able to get in touch with a responsible adult.

CHILD'S NAME .....

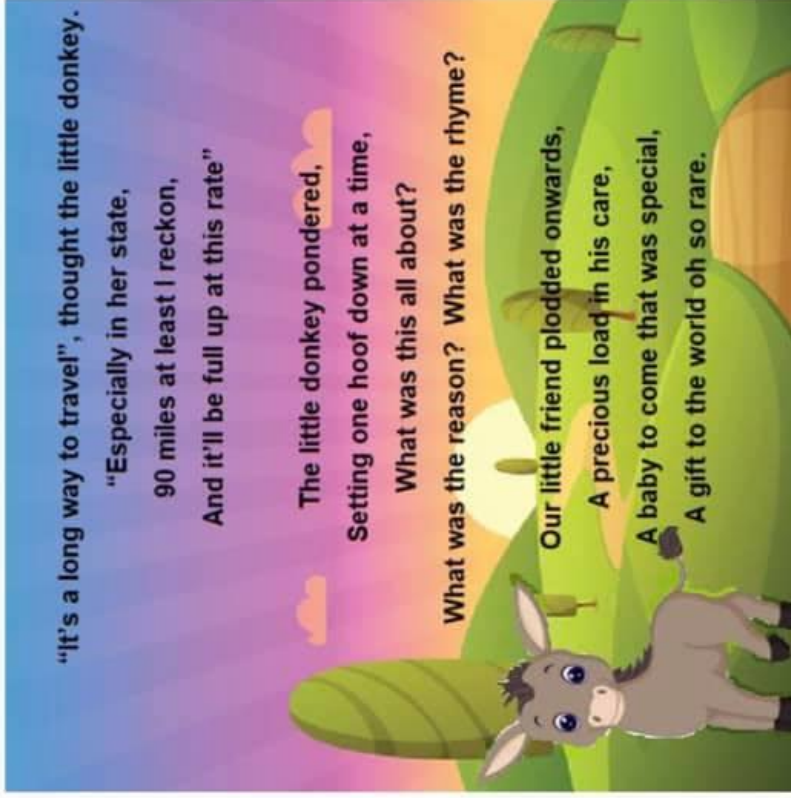
CHILD'S ADULT .....

CONTACT TEL .....

Which was your favourite?

DONKEY .....

LOCATION .....



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<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>NAME</b>
Boyes	
KLN Accountancy	
One Stop	
Marketplace Noticeboard	
Behind the Seams	
Gemini Hair & Retreat	
New Life	
Scrivens Opticians	
Birds Bakery	
Heanor Police Station	
Lighthouse Charity Shop	
Heanor Post Office	
Jak's Café	
Give 4 Change Charity Shop	
Mundy Junior School	

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>NAME</b>
Genesis Barbers	
Woods Bros	
Brian Christian Hair Design	
Stacey's Bakery	
Belvoir Elder & Twells	
Shampoochies	
County Shoe Care	
Pyramids Hair Design	
St Lawrence Church	
Heanor Methodist Church	
Pipers the Florist	
Stag Barbers	
Corfield Infant School	
Frosts	
Marketplace Bollards	





**Heanor Vision**  
and  
St Lawrence Church

# Christmas Trail 2017

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November to  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Lost sheep are hiding out in some of our local shops and other buildings – can you help us find them?

Each sheep will have a sign telling you its name and that it is part of the Christmas Trail.

All you need to do is to find the sheep at each location, fill in the name on the entry form, and hand your completed form in to the stall at Heanor Vision's Christmas Market on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December (10:00am til 2:00pm).

All entries will receive a small prize for taking part and correct entries will go into a prize draw which will take place at the start of St Lawrence Church's Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December (7:00pm). We are grateful to Frosts and Tesco for supplying the prizes, and to all who have made sheep.

Entry forms will be available from local schools and churches.

