

# Large sheep knitting pattern

## (Sarah Leadbetter)

### You will need:

- 100g white/cream Aran wool (this will be split into three balls to use three strands at the same time).
- 50g black/brown Aran wool, using three strands again.
- 9mm or 10mm needles
- Toy stuffing
- Safety eyes/googly eyes, or you can sew in your own eyes
- Darning needle

### Body (all in garter stitch, using white/cream yarn)

- Cast on 15 sts.
- Knit for 2 rows.
- Increase into every stitch (30 sts).
- Knit one row.
- Increase into every 5 stitches (36 sts).
- Knit for 25 rows.
- \*k2tog\* to end.
- Cast off.

### Head (all in garter stitch, using white/cream yarn)

- Cast on 20 sts.
- Knit for 4 rows.
- Increase into every stitch (40 sts).
- Knit for 4 rows.

### Change to black yarn.

- Purl 1 row.
- \*k2, \*k2tog\* to end.
- Purl 1 row.
- \*k1, k2tog\* to end.

- Purl 1 row.
- \*k2tog\* to end.
- Thread yarn through remaining stitches, pull together and secure.

### Legs (using black yarn)

- Cast on 10 stitches.
- Work 6 rows in stocking stitch.
- \*k2tog\* to end
- Thread yarn through remaining stitches, pull together and secure.

### Ears (using black yarn)

- Cast on 4 stitches.
- Cast off.

### Assembly

- Sew up the side of the head and the body, leaving the neck open on both.
- Stuff both head and body and sew the head straight on to the body.
- Do the same with the legs, then sew on the ears and stitch on a cute face!
- Use googly eyes, safety eyes, buttons or felt for the eyes.
- Make a small pompom for the tail (optional). Create whatever kind of tail you like.

# The Christmas Story

On 25 December we celebrate Christmas, the birthday of Jesus who was called Christ...

Before Jesus was born, his parents, Mary and Joseph, went to a town called Bethlehem. It was very busy and they couldn't find anywhere to stay. A friendly innkeeper let them sleep in his stable with the animals. Jesus was born, and Mary wrapped him in cloths and put him in the manger. A star appeared in the sky over the stable.

Out in the fields, some shepherds were looking after their sheep when suddenly an angel appeared. The shepherds were very scared. The angel told the shepherds not to be scared because he had brought good news. He told them that Jesus had been born and that he would be the person who would save the world. He told the shepherds to go and see Jesus. Then there were lots more angels who sang glory to God and peace on earth.

The shepherds went to see the baby Jesus. They knelt down in front of the manger and were very happy that they had found the one who had been sent by God. When they left, they told everybody they could find about Jesus and about how he was going to save the world.

Later on, some wise men came from the East to see Jesus. They brought special gifts because they knew that Jesus was a king. They were surprised that he had been born in a stable and not in a palace. They worshipped Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

And so...

Each Christmas we celebrate Jesus being born. God gave us Jesus as a present to show that he loves us. Each Christmas we give each other presents to show people that we love them.

# Sheep Trail

One of the ..... shepherds wants to go and see baby Jesus, but he can't find all his sheep! He knows that he went into these shops—will you help him find his missing sheep?

Name of shop	Name of shop
.....	.....
Name of shop	Name of shop
.....	.....
Name of shop	Name of shop
.....	.....
Name of shop	Name of shop
.....	.....
Name of shop	Name of shop
.....	.....

When you find a sheep you can write its name in the spaces above.



# Thank you for taking part in the Messy Nativity Sheep Trail.

Have you found the names of all the sheep?

Have you written their names in the spaces?

Would you like to enter a prize draw?

The Messy Nativity Sheep Trail is an activity made in collaboration with

.....

## So what do you do now?

1. Tear along the dotted line

2. Take home the colouring picture side of the leaflet

3. Clearly enter your details below

4. Place this side of your leaflet in the prize draw box at:

..... [Name of shop/building/floor/address]

Name (print clearly): .....

Contact telephone number: .....

Email: .....

Date of birth: .....

A prize draw will take place on ..... [Date/time]



Messy Nativity Journey Rota sheet

Day	Date	Name	Address	Phone	Need transport?
	01 Dec				
	02 Dec				
	03 Dec				
	04 Dec				
	05 Dec				
	06 Dec				
	07 Dec				
	08 Dec				
	09 Dec				
	10 Dec				
	11 Dec				
	12 Dec				
	13 Dec				
	14 Dec				
	15 Dec				
	16 Dec				
	17 Dec				
	18 Dec				
	19 Dec				
	20 Dec				
	21 Dec				
	22 Dec				
	23 Dec				
	24 Dec				

# Messy Nativity Set prayer sheet

To be read by a member of the household delivering the Nativity Set to the next host household on the Journey Rota:

## Welcome Prayer 1

As you welcome this Nativity Set into your home, may you welcome the Lord Jesus into your hearts and lives this Christmas.

The household receiving the Nativity Set say, 'Amen'.

To be read by the new host household:

## Welcome Prayer 2

Lord God, we pray for all those travelling this Advent time, to school, to work and visiting. We welcome these figures from the Nativity and pray that you will bless this house and all who live here. Amen.

# Messy Nativity Set instruction sheet (for inside the Nativity Set)

Each household needs:

- Nativity Set and box
- Prayer sheet
- Journey Rota sheet
- Nativity Story sheet
- Bag of small knitted sheep

What to do as you receive this set

- Find the prayer sheet. The person passing on the set reads the first prayer and you respond 'Amen'. You then read the second prayer. Place back in the box.
- Set up the Nativity Set somewhere in your home and read the Nativity Story.
- Choose one small knitted sheep, to keep, from the sheep bag.
- Keep one of the Nativity Story photocopy sheets.
- Take a photograph of the set (optional: any photos may be used, with your permission, in church publications).
- Look on the Journey Rota sheet and contact the next household to arrange delivery of the Messy Nativity Set.
- Make sure every piece of the Nativity Set is packed away for the next part of its journey.
- Enjoy!

Thank you for taking part in the Messy Nativity Set Journey.

If you have any difficulties please contact ..... [name]

on ..... [telephone number]