



Daniel Jones

Youth & Children's Adviser  
Diocese of Bristol

# Crib service sketch....

## So, what is this nativity?

### Part I

- Zack - I don't know about you but I find this Christmas 'native' story thing a little confusing.
- Mikey - What do you mean confusing and don't you mean Nativity?
- Zack - Yeah that's it. Well, it's all a bit weird and freaky though...  
Angels and shepherds, virgins and kings with Frankenstein and mirrors and all that talk about a stable. Weird or what!
- Mikey - It's not weird though, it's the greatest story ever!
- Zack - What do you mean?
- Mikey - Think about it, it's what Christmas is all about! There's this woman called Mary
- Zack - yeah?
- Mikey - And she's a virgin, right?
- Zack - Yeah.....uh, what's that then?
- Mikey - She's not married or nuffin, but she's got a boyfriend called Joseph
- Zack - that's a nice name
- Mikey - And he does joinery an' that, Mary is going to marry him and they both live in Nazareth.
- Zack - Where's that then?
- Mikey - It's near Israel in the Middle East
- Zack - My Nan lives near there. We go up and visit her at Christmas and always get lost on that spaghetti junction thing.
- Mikey - You what?
- Zack - Oh you know. All those roads and motorways and stuff
- Mikey - That's the Midlands stupid! – Israel, Egypt, Iraq?
- Zack - Oh, that is quite a long way away isn't it?
- Mikey - Yeah a good few hours on a plane. Now this is where it gets complicated...  
One day Mary meets Gabriel and He's an angel
- Zack - What's an angel?
- Mikey - It's a kind of messenger from God.
- Zack - Why doesn't he just text her? It's a lot easier?
- Mikey - Look, It's 2000 years ago – phones weren't invented then.
- Zack - Could have sent a pigeon! (said under his breath)
- Mikey - Look, that's how God tells people things – Angels are impressive. Big and bright. huge wings and stuff. You'd think 'wow!' if you saw an angel.
- Zack - I'd think wow if God sent me a text message!
- Mikey - Well anyway, angel Gabriel tells Mary that she is pregnant and Mary is totally gob-smacked. She gives it to him large saying how can it be?

Zack - Why's that then?  
Mikey - Didn't you hear what I just said? Gabriel has just told her that she is going to have God's baby.  
Zack - Oh  
Mikey - So Mary, still a little confused goes and sees her cousin Elizabeth. She's six months gone herself and tells Mary to look at her - God can do anything and everything!  
So Mary thinks to herself, well if Liz is pregnant by God's spirit she can be as well  
Zack - Wow! She must have felt well chuffed?  
Mikey - Yeah, she was! So she quickly went and told Joseph the great news  
Zack - And how did he take it?  
Mikey - Not good at first, he was totally scared but guess what?  
Zack - What?  
Mikey - Angel Gabriel appeared to him and told him everything was going to be ok?  
Zack - Awh, that was nice of him  
Mikey - Yeah so they stayed in Nazareth for while. Then six months later they went off to Bethlehem.  
Zack - Why didn't they stay in Naverseth? If I was pregnant, I wouldn't want to go traveling anywhere!  
Mikey - Don't worry about that for the now. The main thing is that they had to go to Bethlehem. Took them ages it did and guess what happened when they got there?  
Zack - They had to go back cause Joseph had forgotten something?  
Mikey - No  
Zack - Their car broke down?  
Mikey - No  
Zack - They were double booked?  
Mikey - No, but very close! There was no room anywhere and they ended up in some guys stable in his back yard.  
Zack - You're joking!  
Mikey - Straight up! With cattle, straw, poo – everything!!  
Zack - Gross!  
Mikey - I know. Not a place to have a baby. But they did and Mary gave birth to a healthy little boy and they named him Jesus.  
Zack - Awwhh!

## Part II

Mikey - So quick recap...  
Gabriel appears to Mary and Jo; tells them they are going to have God's baby; they journey to Bethlehem; no room anywhere but they find a cosy stable and baby Jesus is born.  
Zack - Jesus. That's an unusual name? Why didn't they call him Brad, Zach, got an Ikea in my class! Even Joseph the Second or something a bit funky would've been better?  
Mikey - Look, the Angel told them to name him Jesus. It means Emmanuel, God with us...  
OK, happy with the story so far?  
Zack - Yep  
Mikey - Because we're going to leave Mary, Joseph and Jesus for a minute and move out to the hills just outside Bethlehem where some shepherds are just about to get an early alarm call they will never forget!!!  
Zack - Why what happens?  
Vanessa - Just picture this: They've just managed to settle their flocks down for the night... then a great heavenly chorus of angels kicks off right by the side of them!

