

**Raising Funds For:**  
**There But Not There**  
**Michael Morpurgo's Farms for City Children**  
**St. Luke's Hickling**

Also, our grateful thanks to those who gave us additional donations which covered the cost of our costumes and refreshments.

**Thank you, everyone, for your support!**



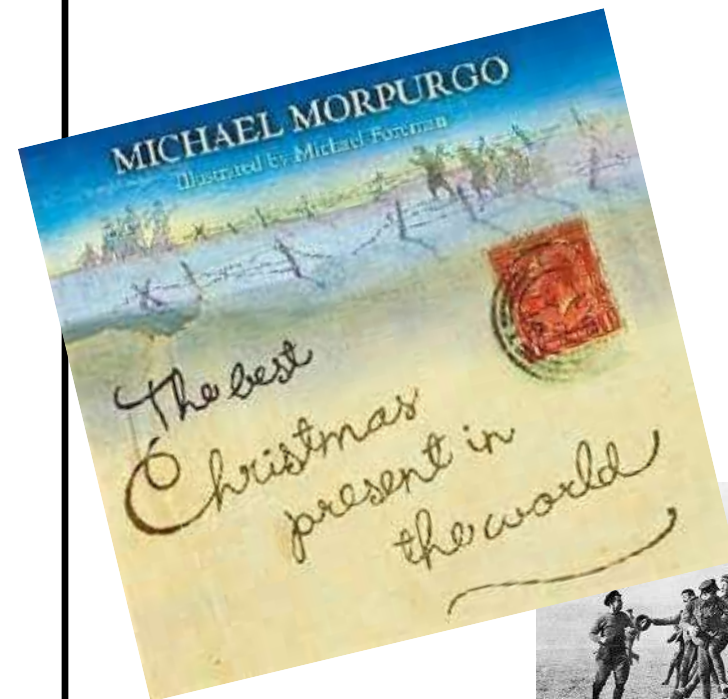
Our Very Grateful Thanks  
go to everyone who has helped us to put on our commemorative  
production of 'The Best Christmas Present in the World'.

**We Wish You All A Very Happy Christmas  
and A Peaceful New Year!**

**WWI CENTENARY  
COMMEMORATION  
ST. LUKE'S, HICKLING  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 22ND 2018**

WITH KIND PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR:

**THE BEST CHRISTMAS  
PRESENT IN THE WORLD**



**1914**  
REMEMBERED  
IN  
**2014**  
**+ 4**



**The Choir**  
 invite you to join them in their singing  
 throughout the evening;  
 please sing along or hum or 'la la la'  
 whenever you recognise anything!

## The Best Christmas Present in the World

**By Michael Morpurgo**

Echoes of Christmas 1914 in the trenches call to the present day when a letter found by chance in an antique desk brings one soldier's experience hauntingly to life. A journey begins to find the owner of the letter whilst the story of the Christmas truce in 1914 unfolds through Christmas cake, marzipan and football.

<http://michaelmorpurgo.com/>

## Silent Night

"Silent Night" (German: *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht*) was composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber to lyrics by Joseph Mohr in the small town of Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. It was declared an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO in March 2011.

The song was sung simultaneously in French, English and German by troops during the Christmas truce of 1914, as it was one carol that soldiers on both sides of the front line knew.

It is also known as the 'World Peace Carol' - <http://www.stillenacht.at/en/index.asp>

## The Best Christmas Present in the World

### Cast:

<b>Sam:</b> <b>Connie:</b> <b>Jim (narrator):</b> <b>Jim (soldier):</b> <b>Hans:</b> <b>Private Morris:</b> <b>Private Schmidt:</b> <b>British soldiers:</b> William Overall George Greasley Charlie Lamb	Thomas Samworth Maddie Irving Tim McEwen Ben Samworth William Hogg William Overall (& Old Man & boy with dog) Katie Lamb (& Matron) <b>German soldiers:</b> Katie Lamb Isla Greasley Anna Greasley
---	--

**Choir:** Lynn Irving  
 Gill Bowman, Julia Brailsford, Karen Buckley, Jane Harvey, Paul Irving, Sally Jenkins, Barbara McEwen, Richard Pulley, Sue Pulley, Michael Steven, Sue Willis, Margaret Woolley.

