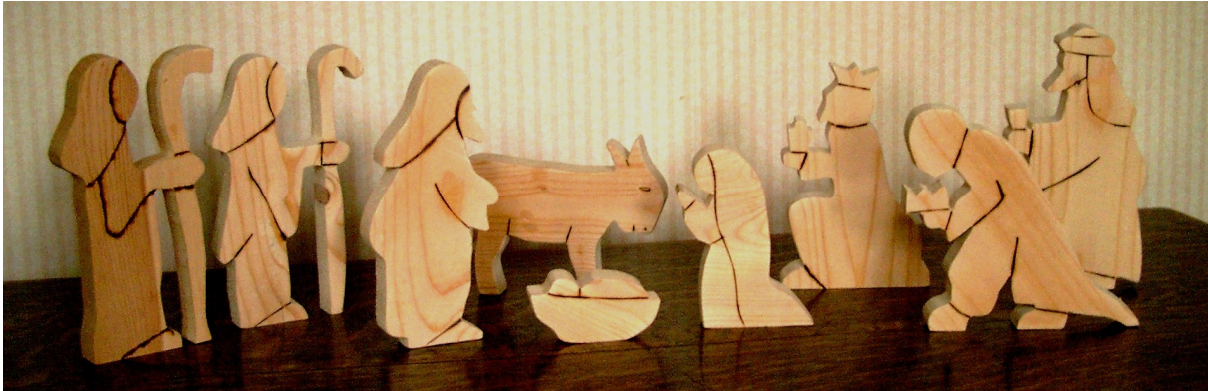


woodwork nativity

a dessert for advent

Vision4Life
Transformed by the bible



Woodworking your own nativity scene.

This activity could be done as a course over a few weeks or as part of an Advent workshop

You will need:

1. Scroll saw.
2. White wood (pine).
3. Templates.
4. Sand paper.
5. Pyrography tool or indelible felt tip pen.
6. Polish.
7. Patience.
8. A sense of humour.
9. Conversation.
10. Tea and chocolate biscuits.

The scroll saw.



This piece of equipment is essential for this kind of craft work. They can be purchased from tool suppliers for around £50.

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White wood (pine).

The nativity set shown was 18mm thick. Old floor boarding or any other bits of similar wood can also be used.

Templates.

Can be photocopied to any size.

Sand paper.

Any medium course paper will do.

Pyrography tool or indelible felt tip pen.

Used to add detail to the figures.

Polish.

Any furniture polish or brushing wax will do.

Patience and a sense of humour.

Come in handy if things go wrong.

Conversation.

You will be surprised with the diverse topics of conversion that arise from group craft work sessions. If you are making this nativity scene during Advent then you might want to introduce some topics. You could ask people about the different characters in the Nativity scene, how do they imagine them? This could lead onto some further story telling. Or you could discuss the preparations people make for Christmas and how this relates to their understanding of the Christmas story. You will find material for Advent on the website, including 'The Christmas Story according to Popular Culture'. You might want to have a CD of appropriate songs and carols playing in the background as people work.

Tea and chocolate biscuits.

Don't forget to serve refreshments: essential in all church based activities.

What to do:

1. Print of the templates onto thin card and cut out. A more permanent solution is to make the templates from thin plywood: they last longer this way.
2. Draw round the templates onto the wood.
3. Cut out the figures from the wood using the scroll saw. The wood must be held firmly down onto the saw table to prevent it jumping around. The scroll saw is used in a similar fashion to a sewing machine. The saw blade reciprocates up and down thus cutting the wood. The wood is fed and guided on its correct course exactly as you would when guiding fabric under the needle of a sewing machine.

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4. The saw produces a relatively smooth cut but further smoothing of this cut edge and the flat surfaces of the figures are necessary using sand paper.
5. Add the extra detail (as shown on the templates) using a pyrography tool if available or an indelible felt tip pen.
6. Finally apply polish and buff to a smooth shiny finish.



Evaluation

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

The Next Step

If you want more deserts please revisit the menu. If you want to do more activities with wood then there is an option for the 'Jesus life-line' starter involving wood.

