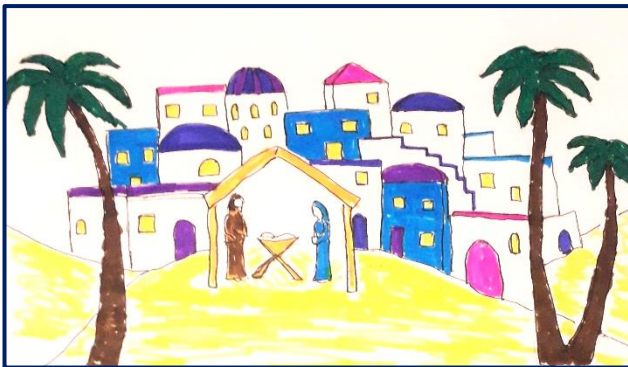


Welcome to the International Aid Trust Advent Reflection for 2021. Some days there is a Bible verse to help us think about the journeys taken to Bethlehem that first Christmas.

Some days there are areas of our ministry to give thanks and pray for. We hope and pray that it will help you take some time out from the busyness to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas.



# ADVENT REFLECTION 2021

*In*ternational  
Aid Trust  
*Christian Compassion For A Hurting World*

## **In this pack are:**

- 1) the calendar of prayer points for each day.
- 2) the pictures to cut out, colour and put together to create a Bethlehem scene.

## **How to use this reflection:**

- For each day there is a Bible verse and thought to reflect on or an area of our work to pray.
- Create your background: take an A3 sheet of card or paper (or stick 2 A4s together). Make the top half dark blue for the sky –you could dot in some small stars in white. Make the bottom half sandy colour – you might want to slope this up to a hill in the centre.
- You could choose to add a part of the background, Bethlehem scene or characters to the picture each day, or put the picture together in 1 go. Some of the pictures to colour relate directly to the reflection for a particular day, these are labelled
- Use your imagination! How you colour / paint / decorate each part and how you arrange them is up to you!
- Please adapt and use this resource as it works for you – it can be done alone, with a child or as a family day by day; or as a group who meet weekly praying for those 7 areas at one meeting, or with a larger group at 1 meeting.
- The images are designed to fill an A3 sheet, but you can photocopy them larger to create a bigger finished picture.



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Here is an example of how all the pictures could fit together to form a Bethlehem scene, but it's great if you want to arrange differently, or to use felt pens / pastels / collage or other materials.

We'd love to see your completed Bethlehem scenes! You can email photos to

[julie@internationalaidtrust.org.uk](mailto:julie@internationalaidtrust.org.uk)

Or tag us if you share your scene on social media:

Facebook: @internationalaidtrusthq Instagram: @internationalaidtrust Twitter: @IATonline

## December Daily Reflection and Prayer

### 1) Mark 2 v 6

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'

As you create your background for the Bethlehem scene, take time to think about this prophecy of Jesus's birth.

2) Give thanks for our Shoebox scheme, that these small boxes bring so much joy to the people who receive them. Please pray for everyone who receives a shoebox this year, that this gift will point them to God's greatest gift of his Son Jesus.



3) Give thanks for everyone who fills shoeboxes, and for those who co-ordinate their group, church or school's part in the shoebox scheme. Please pray that they will be blessed by blessing people in need.



4) Give thanks that our new warehouse is operational at Lostock Hall. Please pray for the loads being put together to be sent to Eastern Europe and to Sierra Leone.

5) Luke 2 v: 1 - 5 'In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ... So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.' Take time to think about their 90 mile journey.

6) Give thanks for our Midwife Marion and Nurse Rebecca in Sierra Leone, travelling to villages and supporting new and expectant mums. Pray for safe deliveries, healthy mums and babies.



7) Give thanks for the free health camps that our team in India are able to organise and the Christian doctors, dentists and nurses who so generously give their time. Pray that they will be a great blessing to people who can't afford health care.



8) Give thanks for the Hands of Dorcas Tailoring training that takes place in different ways in India, Sierra Leone and Ukraine. Pray that the skills that the women are learning would help them to provide for their families and also bring dignity and hope for the future.

### 9) Luke 2 v 10:

'I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people ...' Give thanks and pray for all who share the good news, like Pastor Ruslan and his team of volunteers at the Prison Ministry in Odessa, who share the gospel and give prisoners hope of new life in Jesus.

