



Posada Practicalities

Have you heard of the 'Posada journey'? See Church Army website www.churcharmy.org.uk for more details. On Advent Sunday, a crib leaves the church service to spend the night in a home in the parish. Each night during the week it stops at a different home with prayers said at the home. It is then passed on to the next home listed in the rota. It is returned to church on the following Sundays and continues to travel around the parish midweek until Christmas Eve when it returns to Church ready for the following day.

On Christmas Day or the day of the crib service, the figure of Jesus is added to complete the scene. Some churches just have the Mary and Joseph figures with a donkey doing the travelling rather than the whole crib scene.

The Church Army website explains this tradition which originates from Mexico and has downloadable resources to help run this event.

Practicalities of Posada - observations of a group who introduced Posada for the first time....

The Church introduced its first Christmas Posada Journey of knitted Mary, Joseph and Donkey - with a 'sleepover' scheduled in various homes in the village, hosted by families involved with the parent toddler group. They were very keen when we explained what it meant.

All went smoothly until the knitted couple spent an extra unscheduled night at the Rectory (waiting on the hall table to be past on) ... then the donkey had to catch up by trotting quite briskly round the remaining homes until they finally reached the Crib service in time!

It was a wonderful first attempt.. very much appreciated and enjoyed by those who were involved. A simple Nativity Story book was supplied as well as a little candle lantern to be lit by a parent and supervised just to show that the couple were at home. (In future we might use one of those battery operated tea lights for safety) It was good to have the safety net of a final night at a toddler group leader's home in case there were any delays.

Some children wondered whether it was a real donkey and Holy couple coming to stay!

Because they were knitted, the figures were played with quite a lot so might not endure too many annual trips or they might wear rather quickly! They were certainly entertained, wined and dined during their trip and were happy to reach the stable after an eventful journey!