Journey through Advent sharing the Posada box with its pregnant Mary and betrothed companion Joseph – with a donkey? not in the Bible

Part 1.

Christmas begins at creation when God the creator chooses to connect with all of creation, to be revealed within and through creation, especially his people. In the beginning was THE WORD. And THE WORD WAS GOD. John 1.1

Part 2.

The nativity story begins, celebrated on March 25th in Church of England, as The Annunciation of Mary.

Read Luke 1:26–38

A summary … Angel Gabriel visits Mary in Nazareth, announcing that she is "highly favoured" and will bear Jesus, "Son of the Highest." Mary asks how this can be because she is unmarried, and Gabriel explains that the Holy Spirit will come upon her, making the conception miraculous. Mary consents: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Christian tradition views the Annunciation as the moment of the Incarnation—when the Word becomes flesh. Conception is seen as marking the beginning of Christ's earthly life and the fulfilment of God's promise to send a Messiah. Mary's free and thoughtful "yes" is seen as a model of faith and cooperation with divine grace even though she could have no idea where this commitment would take her or her son Jesus.

A reflection … how might we recognise an invitation from God? How could our faith work with God's will for his glory and the spiritual needs of others?

Part 3.

Mary must travel and fulfil the prophecy for where the Messiah would be born.

In Micah 5:2 there is the prophecy that the 'one who is to rule in Israel' ie the Messiah, will be born in Bethlehem. According to Luke 2.1-7. the way that happened was by a Roman edict that all should return to their ancestral hometown to be registered / taxed. For Mary and Joseph that meant travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

THE POSADA BOX IS A SYMBOLIC HOLDING OF THAT JOURNEY, A JOURNEY OF OBEDIENCE TO ROMAN LAW AND A JOURNEY OF TRUST THAT GOD WAS WITH THEM.

Reflection … how might following culture of our time give opportunities to know God is with us?
In what ways are we asked to travel out of our comfort zone?

This journey has echoes of needs and situations that continue today – pray as you are led. The booklet has ideas.