

# Hickling Nativity Pageant December 17th 2006



*Many thanks to everyone who has taken part or helped behind  
the scenes and also to everyone who has come along!*

*Please Join In  
With The  
Carols Singing!!!*

## **Cast List:**

<i>Narrator:</i>	David Malpas
<i>Mary:</i>	Amy Frost
<i>Joseph:</i>	Tim
<i>Angel Gabriel:</i>	Cathy Hetherington
<i>Elizabeth:</i>	Becky Malpas
<i>Centurion:</i>	Bob Naismith
<i>Innkeeper:</i>	Becky Malpas
<i>Shepherds:</i>	Jim Murray, Mike Thompson(?), Derk & Ben
<i>Kings:</i>	Alison Hill?      Helen Hedger? Lizzie, Katie, George?
<i>Herod:</i>	Dennis Tarry
<i>Priests:</i>	Alan & Alex Thomas
<i>Fundraising:</i>	Save the Children (Harrisons with buckets?)
<i>Lighting:</i>	Church – David? / Crib scene – Chris White Spotlights – Mark & Jane
<i>Bellringers:</i>	Philip Graves
<i>Traffic &amp; Cones:</i>	Eric Wood?
<i>Music:</i>	Tony Hand? Barbara?
<i>Straw Bales:</i>	Richard C
<i>Horses:</i>	Helen Hedger/Neil Crowe?/Molly?
<i>Donkey:</i>	Neil Crowe?      Vimy Ridge?
<i>Wharf:</i>	Doreen
<i>Refreshments:</i>	Doreen/Pauline Chell/Sara Parker
<i>Braziers:</i>	Molly & John?
<i>Steph:</i>	Choir / Programmes / Christmas Blessing
<i>The Inn:</i>	the Plough?

**Dates:**    **17<sup>th</sup> December – Pageant - 5.30pm**  
              **16<sup>th</sup> December – Setting Up – 11.30am**  
              **10<sup>th</sup> December – Full Walk Through – 2pm**

## **Route/Timetable.**

5pm: Meet in Church

5.30pm: START!

(by porch, focus on yew tree, crowd facing to back of Church)

- Narrator welcome
- Gloria followed by Mary & Gabriel
- Mary and Elizabeth
- Choir Magnificat
- Gabriel appears to Joseph
- Centurions appear

5.45pm: Narrator directs crowd to follow Mary on donkey

- Little Donkey & O Little Town on way to Inn

5.55pm: Crowd directed to stand on Wharf path & road

- Joseph & Mary knock on door of The Plough
- Innkeeper answers from upstairs window
- Innkeeper takes Mary & Joseph to stable

Crowd asked to remain where they are,

- Sing Silent Night & await baby's cry

6pm: Narrator stations himself mid-grass area other side of railings – choir groups itself nearby.

As the audience faces the Wharf building the following scenes/characters will be set out (from left to right) with spotlights picking out each in turn:

1. Herod
2. Shepherds
3. Narrator & Choir

Crowd must be kept on road side of railings until invited round!!

- After the baby's cry narrator reads from Isaiah
- Sing, 'While Shepherds Watched'
- Gabriel appears to the shepherds
- Sing, 'Hark Herald Angels'
- Shepherds go to stable
- Reading about shepherds

6.10pm: Narrator announces arrival of Kings – asks crowd to wait in silence

- Sound of horses' hooves as Kings approach
- Kings talk to Herod & Priests
- Kings move through to stable
- Sing, 'We Three Kings'

6.20pm: Innkeeper invites children to join the crib scene

- Narrator invites crowd to move round to stable during 'Away in a Manger' as children sort themselves out!
- 'In the Beginning' reading
- Sing – 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful'
- Choir sings
- The Blessing
- (Call put through to bell tower for bells to begin in 2 mins)
- Narrator closes with thanks, invitation to mulled wine & mince pies & appeal for generous donations to Save the Children Fund
- Hallelujah Chorus & Church Bells to close

## **Act 1.**

Starting in the Churchyard of St. Luke's, Hickling at 5.30pm, all characters assemble.