Acknowledgements

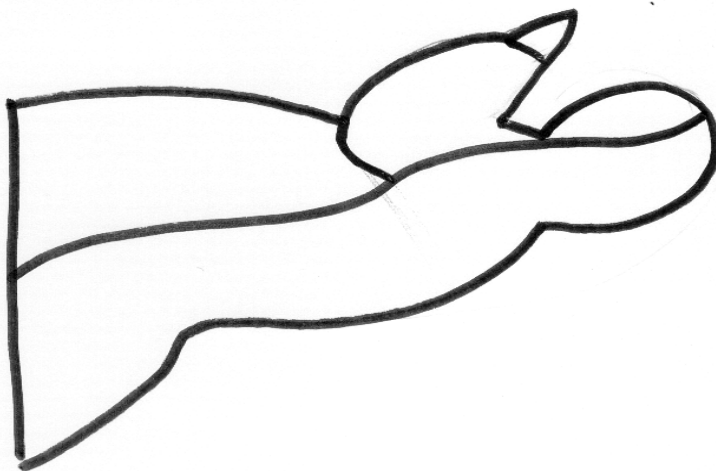
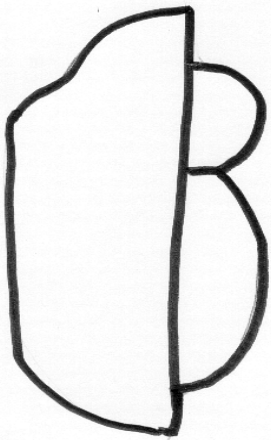
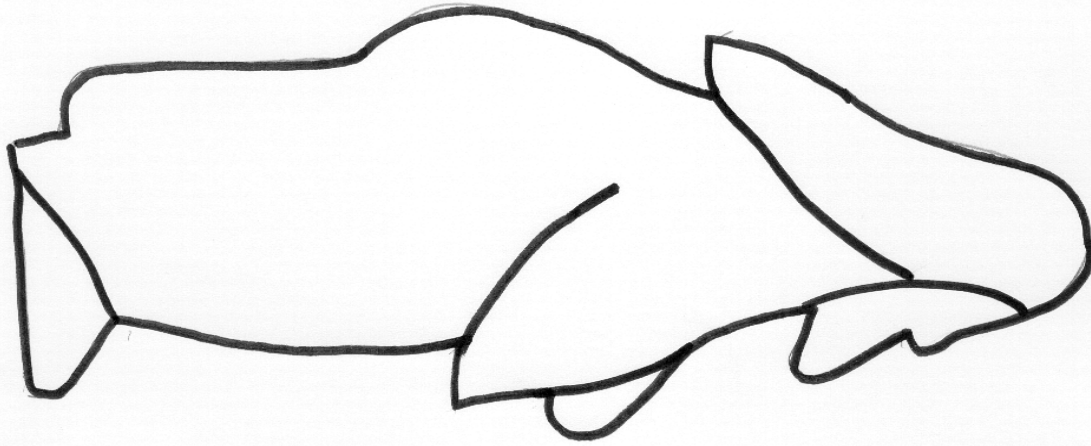
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Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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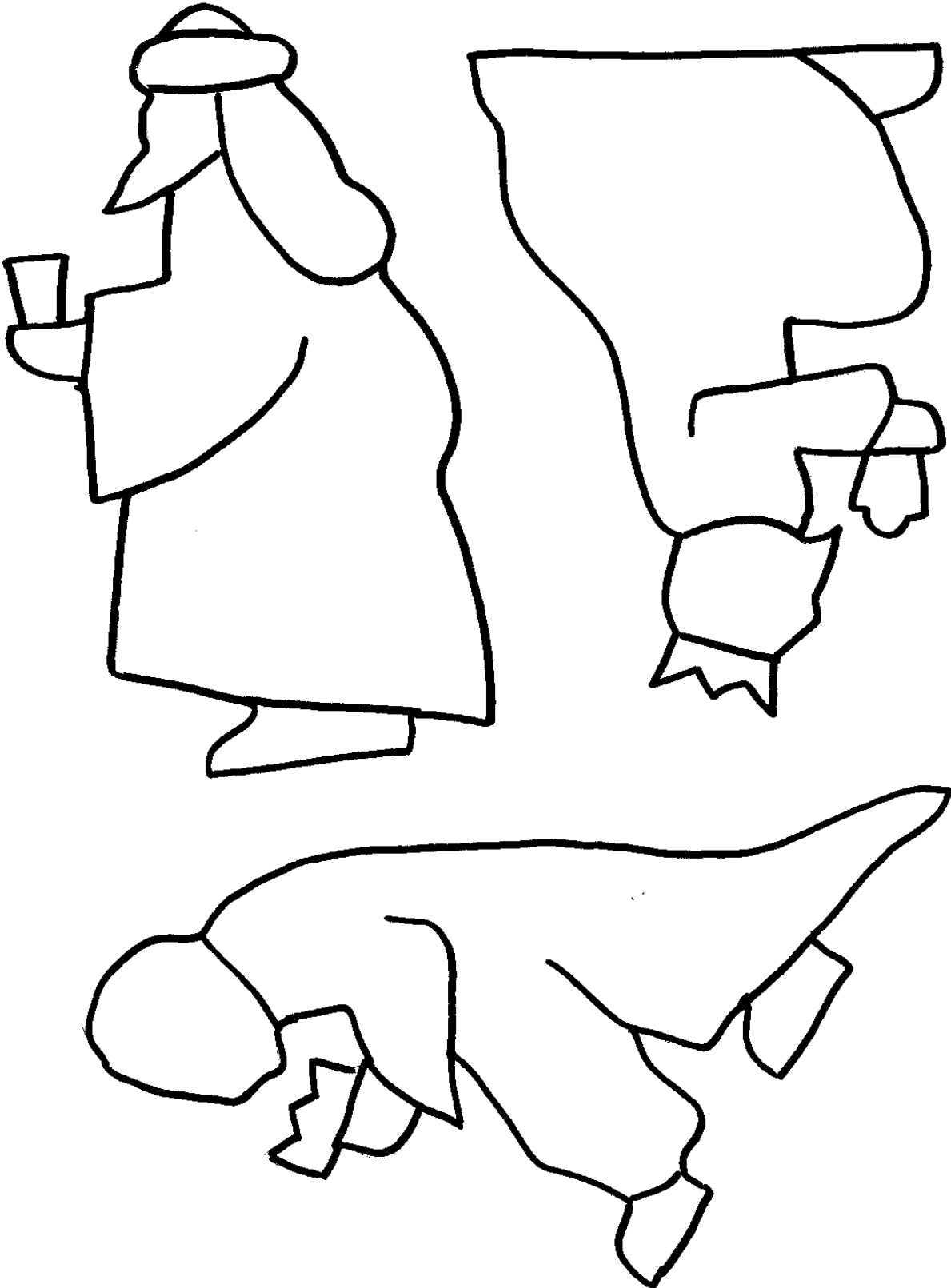


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Three Kings

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Shepherd and Donkey

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