

- Why was Jesus laid in a manger in a stable when he was first born
 - BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR HIM IN THE INN
 - That's right. No space for him in the inn
- Is there space for him in the world today?
 - What would have happened if a homeless girl gave birth to a baby in the churchyard in Baldock last night?
 - WE'D RING AN AMBULANCE AND GET HER SORTED OUT. SHE'D GET EMERGENCY HOUSING AND THE STATE WOULD SAVE BABY JESUS
 - Yes, we're fine today. Baby Jesus wouldn't have to worry. We're in a much better place than 2000 years ago! All you and I would have to do would be to ring 999. It wouldn't really affect us at all!
- Is there space for Jesus in the shops today?
 - YOU BET THERE IS.
 - Christmas has been celebrated since the beginning of October. It's a really big earner for the economy.
 - A good Christmas for the economy is a successful Christmas.
 - Who's looking forward to their January Credit card bill?
 - You know, I don't Jesus was born because he wants us to be successful.
 - And actually It's quite easy to see that the space for Jesus in the shops is the wrong sort of space.
 - It doesn't last very long. In fact even now all the Christmas stuff will be being dismantled to make way for the next bonanza. The January sales. Pack Jesus away safely until next year.
 - Being a Christian, a follower of Jesus is not about being successful. Which is just as well.
- Is there space for Jesus in the courts today.
 - THE ANSWER IS 'YES'.
 - When you go into the witness stand you have to swear an oath on the bible (or another holy book), or your conscience. They're all the same really aren't they?
 - Jesus is embedded in the seams of everything that goes to do with justice and the law in the country today.
 - It's all to do with helping us to keep the law, to be honest and truthful and good.
 - But actually I don't think Jesus was born because he wants us to be good.
 - Once again the space for Jesus in the courts seems to be the wrong sort of space. Using Jesus to persuade people to behave.
 - Being a Christian, a follower of Jesus is not about being good. Which is just as well.
- Is there space for Jesus in your heart?
 - I HOPE THE ANSWER IS 'YES'!
 - But I hope it's the right sort of space
 - If it's not to do with being successful or being good, what is the right sort of space?
 - What sort of space did Mary and Joseph have for Jesus?
 - THEY LOVED HIM
 - What sort of space did the shepherds have for Jesus?
 - THEY CAME TO SEE HIM
 - *'The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God'*
- So have you got space for Jesus? Do you love him? Do you come and see him? Does he help you praise God?
- 3 suggestions
 - Come up for a blessing at communion (or receive communion if you're used to it) and feel the love that comes from coming to see him.

- Stop at stable at end of service, light a candle and say a prayer. Tell him how you feel.
 - Go home and remember to glorify and praise God for the amazing things he has done.
- And that's how the world begins to get changed because of Jesus!
- **HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!!**