10) Give thanks for Pastor Igor and all the volunteers from Klekhivka Church who are sharing the gospel and planting churches in neighbouring villages such as Gvardiyske. Pray for local people to receive the Good News with joy.

11) Give thanks for our Ukraine Director Pastor Pasha and volunteers from Kyiv churches who travel over to support the outreach in rural villages. Pray for safe travels, energy and encouragement.

### 12) Luke 2v 15

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." Take time to think about the Shepherd's amazement and joy as they hurried to Bethlehem.

## December Daily Reflection and Prayer

**13)** Give thanks for Bishop Kota, our Director in India and all the Pastors who travel to villages to share the gospel with people who otherwise wouldn't hear about Jesus. Please pray for protection from persecution and for villagers to accept Jesus.

**14)** Give thanks for Living Hope School and Little Buds School in India providing a good education in a caring Christian environment. Please pray for all the staff and children.



**15)** Give thanks for New Hope School in Sierra Leone, where children are enjoying learning, their free school lunch and getting to know Jesus. Please pray for the plans for a secondary school.



**16)** Give thanks for Pastor Michael and Alice, our Director and Headteacher in Sierra Leone and the evangelists from New Hope Church who travel to villages to share the gospel. Please pray that they will see more and more people giving their lives to Jesus.

**17)** Give thanks for Pastor Victor and team in Moldova, serving very poor rural villages. Please pray for them as they support people practically and spiritually.



**18)** Give thanks for our partnership with Prison Fellowship Romania, in Transylvania. Please pray for Director Andrei and team as they support very marginalised Roma communities, as well as prisoners and their families.

**19) Matthew 2v1-2:** '... Magi from the East came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' As the Magi were guided by the star, give thanks that we have God's Word in the Bible to guide us today.

**20) Matthew 2 v 10 -11:** 'When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.' Take time to reflect on the Magi's long journey, probably from Arabia, and the joy of seeing Jesus.

**21)** Give thanks for our CEO and Founder Bernard and all our Trustees, pray for God's wisdom and guidance in their leadership of the charity.

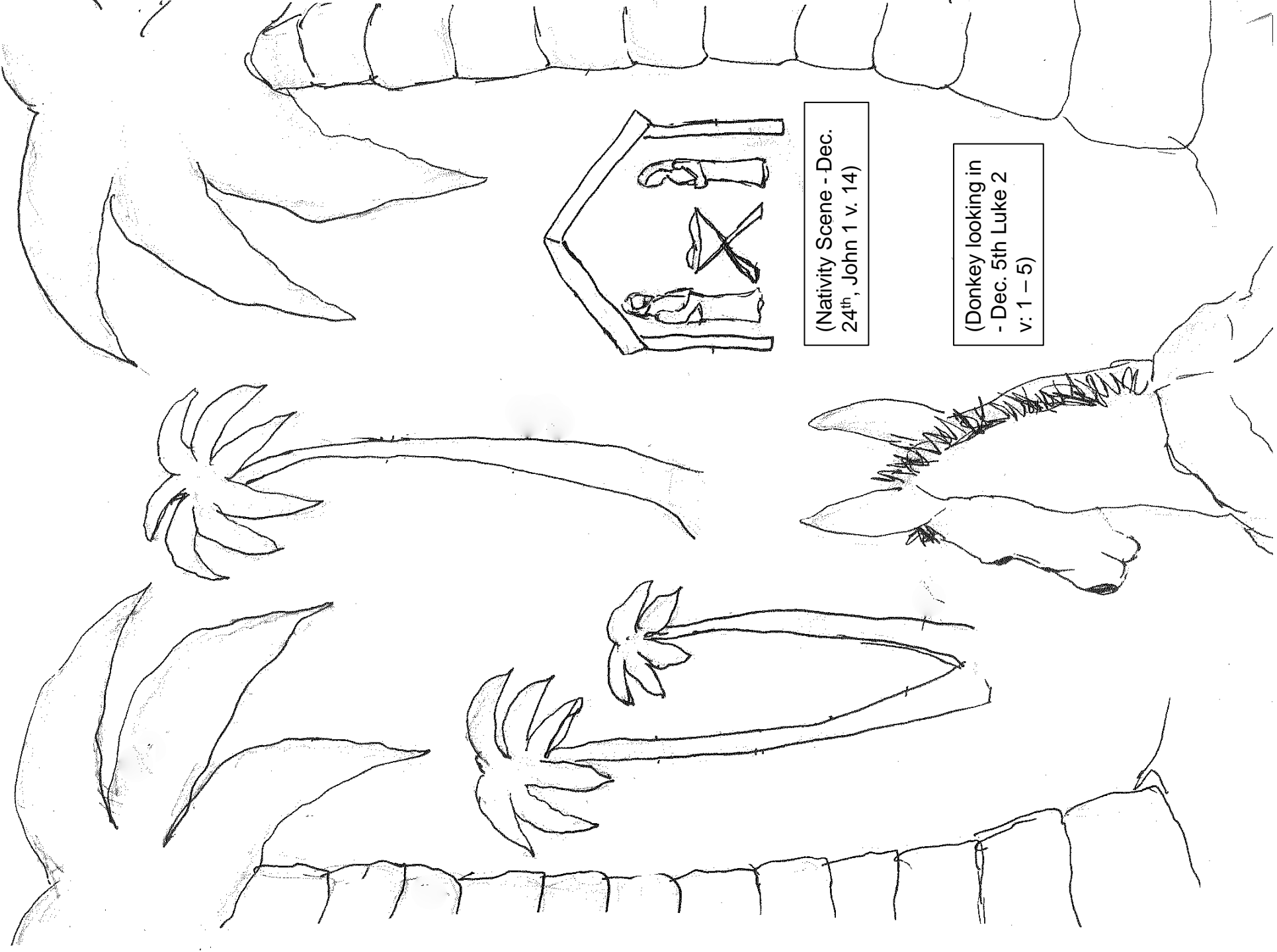
**22)** Give thanks for all our dedicated UK managers and staff in the office, warehouse and charity shops. Pray for God's help and wisdom for them in every situation.