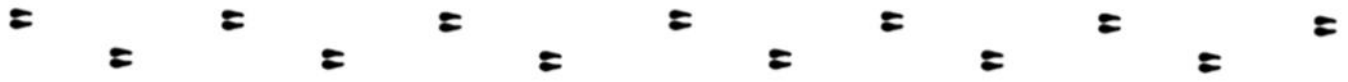
Questions can be directed to:  
[Redacted] Christmas Trail Organiser





**Heanor Vision**  
and  
St Lawrence Church

# Christmas Trail 2017



**Have you:**



**Found 49 sheep around town?**



**Found the final sheep on this stall?**



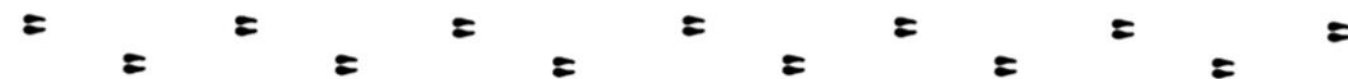
**Filled in your name, school, and phone number on your entry form?**



**Correct entries will go into a draw for 1st prize and runners up.**

**The draw will take place at St Lawrence Church's**

**Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 17th December, at 7:00pm**







LOCATION	SHEEP'S NAME
St Lawrence Church	
Scriven's Opticians	
Crest of the Wave	
Pierced n Proud	
Knights Property	
Marketplace Noticeboard	
William Gregg Leisure Centre	
Frosts Heanor Hallmark	
Treetops	
Birds	
Shampoochies	
Heanor Post Office	
Go Mobile	
Genesis Barbers	
Five-A-Day	
Mundy Junior School	
Elder & Twells	
Godfrey's Cob Shop	
New Life	
County Shoecare	
Florence Shipley	
Headway	
Woods Bros	
Captain's Cabin	
Pyramids Hair Design	

LOCATION	SHEEP'S NAME
Corfield Infant School	
One Stop	
Electronic Genie	
Heanor Library	
The Market Café	
High Life Kitchens	
Age UK	
Brian Christian Hair Design	
The Royal Breakfast	
Heanor Methodists	
Fun & Games	
Piper's Florists	
Salon Sixteen	
Boyes	
I-Wear Opticians	
Stacey's Bakery	
Tesco	
The Olive Tree	
KLN Accountancy	
Heanor Town Hall	
Give For Good	
Gemini Hairdressers	
Jak's Café	
Acorn Natural Health	
Trail Stall on Heanor Vision's Christmas Market	



in Heanor and Langley Mill



# Easter Trail



Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Easter chicks are hiding out in some of our local shops and other buildings in the town centre from 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

Can you help us find them?

Each chick will have a sign telling you its name and that it is part of the Easter Trail.

All you need to do is to find all the names, fill in your entry sheet then hand it in at St Lawrence Church, Heanor after the Good Friday Procession (10:00am on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April).

All entries will receive a small prize for taking part, and correct entries will go in to a prize draw.  
(provided by Tesco Heanor)

Entry sheets will be available from local schools and churches.

Questions can be directed to:  
Jo Bloggs: Easter Trail Organiser  
Tel: 123456789  
e-mail: . . . . .

Please hand your entry in at St Lawrence Church on Heanor Market Place, on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017, after the Easter Witness (which starts at 10:00am)

We will need to contact the winners, so please ensure the child's name and school are written below.

There is also space for a home phone number if you wish to give it.

The prize draw will take place on Easter Sunday, and winners will be notified as soon as possible.

CHILD'S NAME  
.....

CHILD'S SCHOOL  
.....

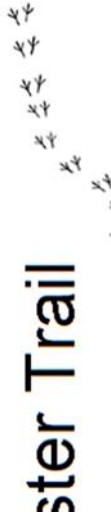
TEL  
.....

Which was your favourite?  
CHICK  
.....

LOCATION  
.....



