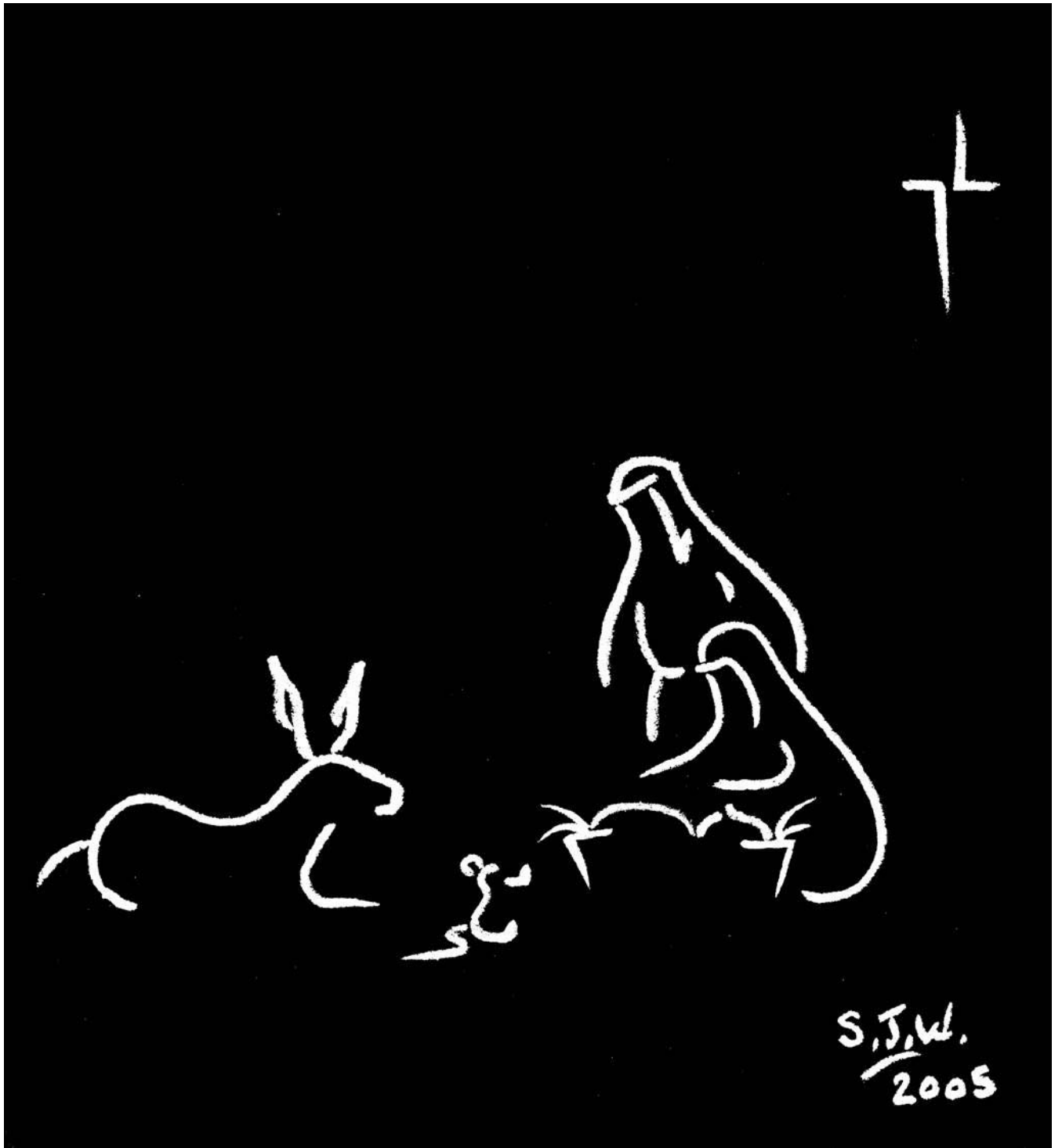


# *The Christmas Story*



*These stories are the result of asking the people of Ashley Church, St Albans to write the Christmas Story in exactly thirty words for our Christmas Service in December 2005.*

*The front cover is a drawing in thirty lines*

*They represent a cross section of faith and creativity of our church.*

*Roy Gregory*

**C**hrist born for us,  
**H**umbly in a stable.  
**R**elegated to an  
**I**nnkeeper's stable with  
**S**traw filled manger,  
**T**enderly loved by  
**M**ary his mother.  
**A**ngels singing;  
**S**hining star shows the way.