*Scene: Nazareth.*

*Joseph sits at his carpenter's bench with Elizabeth some distance away, seated. Roman soldiers mingle with the crowd. All dressed in Eastern costume.*

**Narrator:** Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to our Nativity Pageant! We will begin our story here in the Churchyard and then move along the street to The Plough Inn and finish around the Wharf building which will be our stable. Please sing along with all the carols as loudly as you can and please join us for mulled wine and mince pies when we have finished. And lastly, before we start, there will be lots happening on the Wharf, so please stay on the path side of the railings until right at the end when our Innkeeper will invite you to join the nativity tableau on the grass area.

***(Vivaldi Gloria plays.)***

*Mary steps forward and the angel Gabriel appears above and greets her:*

**Gabriel:** Hail, O favoured one! (Mary is startled). Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favour with God, behold, thou shalt bring forth a son, and he shall be called Jesus. He will be great, he will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever and to his reign there shall be no end.

**Mary:** How can this be? I have no husband.

**Gabriel:** The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, the power of the most high will overshadow you, hence, the one that shall be born of thee, will be called Holy, Son of God.

**Mary:** Behold, the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me as you have said.

*(The angel Gabriel disappears and Mary runs to her cousin Elizabeth, to tell her the news and salutes her with a kiss.)*

**Mary:** The angel Gabriel has visited me.

**Elizabeth:** Blessed art thou among women, what have I done to have the mother of my Lord come upon me.

**Mary:** O Elizabeth *(Choir then sings the Magnificat.)*

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth :  
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me :  
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him :  
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm :

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

*(The angel Gabriel now appears to Joseph who is asleep.)*

**Gabriel:** Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived within her is of the Holy Spirit and she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.

*(Joseph is aroused from his dream and is joined by Mary who is sitting by his carpenter's bench.)*

*At this point the Roman soldiers push through the crowd, members of the crowd boo and heckle them. After a fanfare of trumpets the centurion reads the proclamation signed by Caesar Augustus.*

**Centurion:** To the great and mighty Caesar Augustus, All Hail! Be it known that Caesar has decreed and has ordered his Lord Cyrenius to proclaim that all men shall be taxed. Ye are

commanded therefore, every man, with his family, forthwith, to make journey to his own city; that everyone may be taxed according to his lineage and substance; and let no one withstand the word of the law. All Hail, Caesar!

## **Act 2.**

**Narrator:** Ladies and Gentlemen, we will follow Mary and Joseph as they journey to Bethlehem. Please join us in singing ‘Little Donkey’ followed by ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’.

*The people of Nazareth then prepare for the journey to Bethlehem including Joseph and Mary (riding on a donkey), then shall follow in procession, the angels, the shepherds, the kings. Everyone sings as the procession moves to the Plough Inn.*

### ***Little Donkey***

**Little donkey, little donkey,  
On the dusty road,  
Got to keep on plodding onwards  
With your precious load.**

**Been a long time, little donkey,  
Through the winter’s night.  
Don’t give up now, little donkey,  
Bethlehem’s in sight.**

**Ring out those bells tonight,  
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.  
Follow that star tonight,  
Bethlehem, Bethlehem**



**Little donkey, little donkey,  
Had a heavy day.  
Little donkey, carry Mary  
Safely on her way.**

**Little donkey, carry Mary  
Safely on her way.**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem.*  
O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.**

**How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.**

**No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.**

*Act 2 ends with the arrival at the Plough Inn.*

### **Act 3.**

*Joseph knocks at the door of the Inn, the Innkeeper appears at an upstairs window;*

**Joseph:** Have you any room?

**Innkeeper:** *(shaking his head)* No, we are full up.

**Joseph:** We must find shelter somewhere, my wife is with child.

**Innkeeper:** All I can offer is the stable if you care to go in there.

*(Joseph consults Mary and accepts.) The Innkeeper takes his lamp and leads Mary and Joseph towards the stable by the*

*Wharf Building. Mary and Joseph go in to the stable,  
Innkeeper stands with a lantern at the gate. Stable remains in  
darkness. Crowd and cast sing;*

**Narrator:** While we sing ‘Silent Night’, please turn  
towards the stable where we will wait for the birth of the babe.

***Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright;  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds first saw the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!***

***Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love’s pure light;  
radiance beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.***

*Everyone waits in silence. Sound of a baby crying comes from  
the stable.*

#### **Act 4.**

**Reader:** Isaiah 9 v.6... Unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

*Lights shine on shepherds:*

***While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.***

**‘Fear not’, said he (for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind);  
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.**

**‘To you in David’s town this day  
is born of David’s line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:  
‘The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid.’**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus**

**addressed their joyful song:**

**‘All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.’**

*The angel Gabriel appears to the shepherds, who are afraid,  
Gabriel reassures them with the words:*

**Gabriel:** Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

*The full complement of angels join the angel Gabriel saying  
“Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth Peace, good will  
towards men.” Choir and crowd follow singing;*

***Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem.’  
Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark...**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail, the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
Hark...**

*The angels withdraw.*

**Shepherds:**     *(one to another)* Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us.

**Reader:** (Luke 2 v. 16-20) And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger; and when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it, wondered at these things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary

kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen as it was told unto them.

*During the reading the shepherds proceed to the stable, the crowd stays where it is because they hear the voice of the first king. Kings ride down towards Herod.*

**Narrator:** Our story isn't quite finished, listen now for visitors who have travelled from afar!

*Crowd waits in silence for the sound of horses' hooves approaching:*

**First King:** Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East.

### **Act 5.**

*Spotlight on Herod and his priests.*

*Scene. Herod's throne, with the chief priests and scribes around him. The 3 kings halt on reaching Herod's throne and repeat:*

**Three Kings:** Where is he that is born King of the Jews?

*Herod standing, gathers his chief priests and scribes close to him and demands they find out where Christ should be born.*

**Herod:** Where is it that he is to be born, the King of the Jews?

**Priests:** In Bethlehem of Judaea; for thus it is written by the prophets; and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah, for out of thee shall come a Governor that shall rule my people Israel.

**Herod:** *(enquires of the wise men)* What time did the star appear? *And he sends them to Bethlehem saying* Go and search diligently for the young child and when you have found him bring me word again so that I may come and worship him also.

*The kings leave the palace and move towards the stable leading the crowd who sing;*

***We three kings of Orient are,  
We three kings of orient are  
bearing gifts we travel afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:***

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again:  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder, star of night, etc.**



**Frankincense for Jesus have I,  
God on earth yet Priest on high;  
prayer and praising all men raising:  
worship is earth's reply.  
O star of wonder, star of night, etc.**

**Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume  
tells of his death and Calvary's gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in a stone-cold tomb.  
O star of wonder, star of night, etc.**

**Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King, and God, and sacrifice!  
Heaven sings out "Alleluia",  
"Alleluia" the earth replies.  
O star of wonder, star of night, etc.**

*When the procession reaches the Innkeeper, at the entrance to the Stable area, the Kings go on to the stable, the crowd finds final positions around the outside of the Wharf fences;*

**Innkeeper:** Welcome! Join me and see more of this wonderful event. Let the children come through and gather round the crib.

*Innkeeper leads the children singing, the rest of the crowd stay where they are:*

**Narrator:** As we sing 'Away in a Manger' please come and join us around the stable.

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,*  
**the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;**  
**the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,**  
**the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,**  
**but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.**  
**I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,**  
**and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay**  
**close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.**  
**Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,**  
**and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

*The children go into the stable and arrange themselves in to the tableau. The stable doors remain closed. Quiet organ playing.*

*The doors of the stable open and reveal the nativity tableau. The shepherds come in from one side and present their gifts. The kings (on foot) come in from the other side and present their gifts.*

**Reader:** *(St. John 1. v.1 – 5)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

*Everyone sings;*  
***O come, all ye faithful,***  
**joyful and triumphant,**  
**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;**  
**come and behold him,**  
**born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**God of God,**  
**Light of Light,**  
**lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;**  
**very God,**  
**begotten, not created:**  
**O come, let us, etc.**

**Sing, choirs of angels,**  
**sing in exultation,**  
**sing all ye citizens of heaven above:**  
**“Glory to God**  
**in the highest:”**  
**O come, let us, etc.**

***The Choir sing - He Smiles Within His Cradle***  
***The Blessing.***

**Narrator:** Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our Pageant or helped behind the scenes and thank you to all of you have come to join us. We will be serving mulled wine and mince

pies shortly, so please join us. Please also give generously to this year's charity which is The Save the Children Fund – there will be buckets circulating amongst you in the next few minutes. Thank you all for coming!

*Close with recording of Hallelujah chorus.  
Church bells begin to ring.*

*We all wish you  
a very  
happy and peaceful  
Christmas.*

*Please Give Generously to our  
Nominated Charity  
The Save The Children Fund  
Thank You for Coming!*