## Easter Trail



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Questions can be directed to:  
Easter Trail Organiser

# Voices of Experience

- Community links are really important - in fact they are pretty much the whole point! Being able to say that you are working with other well known community groups, (such as Heanor Vision), makes it much easier to get larger shops etc onside. It's good to establish these relationships and partnerships well in advance.
- Donations of prizes - If you're planning this kind of activity it's good to work at developing those community connections all year round. So that if your local supermarket has a new member of staff handling community liaison, you have already established a relationship with them.
- Don't be afraid to ask, 'one shop was kind enough to give us two prizes because another one had refused'. 'The School had some spare selection boxes we could have used, but I didn't ask.' In with the final prize we always include one of the Xmas story booklets from church (from Bible Society). Wrap prizes nicely and deliver to the children's homes.
- Timing matters too. I basically work back from Christmas (or Easter) as far as possible. So I deliver presents/prizes 3-4 days before Christmas/Easter (I did it on Christmas Eve one year but that wasn't good for me or for the families involved so I won't do that again). We draw one overall winner from all of the correct entries and that takes place at a community event a day or so before that (possibly a Carol Service or Crib service). I tend to have the trail end on a Friday or Saturday giving me time to go through the entries to check they are filled in and correct etc.
- Publicity - schools, Facebook, churches, local council, word of mouth, other crafters who have contributed. They all matter.
- Other crafters - VITAL. Be realistic about how many chicks/sheep/donkeys or whatever you can make with the number of volunteers you have recruited. Better at the start to be a bit under ambitious, and then deliver as promised, than to overpromise and let people down.
- Distribution - also useful to have helpers. Especially if you work during the daytime and aren't able to get round everywhere.
- Visibility of your items - be aware of the limitations of the places you are using. One shop often had their blinds closed so they needed flat items that could be displayed between the window and the blind. 3D items won't necessarily work everywhere.



# Introducing Unlock

Unlock, by various names, has been around since 1972, trying to help (mainly) urban Christians to understand and share their faith appropriately. Our life experience matters; our stories; our joys and sorrows. The Bible has plenty to say, more than we'll ever know, about our lives, if we know how to read it and apply it - if we know how to **UNLOCK** it!

Unlock uses an approach to engaging with the Bible that is different to traditional Bible studies. The work outlined in this pack applies the learning cycle on page 119. Unlock's approach starts from the stories and experiences of group members, whereas a more traditional approach starts from the Biblical text. Unlock's approach has been found to work well with small groups of urban, oral learners from outside of the church.

There are many free resources on the Unlock website designed for use with such groups. However, because each of these resources was designed for a particular group in a particular time and place they are unlikely be a perfect fit for your group as they stand. They are offered more as inspiration for you to design your own materials along the same lines, rather than as ready to use packages. Unlock usually works with people outside of church who may be interested in finding out a bit more about faith but perhaps are not attracted to the formal methods of learning often associated with church. Our work is based on a reflective learning cycle and is a tried and tested way of introducing people to the Bible in a non-threatening way. Many churches have activities that draw in members of their surrounding community but then struggle with how to move on from those relationships into exploring faith, especially in urban environments where anything formal might be treated with suspicion. This resource has



been developed by an Unlock worker in Woodhouse, Sheffield and a friend of Unlock in Heanor, Derbyshire. The sessions were specifically designed to engage their local communities. Consider how they would need to be adapted for your own place.

Bible Text in these materials is taken from the Good News Bible (British Usage Edition), published by the Bible Societies and Collins, American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976; used by permission. The materials contain some things which are not original to Unlock. We have attempted to identify all the sources, but in some cases it has not been possible. Unlock will take immediate steps to rectify any breach of copyright upon notification. Thank you for your co-operation in this. If you have any queries relating to Unlock materials, please contact:

Unlock, 15 Station Rd, Rotherham S60 1HN

Tel: 01709 380 318 [office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk)

## Unlock Materials

These materials have been produced by Unlock. The user obtains no rights to these materials.