Anita Bramwell – Christmas 2005

**The little boy was born,  
The mother a claimed virgin,  
King Herod was said to scorn,  
The Angels were calling,  
The Kings came a-marching,  
Followed the star that was  
falling.**

**Verity Bramwell**

Dear Zibeon

You'll never guess what happened to us  
last night!

We followed a star to a stable. Mary  
had a baby.

A King. He was called Jesus.

From Balthazar



*Brilliant Light in night sky*

*Beautiful voices praising God*

*Announcing baby born*

*Shepherds cowering sent to  
stable*

*Star guided Kings to come and  
worship this wonderful Jesus  
Christ*

*Sheila Curran*

Joseph and pregnant Mary  
came to Bethlehem for the  
census.

No room at inn - baby born  
in a cow-shed. Angels told  
shepherds.

Later, wise men brought  
gold, frankincense and  
myrrh.

Mike Elliott

Same again, Yakov!

"Well, we'd just made up a bed there when she went into labour.

Rifka delivered her baby - a boy it was.

And soon these shepherds were knocking . . . "

Henry Faulkner

*Excitement*

*Mary*

*Merriment/Memories*

*Angels*

*Nativity/Nuts*

*Unity*

*Eating*

*Life/Love/Laughter/Lamb/Loneliness*

*Glory*

*Overindulgence*

*Dangling Mistletoe*

*Worship/Word made flesh*

*Illness*

*Happiness*

*Unwrapping*

*Salvation*

Felicity Gorton

New Peace Breakthrough in  
Middle East

Baby born in mysterious  
circumstances

Mother claims to be a virgin

Shepherds see angels

Kings come following a star

Is this the world's salvation?

*Roy Gregory*

The wise men found Jesus through their wisdom and learning. The ordinary men, the shepherds were shown the way by the angels. Both wise and ordinary met Jesus.

Matthew Harris

Soldiers fighting in the sticky mud  
A man lights candles on a Christmas  
tree

God comes to the happy party

The Devil muscles in  
Soldiers fighting in the sticky mud

Brain Hoy

## **ParadoXmas**

Lord of Everything,  
He arrives with nothing,

Born in poverty,  
Beneath a diamond star.

Shepherds become his sheep,  
Kings his first subjects.

He dies wholly  
To let us live holy.

Steve Johnson

## **Word Count**

How do you tell the Christmas story  
In only thirty words?  
Good Lord and Heavens Above!

Try to tell it just with one:  
The Word, in the beginning, was  
Love.

Steve Johnson

When God sent his son down to  
earth  
To remind us all what we're  
worth,  
He did not book ahead -  
Result: no bed!  
So Christ had the humblest birth.

Steve Johnson

**Joseph:** Yes, I admit I didn't entirely believe the story at first. But that star, the angels, shepherds and kings have convinced me! Our lad will make a name for himself!

