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| <b>Festival: Advent ~ Off to Bethlehem</b>  | <b>Year Group: Year 2</b> | <b>No. of lessons: 2</b> |
| <b>Links:</b> Cambs. CPE1, CPL2, CFF1, CFF3 Pborough: CPE2, CPE3, CRC1, CEC2, CRC3, Nfolk: CP, CKF, CLS,  |                           |                          |
| <p><b>Learning objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ To become aware that Jesus is special to Christians, whose celebrations reflect his life and teaching</li> <li>◆ To hear the Bible stories told at Advent and to become aware of the connection between Advent and Christmas</li> <li>◆ To find out about Advent as a festival of the Church</li> <li>◆ To be able to discuss why babies are precious</li> </ul>  |                           |                          |
| <p><b>Questions for reflection:</b></p> <p>How do we get ready for a long journey, a new baby, or for a special guest? What makes us excited? What do you want to receive for Christmas? Why do Christians think that Jesus is special?</p>   |                           |                          |
| <p><b>Activities and experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Arrive in the classroom with a rucksack packed for a journey. Talk about the things you might need ~ a map, a torch, a sleeping bag, some spare socks, perhaps a compass.</li> <li>◆ Show the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, and trace it on a map. Use pictures if you can, to show the sort of terrain over which they had to walk. (A helpful resource is 'Encounter Christianity in Journeys', Brown A &amp; Seaman A, The National Society 0-7151-4959-8 )</li> <li>◆ Tell the children the Bible story of the annunciation, in which the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary and tells her that she will have a baby. What do the children think an angel might look like?</li> <li>◆ Children work together in groups to make collaged figures of the angel, Mary and Joseph (possibly with the donkey!). Use Christmas wrapping paper to make footprints of the children in the class, cut them out and use to make a pathway on the display board. Explain to them that you are getting the board ready for Christmas, and that you will be adding things gradually, which is just how Advent progresses. The pathway should end at the stable.</li> <li>◆ What would you like for Christmas? Make a huge list with your friend. What makes us excited?</li> <li>◆ Sit in a circle facing your talking partner and take two minutes to come up with three reasons why babies are precious. Christians believe that Jesus was even more precious because he was God's baby.</li> <li>◆ Along the pathway, use Christmas cards behind doors of wrapping paper (attached with blutack) to show all the elements associated with Christmas, including presents. Uncover one each day (the timing may be a bit complicated depending on the number in your class) so that you eventually have a stable scene.</li> </ul> |                           |                          |