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- Do not use these materials for commercial purposes.
- Do reproduce any material in full, rather than editing it.
- Acknowledge both the author and Unlock, including a contact address for Unlock.
- Obtain advance permission from Unlock if the material is to be distributed to a network wider than a local church group.



# The Unlock Learning Cycle

## **Unlocking real life stories of urban people.**

Start with the group telling stories from their real life experience.

## **Leading to more experience.**

What we learn now is learnt for life and changes us. We also learn to keep reflecting!.

## **Releasing life changing skills and confidence.**

Change happens as a result of linking real life experience with the Bible. This change often leads to action among others.

## **Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ.**

The real life stories are connected to and compared with similar situations in the Bible.



Page number	Image	Image Credit
cover	Street footprints	<a href="https://louisaholly.wordpress.com/2010/01/31/falmouths-street-art/footprints/">https://louisaholly.wordpress.com/2010/01/31/falmouths-street-art/footprints/</a>
6 & 41	Bunny	<a href="http://www.freepik.com">www.freepik.com</a>
7,	Row of decorated eggs	<a href="https://961thebreeze.com/hard-boiled-eggs-in-the-oven/">https://961thebreeze.com/hard-boiled-eggs-in-the-oven/</a>
8	Fluffy chicks	Public domain image
9-12	Chicks in shops	Authors image
12	Chicks on blanket	Public domain image
13	Chick making	<i>Authors image</i>
14	Pompom chick	Image from Practically Functional
16	Crochet chicks	<i>Image from <a href="https://lookatwhatimade.net/">https://lookatwhatimade.net/</a></i>
19	Bill posters	<a href="http://www.urban75.org/">http://www.urban75.org/</a>
20 - 24	Rabbit and chick, more chicks, Blah blah	Public domain images
31 & 91	Name badges	Clip art
32	Chick	<a href="http://www.clipart-library.com">www.clipart-library.com</a>
36 - 37, 39, 40	Easter posters	©Siggy Parratt-Halbert <a href="http://www.stinkingweasel.co.uk">www.stinkingweasel.co.uk</a> used with permission
38	Bill posters	<a href="http://www.urban75.org/">http://www.urban75.org/</a>
42, 46,55,69,76,78 & 83	Gentile da Fabriano - Nativity	Public domain image
47 - 51	Knitted nativity figures, Crochet Sheep	Original image sources unclear
56 - 58	Knitted sheep	<a href="http://flutterbypatch.blogspot.com/2009/05/knitted-sheep-in-woolly-land.html">http://flutterbypatch.blogspot.com/2009/05/knitted-sheep-in-woolly-land.html</a>
59 - 64	Fester the Goat	Ravelry <a href="#">Jenny Stacey</a>
65	Crochet Donkey	Ravelry <a href="#">Tess Eaton</a>
70 & 71	Knitted angel	Public domain image
77	Dolly peg nativity	<a href="https://www.housebeautiful.com/uk/decorate/display/how-to/a19/how-to-make-a-nativity-scene/">https://www.housebeautiful.com/uk/decorate/display/how-to/a19/how-to-make-a-nativity-scene/</a>
79	Cup and ball shepherd	<a href="https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/cup-and-ball-shepherd-craft">https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/cup-and-ball-shepherd-craft</a>
80	Lego sheep	<a href="https://www.instructables.com/How-to-Make-15-LEGO-Animals/">https://www.instructables.com/How-to-Make-15-LEGO-Animals/</a>
81	Donkey outline	<a href="https://angyalfold.lutheran.hu/letoltes/oromhir1612.pdf">https://angyalfold.lutheran.hu/letoltes/oromhir1612.pdf</a>
82	Cardboard Cow	Public domain image
85 - 90	Lego Nativities	<a href="https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/238409373999349596/">https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/238409373999349596/</a>
89	Teddy Bear Nativity	Original image source unclear
92	Sheep	clipart
105	Reindeer	<a href="http://www.vectorstock.com">www.vectorstock.com</a>
106 - 155	Donkey and sheep pictures	Free clip art
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