



Christmas Story Window Trail 2020

Windows lighting up from
Sunday 29th November

find them on our story trail map:

www.stnicholasbathampton.org.uk

To add your window to the story trail map

email: events@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk

Welcome

 to the greatest

story ever told, told in a way you've probably never seen before. Enjoy the windows, best seen after dark and before 8.00pm when some of the lights will go off. You should be able to see them safely but remember to keep a 2-metre distance from anyone outside your household, and not to form groups that break current government guidelines. If the trail is too much for you to do in one go, why not do it over two evenings?

See the map on the back page..

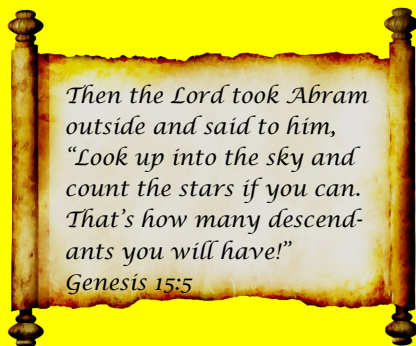
The story begins up on Hantone Hill...

1

People were living in darkness because they were not friends with their creator God, who loves the world and is the giver of light. So a very long time ago, God made a promise to one old man Abraham. He was going to bless Abraham with lots of children and grandchildren: as many in his family as the stars in the sky!

How many Christmas windows can you see on this theme? Do you recognise any Christmas carols? Would you like to sing one of them as you walk?

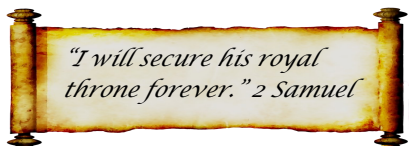
Write down the 1st
mystery letter here:



God made the stars. God loves us and wants lots of friends.

Take care crossing Warminster Road, turn left and find a footpath on your right down to The Chestertons. NB: There are some steps.

Hundreds of years later the world was still in darkness. But God made another promise to one of Abraham's great-great-great-grandchildren, who was a king called David. One of David's great-great-great-grandchildren would be king for ever and ever! *Can you see a crown for this king?*



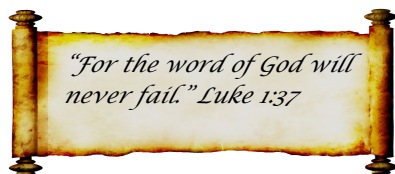
One king will rule
for ever and ever.

Hundreds of years later the world was **still** in darkness. But some people were still trusting God's promise and looking forward to God making it come true.



Mary was a young girl looking forward to marrying Joseph. Suddenly she saw a very scary angel who told her not to be afraid. He was bringing good news from God, that God had chosen Mary to have a baby who would be King for ever. His name would be JESUS which means God Rescues.

See if you can see Mary and the angels in any windows around Holcombe Close. Write down the 2nd mystery letter here:




An angel surprised Mary and said she was going to have a VERY special baby.

3

Joseph thought Mary must have been cheating on him so he was going to finish with her. But an angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit... you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

How do you think Joseph would have felt when he had this dream?

3rd mystery letter:



All of this occurred to fulfil the Lord's message through his prophet:

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

Matthew 1:22-23

Head down Holcombe Vale and turn right at the bottom. Can you find the Roman Emperor (the most powerful person in the world then)? He is telling everyone to do something!

4

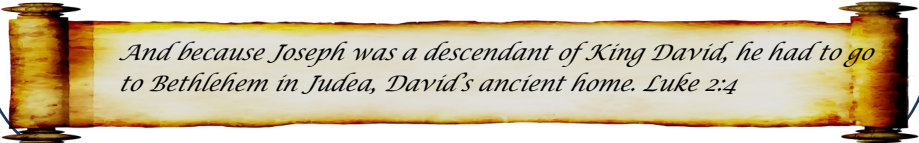
The Emperor made everyone go to their home town to be counted. So Joseph had to go to Bethlehem, a little town called the City of David, and he took Mary with him.

Follow their journey back up to Holcombe Lane and turn right.

Do you know any carols about this?

Everyone had to go back to their home town. So Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem.

4th mystery letter:



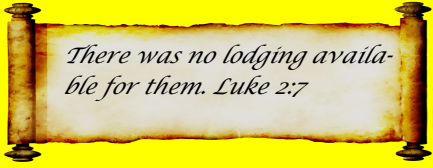
And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. Luke 2:4

Up Down Lane can you see some Christmas windows?

5

When they arrived in Bethlehem, everywhere was booked out.

There was no room at the inn.



There was no lodging available for them. Luke 2:7

5th mystery letter:

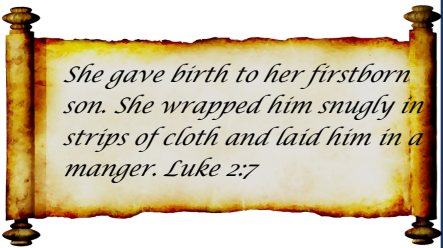
Cross over Down Lane and go along Devonshire Road.

6

The time came for the baby to be born, and Mary laid him in an animals' feeding box.

There is a very well-known children's carol about this.