Zack - You're joking?  
Mikey - No straight up! Loads of them all singing making a right noise  
Zack - Really?  
Mikey - Yep, and guess what?  
Zack - They ran away?  
Mikey - No  
Zack - Their sheep ran away?  
Mikey - No, they stood there speechless and scared...  
Zack - I'd be right annoyed with them I would  
Mikey - You what?  
Zack - Spent half the night trying to keep the sheep quiet – baah, baah, all the time; drive me mad it would! Especially when I'm trying to grab forty winks while it's all quiet – then suddenly Angels everywhere; sheep going berserk - I would not be happy!  
Mikey - Well, these shepherds just stood there 'cause they were frightened – not an every day thing angels appearing next to you. You'd be frightened – trust me...  
Zack - Nahh, I wouldn't!  
Mikey - Well, they told the shepherds who 'were' scared some amazing news – the birth of a baby king  
Zack - Jesus?  
Mikey - That's right, and that the new king, their Saviour had been born in Bethlehem..  
Zack - So what did they do?  
Mikey - Well, the shepherds were really excited and decided to go and find the baby.  
Zack - No, what did the angels do?  
Mikey - Oh, they just went back to heaven...  
Zack - How did they do that?  
Mikey - I don't know!  
Zack - What do you mean you don't know?  
Mikey - Well all it says is that the angels went back to heaven!  
Zack - Bet they disappeared in a huge puff of smoke....  
Mikey - So the shepherds rushed off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger  
Zack - What's a manger?  
Mikey - It's basically what cows eat out of...  
Zack - God's son, lying in straw and stuff – you've gotta be kidding?  
Mikey - I'm not – it's all in the Bible, and they were so overwhelmed with Jesus, when they left they were singing praises to god all the way back to the hills  
Zack - I bet the neighbours weren't happy – and what about their sheep?  
Mikey - Eh?  
Zack - What happened to their sheep? Did they follow them all the way to the stable? That would be well funny all those sheep in a long line. S'pose not though, not much room and be a bit crowded all of them in the stable. What if they went walkabout and when the shepherds got back they weren't there – playing hide'n'seek, pretending not to be there – cool!  
Mikey - Idiot!

### **Part III**

Mikey - So baby Jesus is born. Angels appear to shepherds; they're scared, but Gabriel, God's chief angel tells them not to worry 'cause the Saviour has been born. They Go and visit Jesus and return praising God  
Zack - That's all well and good but where does Frankenstein fit in to the story? Does he visit Jesus?

Mikey - Will you stop saying Frankenstein – and no he does not visit Jesus, but some wise men do...

Zack - Who men?

Mikey - Wise men... and they travelled a long way to see baby Jesus...

Zack - So clever clogs, How did they know about him if they lived so far away?

Mikey - They studied the stars

Zack - Eh, so stars lit up the sky spelling Jesus and a big pointy arrow?

Mikey - Not quite, they had read about a rare star and that it would light the way of the new king and on one dark night – it appeared! So they followed it...

Zack - Bit of luck don't you think? What if it was a plane or a UFO?

Mikey - I'm not even going to answer that – they were 'wise' men so they probably knew what they were doing

Zack - Did it lead them all they way?

Mikey - It got them close – they had to ask for directions from the king

Zack - I thought baby Jesus was the king?

Mikey - Yeah, sort of. You see there was a king at the time who ruled – bit like our queen

Zack - So he was loaded then?

Mikey - Yeah, and probably lived in a huge palace

Zack - I'd like to live in a huge palace...

Mikey - Well, King Herod was not happy when he heard the news of this new king being born. So when the wise men left, he told his soldiers to wait and see if they would return and tell him where the baby was so that he could go and worship him.

But the wise men didn't! And Herod sent out his soldiers to kill every new born boy

Zack - That's horrible! Why do such a nasty thing?

Mikey - He was jealous. But don't worry – he never found Jesus

Zack - Thank goodness. So what happened next?

Mikey - The wise men eventually found the stable with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus and gave him gifts of wait for it... Gold, 'Frankincense' and myrrh

Zack - I knew Frankenstein was in it somewhere

Mikey - No you wally! Frankincense

Zack - And what is franky sense?

Mikey - Well, it's kind of nice smelly stuff...

Zack - I bet Mary and Joseph were glad – get rid of the poo smell!

Mikey - Well, here's another funky twist...

Remember Herod sending his soldiers to kill all the new born boys?

Well, not only did God appear to the wise men telling them not to tell Herod and go home by a different route. But God also appeared to Joseph, telling him of Herod's plan as well. So they all quickly scarpered as well...

Zack - That was stroke of luck – where did they go?

Mikey - Egypt. And there they stayed until King Herod died.

Zack - I don't like that Herod guy. I'm glad he didn't get to meet Jesus...

Mikey - And that is the nativity story – Jesus, God's son being born into the world...

Zack - Well, it's still confusing... Angels and shepherds, virgins and kings with Frankenstein and mirrors and all that talk about a stable. Weird or what!

Mikey - I give up!!!