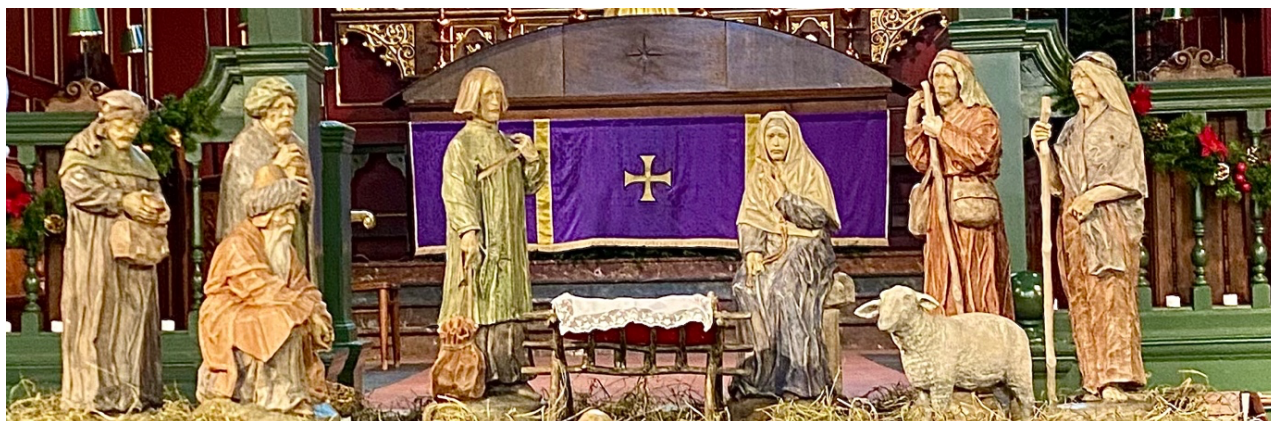


Crib figures by Jim Staines – carved 1999-2012



The hand-carved figures in our Christmas Crib were commissioned from Jim Staines in 1999. There are now 12 figures, which are placed in the stable at the relevant times during the Christmas season:

Mary and Joseph, two shepherds and three wise men, completed in 1999;
the ox, ass and baby Jesus in the crib, completed in 2001;
the innkeeper, completed in 2003; and **a sheep**, completed in 2012.

All are carved out of cedar wood, except the figure of the baby which is carved from lime. Before carving, the wood has to be planed and glued to create a suitable medium for carving. The legs and ears of the animals are carved separately and attached with glue and dowels. Afterwards, the figures are sanded, with paper and wire wool, before colouring with a combination of stain, powder colour and wax. Each branch of the crib has been hand-carved and pinned into place.

Remembering Jim Staines (1929-2023)



Jim Staines, who carved the figures, died in March 2023. He had been carving in wood and stone since he was 16 and sold his first piece – a statue of St Francis of Assisi – when he was 20. He trained for four years at Canterbury Art School and three years at the Royal College of Art studying sculpture. He became an architectural stone carver on London churches and other buildings; restored ecclesiastical woodcarvings; and undertook a great variety of work in stone, wood and clay and much letter-carving.

He also taught sculpture part-time in art schools in London and the South East.

Jim's wife Pam, a sculptor, coloured the crib figures. During 1980 and again in 1982-3, they lived and worked, woodcarving, in Oberammergau in Bavaria, returning to London at the end of 1983.