**23)** Give thanks for everyone who gives their time volunteering for International Aid Trust in the UK and across the world. Pray for all our volunteers to be blessed as they are a blessing to others.

**24) John 1 v 14**  
'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.' Take time to reflect on God's amazing gift to us of his son Jesus.

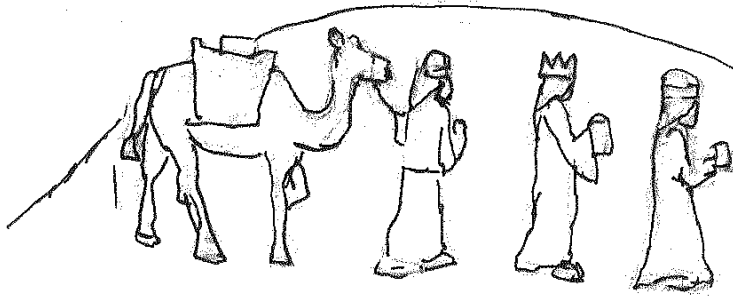
Every Blessing from all at  
International Aid Trust  
this Christmas



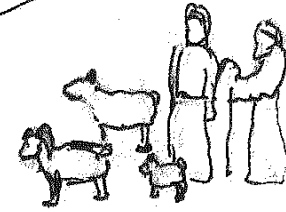
(Nativity Scene - Dec.  
24<sup>th</sup>, John 1 v. 14)

(Donkey looking in  
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> Luke 2  
v: 1 - 5)

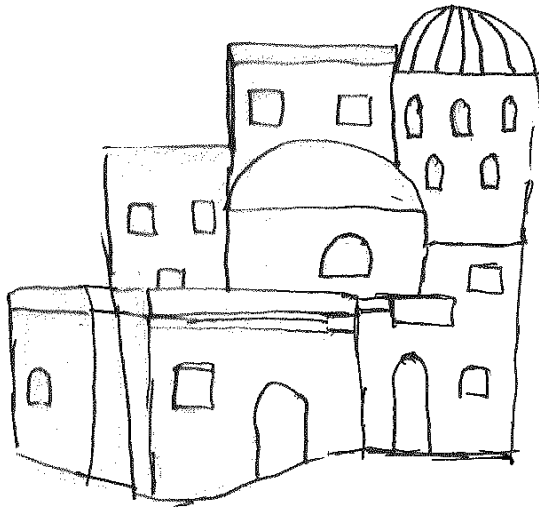
(Star - Dec. 19th,  
Matthew 2 v. 1-2)



(Magi - Dec. 20th,  
Matthew 2 v. 10 -11)



(Shepherds and sheep -  
Dec. 12th, Luke 2 v.15)



(Bethlehem- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>,  
Mark 2 v. 6)

