

# Thank you for taking part in the Messy Church Nativity Trail

The Trail ends at St Mary's church where you will find the last figure hiding. When you have finished you can check your 'names' against the answer sheet before you post it into the box. Finally you are welcome to add a cut out figure onto our large Nativity Picture, with your name on it (if you want), to show everyone that you have completed the trail.

We hope you have enjoyed taking part in this trail and if you would like to find out more about Messy Church please leave your name and an email address. We will happily notify you of future Messy Church dates.

Name of child.....

Email.....

On Sundays at 10.45am in St. Mary's, Alverstoke we have Church Alive, a relaxed service for all ages with activities for children.



## NATIVITY TRAIL

The nativity characters were all heading to St. Mary's Church to help tell the children about the First Christmas when baby Jesus was born but they have been distracted by the lovely shops in **Alverstoke**.



Please can you tell us where they are hiding so that we can make sure they all get to the church in time for the Crib Services on Christmas Eve.

Between the **7th and 20th December** you're invited to go on the Nativity Trail as a family to find the lost knitted nativity characters. When you go please always ensure there is an adult with children. The knitted nativity characters may be in the shop window or some may be hiding inside the shops. Please be extra careful if looking for a character inside a shop. When you find a character you can write its name on this leaflet in the space below the name of the shop.

Please help us find all the nativity characters in time for **St. Mary's Alverstoke Christmas Eve Crib Services at 3.00pm and 4.30pm** so that they can come along to help with our celebrations.

The next **Messy Church** will be held at St. Mary's Parish Centre, Green Road on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 3.30pm**

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

# The Christmas Story

On 25 December we celebrate Christmas, the birthday of Jesus who was called Christ... Before Jesus was born his parents Mary and Joseph went to a town called Bethlehem. It was very busy and they couldn't find anywhere to stay. A friendly innkeeper let them sleep in his stable with the animals. When Jesus was born Mary wrapped him in cloths and put him in a manger. A star appeared in the sky over the stable.

Out in the fields, some shepherds were looking after their sheep when suddenly an angel appeared. The shepherds were very scared. The angel told them not to be scared because he had brought good news. He told them that Jesus had been born and that he would be the person who would save the world. He told the shepherds to go and see Jesus which they did. They knelt down in front of the manger and were very happy that

they had found the one who had been sent by God. When they left they told everyone about Jesus and about how he was going to save the world.

Later on, some wise men came from the East to see Jesus. They had brought special gifts because they knew Jesus was a king. They were surprised that he had been born in a stable and not a palace. They worshipped Jesus and gave him the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And so... Each Christmas we celebrate Jesus being born. God gave us Jesus as a present to show us that He loves us. And we give each other presents to show people that we love them.



# Messy Church Nativity Trail

Travel around Alverstoke Village and when you find a character you can write its name in the spaces below:

Village Fish Bar

.....

Brooks Bruce Accountants

.....

Past and Present

.....

Harpers

.....

Honey buns and Sewing bees

.....

One Stop

.....

The Parish Centre

.....

Darcey's Tea Rooms

.....

St. Mary's Church

.....

Salutations of Alverstoke

.....

Village Hardware

.....

The Beauty Boutique

.....

Village Home

.....

Little Palace

.....

Alverstoke Post Office

.....

Old Lodge Hotel

.....

The Village Barbershop

.....

Voluptuous Vintage

.....