6th mystery letter:



She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. Luke 2:7

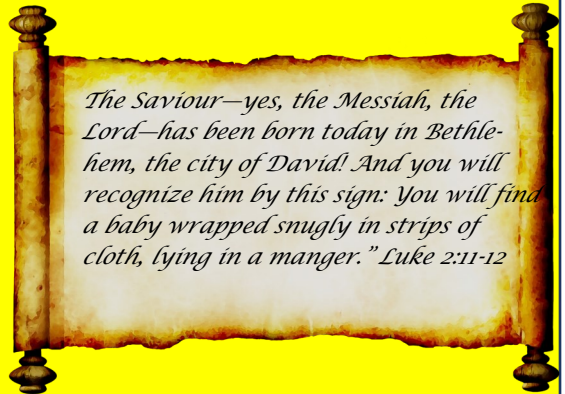
Mary's baby was born and she put him in a manger.

Around the top end of Devonshire Road are some windows on both sides of the main road.

7

In the fields outside Bethlehem some shepherds were sleeping rough and taking turns to keep an eye on their sheep. They were used to dangerous wild animals trying to steal the sheep. They were ready for a fight like that but they were absolutely terrified by the surprise they got this night. Another angel! He started by saying what angels always seem to say first: "Don't be afraid." Then he told them some amazing news. They were the first to hear it but it was for everybody and it was good news. The Rescuer-King they were waiting for had been born! How would they know this was true? If they went into town they would see a strange sight: a baby in an animal feeding box! 10 000 angels then filled the sky, celebrating and saying how great God is and how lucky the people were. So when it went quiet, of course the shepherds hurried off to check it out for themselves.

7th mystery letter:



The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:11-12

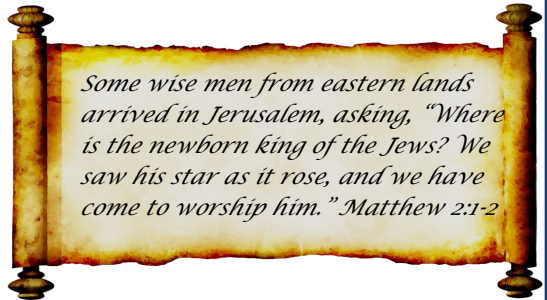
An angel
told some
shepherds
that the baby king had been born. So
they left their sheep, to go and see.

Next we go down Bathampton Lane. You may find a torch helpful if you go down the footpath from the bottom corner of Devonshire Road – or go along the main road to the junction by the bus stop.



Let's leave the shepherds running down to see the baby king – we probably wouldn't be able to keep up with them anyway – and catch up with them later. Meanwhile, in some distant Eastern country, some stargazers were mapping out the movement of stars and planets and reading interpretations into them about what was happening on earth. Now normally that kind of thing is a load of nonsense, but in this special case God used it to get them looking for his special king. So they set off on the long journey to Judea, where they went into the capital city, Jerusalem.

8th mystery letter:



Some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1-2

A long way
away, some
wise people

spotted a special star in the sky and set
out on a journey to where it pointed
them.



*A ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from Bethlehem, on my behalf.
Micah 5:2*

In Jerusalem, people checked the promises and told the wise people the king would be born in little Bethlehem.

Look at the Bathampton primary School window to see what they found in Bethlehem.

Write down the 9th mystery letter here:



In the George windows see who has nearly arrived.

Write down the 10th mystery letter here:

The wise men finally arrived where the baby Jesus was.



So they went to see Baby Jesus as well, and gave him presents fit for a King.

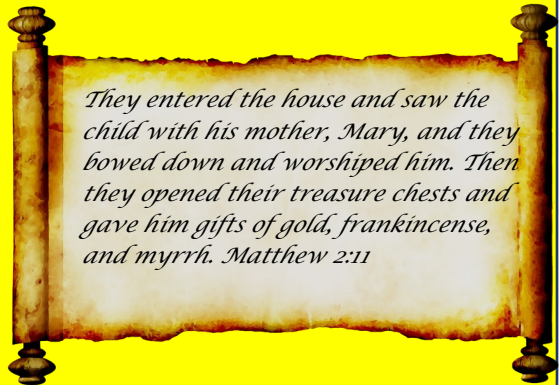
11th mystery letter:

Can you see:

- the baby Jesus?
- Mary?
- Joseph?

How many shepherds can

you see? How many wise people? What animals are there?



Christians believe this story is true: that God loves the world so much he sent his son to rescue us from the mess we got ourselves into. This is why Christmas is such a happy time to celebrate. Christians want to trust Jesus our King to be in charge of our lives and make us friends with God.

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What were the 11 mystery letters? They spell a funny word. If you missed some of the letters you might still be able to tell what the word is:

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Clue: it's the special service we have on Christmas Eve, and this year we are doing it on Zoom with everyone at home making our own ones. If you join in, you can see everyone else on your screen. You will need:

- An orange
- A candle
- A little bit of aluminium foil
- A red ribbon or red electrical tape
- Four cocktail sticks
- Some sweets or dried fruit

Jonty Frith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Christingle Bathampton St Nicholas

Time: Dec 24, 2020 4:30pm

Meeting ID: 889 5532 5371

Passcode: Light