**Trumpet:** Jim Woolley  
**Goodbye sung by:** William Overall and Katie Lamb

**Behind the Scenes:**  
 Jane Fraser, Caroline Samworth, Lynn Irving, Alan Thomas, Alex Thomas, Dorothy Chahal, Sara Parker, Carol Beedle.

**We first performed this play in 2014 and all the main parts were taken by adults from the village with children acting the roles of the soldiers. In the 4 years since then, these children have been growing up into the wonderful young people you are seeing tonight—old enough to take on the adult parts; a fitting symbol of the passage of those four long years a 100 years ago.**

**250,000 'underage' soldiers served in WWI, many just a year older than some in our cast.**



**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 to-night.

2. 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.

3. 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.

5. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray!  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels,  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!



### Opening Medley

#### **Moonlight Bay**

We were sailing along On Moonlight Bay  
We could hear the voices ringing  
They seemed to say:  
"You have stolen her heart" "Now don't go 'way!"  
As we sang love's old sweet song  
On Moonlight Bay

Keep the Home Fires Burning  
While your hearts are yearning,  
Though your lads are far away they dream of home.  
There's a silver lining, through the dark clouds shining,  
Turn the dark cloud inside out, 'till the boys come home.

#### **Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag,**

And smile, smile, smile!  
While you've a Lucifer to light your fag,  
Smile, Boys, that's the style.  
What's the use of worrying? It never was worth while.  
So, pack up your troubles in your old kit bag,  
And smile, smile, smile!

#### **It's a long way to Tipperary**

It's a long way to go.  
It's a long way to Tipperary,  
To the sweetest girl I know.  
Goodbye Piccadilly, Farewell Leicester Square,  
It's a long, long way to Tipperary,  
But my heart's right there.

#### **Pack up your troubles (pulpit side)/ It's a Long Way (Organ side) *mash up***

### Friendship Songs

**O Du Lieber Augustin** Augustin, Augustin,  
O, du lieber Augustin, Alles ist hin!  
1. Geld ist hin, Mädl ist hin,  
Alles ist hin, Augustin!  
O, du lieber Augustin, Alles ist hin

**Daisy Daisy** give me your answer do  
I'm half crazy all for the love of you  
It won't be a stylish marriage  
I can't afford a carriage  
But you'd look sweet upon a seat  
of a bicycle made for two

Michael, Michael here is your answer true  
I'm not crazy all for the likes of you.  
If we can't afford a carriage,  
There won't be any marriage,  
'Cause I'll be damned if I'll be crammed\*  
On a bicycle built for two.  
(Hinky dinky Parlez Vous)

**Mademoiselle from Armentieres**, Parlez-vous,  
Mademoiselle from Armentieres, Parlez-vous,  
Mademoiselle from Armentieres,  
She hasn't been kissed for forty years.  
Hinky-dinky parlez-vous.

Muß i' denn, muß i' denn Zum Städtele hinaus,  
Städtele hinaus Und du mein Schatz bleibst hier  
Wenn i' komm', wenn i' komm', Wenn i' wieder, wieder komm',  
Wieder, weider komm  
Kehr i' ei' mei' Schatz bei dir

**(In the Quarter master's stores)**  
There were rats, rats, Big as bloomin cats  
in the stores In the stores  
There were rats rats big as bloomin cats  
in the quartermasters stores  
My eyes are dim I cannot see  
I have not brought my specs with me  
I have not brought my specs with me

Faleri, falera, faleri,  
Falera ha ha ha ha ha ha  
Faleri, falera,  
Und schwenke meinen Hut

**Stille Nacht,**  
*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

*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*

**While Shepherds watched their flocks by night**  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the lord came down  
And glory shone around

All Glory be to God on high  
And to the earth be peace  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease

