**Instructions on how to use the Christmas Chat Mat** The Christmas Chat Mat is a great way to share the story of the birth of Jesus from Luke chapter 2, whether around a meal table or sitting on the sofa at home, or in a church or school group.

You can download the pdf illustrated (see picture below) by Andy Gray for free here: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/content/pages/documents/it-s-christmas.pdf>

* Use these to support your RE learning/as a fun activity during your Christmas Party Day/as place mats for your Christmas party/as a way to explore the story of Christmas through questions and colouring after a Christmas assembly
* Share the Christmas story with your children in an age appropriate version (older children may like to find the story in Luke 2 of a Bible). Beautifully told and illustrated children’s versions are *The Jesus Story Book Bible* by Sally Lloyd Jones or *The Story Teller Bible* by Bob Hartman
* Good video animated versions are by Saddleback Kids. They tell the Bible story clearly and accessibly for children, with humour
  + Mary and Joseph <https://youtu.be/XkEypzmHwCI>
  + Jesus is Born <https://youtu.be/v3656G6tWuI>
  + Jesus and the Shepherds <https://youtu.be/TJIC57EvYFo>
  + Jesus and the Wise Men <https://youtu.be/Zk1LhnqROCM>
* Explain that Christians find the Christmas story to be inspirational because they believe it is the story of how God came to live with people in human form as God’s very son. They may read this story or hear this story many times and it still fills them with wonder, and encourages them to be a blessing to others. Have a discussion: What do the children think? Is there anything new that they did not know before? Is there anything that inspires them? What is in the story that might inspire a Christian or them to be a blessing to others? Have a talk about the story using the Chat Mat as your guide
* Let the children colour/doodle on the sheets and explore the story in their own unique way
* Don’t forget to find all the hidden sheep and angels!
* Short, super-fun, heart-warming films of children telling the Nativity Story (the children love these!)
  + Children tell the story while adults act the parts: <https://youtu.be/suowe2czxcA>
  + Imagine what was going on in heaven on the first Christmas <https://youtu.be/TM1XusYVqNY>
  + A puppet retelling that might encourage children to tell their own story <https://youtu.be/-lEVKy9sMnM?list=UUnvCI_0Z9veyQv0rznAJLPA>
* Perhaps whole families might like to enjoy this Christmas Chat Mat over the holiday times. You can download the mat here: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/content/pages/documents/it-s-christmas.pdf>

