

Are We Ready? The Parish Posada

Making Room for Jesus this Christmas



What is Posada?

Posada is a Spanish word that means 'Inn', and is also the title for a Mexican Advent celebration. In the UK a more recent tradition is to send out the figures of Mary and Joseph on an Advent journey around a parish leading up to Christmas. The figures travel from home to home staying overnight before moving onwards in their journey. Whilst the figures are in your home, it is an opportunity to pray, and quietly reflect on the wonder of that first Christmas, and to share God's message and promise of love given us in the Christ-child.

It may be difficult to believe but knowledge of the Christmas story is fading; unless we actively share the Christmas story, Christ will continue to be written out of Christmas.

The Posada is based on the text from chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel: *"She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn"*. It symbolises the hardship of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their difficulty in finding a place to stay where Mary could have her baby.

What's Involved?

Mary and Joseph travel with instructions, suggested prayers, a book re-telling the Christmas story, an Advent candle, a Fairtrade real Advent calendar, and also a diary for you to put your own entries, photos and pictures in. It's a great Advent activity for all ages, and can be enjoyed by every one. All you need to do is add your name to the journey rota (in Church) for a night that will suit you to host Mary and Joseph. Another person from the parish will make arrangements to bring the figures to you at a time to suit you both. The next day you need to take Mary and Joseph to the next host on the journey rota. It's as simple as that! Please ensure you have added your details on the journey Rota by **November 26th**.

Mary and Joseph receive a blessing and set off on their Advent journey at our **"Worship 4 All" service at St Bartholomew's Church on 29th November 9.30am**, visiting each home in turn, returning in time for the **"Crib Service" at St James' at 24th December 4.00pm**. Where the whole parish will gather together in Church to listen to the Christmas story. Everyone who has hosted Mary and Joseph during December is invited to the service.

I hope you enjoy taking part!