

Travelling Crib



Thank you for helping us to remember the Christmas Story and joining our special journey called 'The Travelling Crib'. This is to help us remember the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem, and as a family take time to stop and think about the meaning of Christmas.

The baby Jesus is not in the crib yet as he has not been born.

The figures will come back to _____ at the Crib service on _____ at _____

Do come and join us to see them arrive.

Today we bring before you these figures of Mary and Joseph.

As we welcome them into our homes this Christmas, may we welcome the Lord Jesus into our hearts and lives.

Amen

As the figures are handed from family to family

Givers: Will you take these figures of Mary and Joseph and the donkey into your home?

Receivers: We/I will *(the figures are handed over)*

Givers: May they be a symbol to you of taking the Lord Jesus into your heart(s).

All: Amen

With the figures, you will find:

A candle, copies of this sheet and the Christmas story

Set up the figures and the candle and say this prayer together.

Eternal God, Father Son and Holy Spirit

You are always present in our home

unseen and often not acknowledged.

Help us to experience the joy of looking forward this

Advent and make it a time of new beginnings.

We welcome these figures from the nativity

and pray that you will bless this house

and all of us who live here.

Amen.

Light the candle

A prayer to say when the candle is lit or you may like to use the candle song on the back page.

Dear God, Please bless our home and family on this special night as we remember the journey to Bethlehem and how excited Mary and Joseph were that Jesus would soon be born.

Help us to cherish this special time together and to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Amen.

After saying the prayer take a few moments of silence to think about what Christmas means to you.

You may like to read the Christmas story together.

The following prayers are for you to use if you wish.

There are enough copies for you to keep one and use during the rest of Advent.

A prayer for families

We pray for families around the world
For Church families, for broken families,
for our own families, for those with no family
That Christmas will be a time of preparation and thought,
That Jesus will be at the centre of our family,
That we may unite and forgive each other
And look forward with confidence showing true love for one another.
Amen.

For those who travel

Father, we pray for all those who will travel today
to school or work or play,
for those who will travel home to visit families far away,
and for those who are seeking God's will for their lives.
As we all travel through life, unite us in your love and help us to
draw comfort and strength from one another
and to grow in love and grace.
Amen.

*You may like to sing this when you light the candle
(to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle)*

Candle, candle standing tall
Jesus love is for us all.
Now we're going to make it shine
The light it gives us is a sign
(light the candle)
Candle, candle burning bright
Jesus is the world's true light

A Prayer for others who will be welcoming the travelling crib

Lord God our Father, as we have welcomed these nativity figures into our homes,
we pray that other people will open their homes and lives to you this Advent time.
Help all who will be involved in the Nativity by welcoming these figures to celebration
with expectation the waiting time between now and Christmas.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May God bless you as you prepare for Christmas.

May your Advent journey be filled with hope, joy and the light of Christ Jesus.

Taken from a Service for St Cecelia's, Adstock, with thanks