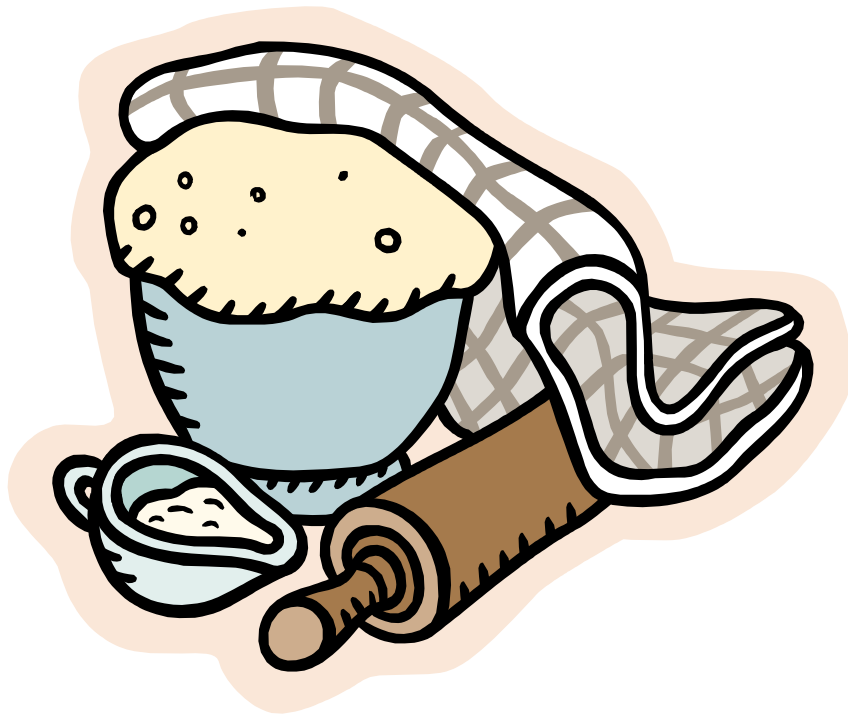
Steve Johnson

Angel came  
Mary blessed  
Joseph wed  
Donkey ride  
Stable found  
Baby born  
Angels sang  
Shepherds awe  
New star  
Wise men  
Herod's plan  
Special gifts  
Joseph's dream  
Family fled

Carole Perryman

## Christmas recipe

Take 1 virgin  
Add a dash of Holy Spirit  
Place in stable until baby  
appears  
Add host of angels and  
shepherds  
Cover with star  
Followed by wise men



Shaun Perryman

## *The Christmas Story*

*Ordinary night.....*

*Extraordinary event*

*Ordinary stable.....*

*Extraordinary location*

*Ordinary girl.....*

*Extraordinary mother*

*Ordinary shepherds.....*

*Extraordinary witnesses*

*Omnipotent God..... Helpless Babe*

*Lived among us*

*Died for us*

*Gives us eternal life*

Hilary Pickering

# *The Christmas Story*

## *Accommodation* *crisis in* *Bethlehem*

*Young virgin mother  
gives birth in stable!  
Her newborn Son  
sleeps in a manger!!  
Space at a premium  
as shepherds crowd in.  
Sky is full too!*

**Hilary Pickering**

# *The Christmas Story*

*God's precious only Son to earth came  
down;*

*born in a stable in Bethlehem town.*

*Shepherds came to greet Him, bowed  
their knee.*

*Jesus, my Saviour, became flesh for me.*

*Hilary Pickering*

# The Christmas Story

Stable lowly,  
Baby Holy  
Came to Earth  
By Virgin birth.  
Mary gazed,  
Oxen grazed.  
Born to save us;  
Join the chorus,  
Angels singing,  
Heavens ringing.  
Jesus lives, Life  
He gives.

Hilary Pickering

# The Christmas Story

The King of kings  
Came to Earth  
A newborn baby  
Of humble birth  
Divine yet helpless  
With the cattle He  
lay  
Jesus our Saviour  
Came to show us The  
Way

Hilary Pickering

# **The Christmas Story**

*(the greatest story ever told!)*

~~~~~

**Time: AD Zero**

**Location: Bethlehem**

**Setting: Stable**

**Starring role: Jesus**

**Supporting cast: Mary, Joseph**

**Extras: Angels (lots, with trumpets)**

**Shepherds**

**Animals**

**Props: Manger**

**Hay**

**Synopsis: God acts to save Mankind**

**Hilary Pickering**

## God's Christmas Post

You wandered off: I wept.  
I called you: no reply.

Left messages: you didn't understand.  
My postmen: turned away.

My letters: source unknown.  
It's Christmas: I'll deliver them by hand.

Gillian Rakowski

Riots in Palestine  
Wise men see stars.

Shepherds charged with drug abuse  
after UFO sighting.

Candidate for opposition leadership  
found in manger.

Herod orders immigration crackdown.  
Nursery demolished -63 dead.

Graeme Rockhill



Beloved of God, yet sent  
Great love to represent,  
In poverty and wonder,  
His mother left to ponder  
The meaning of it all;  
Our God, a baby in a stall

Sue Rockhill

Mary and Joseph planned to get married

Mary discovered she would have a child

She married Joseph.

They stayed in a stable at Bethlehem.

Jesus was born.

Guest visited

Rockhill Family

**Knowing that theory is not enough, God plans a demonstration.**

**Starts a human life from His distilled essence and a suitable girl.**

**Forty weeks later a key milestone, Christmas.**

Nick Sunders



Plastic card.  
Shop till you drop.

Joseph, Mary?  
Shepherds, angels?  
Wise men, gifts?

Dank, smelly stable.  
Animals.  
No privacy.  
No privy?

Mice scuttling through straw.  
Splintered, dirty manger.

Hope? Saviour? Jesus.



Steve Wilkinson