

'Welcome Mary and Joseph to your home this Christmas'

When I was in parish ministry, I was delighted to learn about the tradition of the Posada which one village had been running for a number of years. Posada means 'inn' in Spanish and, in Mexico and parts of the United States, an activity has developed when small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night. On Christmas Day, they are brought into church and placed in the crib where they are joined by the baby Jesus. In the small village where I ministered, this had become a beloved tradition and many people joined in.

'Welcome Mary and Joseph to your home this Christmas' is the invitation that is offered to the community and in doing this, people are encouraged to make room for Jesus in a new and creative way.

I wonder what it would be like for you to make room in your home for Jesus this Advent and

Christmas – maybe it would be slowing down and taking time to speak to him; perhaps it is thinking about those in need in your neighbourhood



and finding ways to serve them; you might want to find time to read afresh the words of the prophets in the Old Testament who look ahead to the day that the Messiah will come and live among God's people. Whatever it might look like to you, can I encourage you to invite Jesus into your home, into your heart and into your lives.

'The word became flesh and dwelt among us'

With Christmas blessings

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin
Bishop of Peterborough