

# The Grumpy Innkeeper

## **Cast:**

**Narrator 1 – Charlotte**

**Narrator 2 – Alysha**

**Innkeeper – Jack?**

**Mary – Maxine**

**Joseph – Michael Banner**

**Head Shepherd – Molly Edwards**

**Shepherds – George Baker, William Overall,  
Thomas Samworth & pals!  
Daisy, Maya, Elysha & friends**

**Head King – Charlie Overall**

**King 2 – Ben van der Wardt**

**King 3 – Will Parker**

**Head Angel – Sylvie Cox**

**Angels – Olivia Cox, Robyn Meredith, Olivia Playle & friends**

**Bucket rattlers:   Rebecca & Kieran Meredith**

## **Raise money for:**

**Farms for City Children & New Children's Hospital in Dar es Salaam**

## **Scene 1**

Stable set up in Churchyard

Mary & Joseph arrive on donkey (travel on donkey from stable to stable)

Shepherds arrive

## **Scene 2**

Stable set up by Church Gates

Kings arrive, noisily on bikes down Church path – ring bells loudly, ‘coming through’ etc etc

## **Scene 3**

Stable set up in front of pub

Angels & full crib scene

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## **Scene 1**

*Stable set up in Churchyard*

**Mary, Joseph & Angels stand centre stage in churchyard, donkey waits to one side, shepherds & kings wait on the other side.**

**Welcome** - Steph

Before we start, I wonder if I could ask everyone a favour on behalf of the cast. It is very difficult for the children to make their voices heard when we're outside and so, we would be very grateful for your patience and quiet, when they are speaking. Thank you!

**Narrator 1:** The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, with a message for a girl betrothed to a man named Joseph, the girl's name was Mary. The angel said to her,

**Angel:** Greetings, most favoured one! The Lord is with you. You shall bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus.

**Narrator 2:** And the angel said, 'He will be great; he will bear the title 'Son of the Most High'; the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David, and he will be King over Israel for ever; his reign shall never end.'

**Narrator 1:** We will sing the carol, Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

**Carol:** **Oh Little Town of Bethlehem**

*During the carol, Mary gets on to the donkey and begins to walk around the stage area with Joseph.*

**Narrator 1:** In those days a decree was issued by the Emperor Augustus for a registration to be made throughout the Roman world. And so, Joseph went up to Judaea from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to register at the city of David, called Bethlehem, and with him went Mary who was betrothed to him.

*Mary & Joseph reach the innkeeper's bed*

**Narrator 2:** There was nothing the innkeeper liked more than a good night's sleep.

**Narrator 1:** But that night there was a knock at the door

*& Joseph knocks on the door*

**Innkeeper:** No room!

**Joseph:** But we're tired and have travelled through night and day

**Innkeeper:** There's only the stable round the back.

Here's two blankets.

Sign the register.

**Narrator 2:** So they signed it, Mary and Joseph.

**Narrator 1:** Then he shut the door, climbed the stairs, got into bed and went to sleep.

*Innkeeper mimes closing the door, stomps round the bed, gets into bed etc*

*Mary and Joseph move back to the side of stage*

**Narrator 2:** And now we'll sing, Away in a Manger

**Carol:** **Away in a Manger**

**Narrator 2:** But then, later, there was another knock at the door

*& Joseph knocks on the door*

**Joseph:** Excuse me. I wonder if you could lend us another, smaller blanket?

**Innkeeper:** There. One smaller blanket!

**Narrator 1:** Then he shut the door, climbed the stairs, got into bed and went to sleep.

*Innkeeper mimes closing the door, stomps round the bed, gets into bed etc*

*Joseph moves back to the side of stage*

*Shepherds move to centre of stage and settle themselves on the straw.*

**Narrator 1:** Now, in this same district there were shepherds out in the fields, keeping watch through the night over their flock, when suddenly there stood before them an angel of the Lord, and the splendour of the Lord shone round them.

**Narrator 2:** They were terror stricken, but the angel said,

**Angel:** Do not be afraid; I have good news for you.

**Narrator 1:** Today in the city of David, a deliverer has been born to you – the Messiah, the Lord. And this is your sign:

**Angel:** ... you will find a baby lying wrapped in his swaddling clothes, in a manger.

*Exit the angels*

**Shepherd:** Come, we must go straight to Bethlehem

*Shepherds go across to the Innkeeper's bed*

**Narrator 2:** By now, the Innkeeper was fast asleep and snoring loudly.

**Narrator 1:** But then there was another knock at the door

**Shepherd:** We are three shepherds

**Innkeeper:** (*crossly*) Well, what's the matter? Lost your sheep?

**Shepherds:** We've come to see Mary & Joseph

**Innkeeper:** **ROUND THE BACK!!**

**Narrator 2:** Then he shut the door, climbed the stairs, got into bed and went to sleep.

*Innkeeper mimes closing the door, stomps round the bed, gets into bed etc*

*Shepherds leave the innkeeper and go to Mary & Joseph in the stable*

**Narrator 1:** While we sing the next carol, 'While Shepherds Watched' we'd like you to follow us down the path to the gates to greet our next visitors.

**Carol:** **While Shepherds Watched**

*During the carol:*

- The Innkeeper is wheeled down the path*
- Mary (on the donkey) and Joseph and the shepherds move down the churchyard to the gates and settle in to the next stable scene.*
- Congregation follow*

## **Scene 2**

*Stable set up by Church Gates*

**Narrator 2:** Jesus was born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of Herod. After his birth astrologers from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking 'Where is the child who is born to be king of the Jews? We observed the rising of his star, and we have come to pay homage to him.'

**Narrator 1:** The star which they had seen at its rising went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay.

**Narrator 2:** By now, the Innkeeper was fast asleep again and snoring loudly.

*From behind the crowd 3 kings (on bikes) shout loudly & ringing cycle bells:*

**Kings:** Coming through!  
Excuse me!  
Coming through!

**Narrator 1:** But then there was another knock at the door

*The Innkeeper jumps up & down on his bed angrily, then goes to the door.*

**King:** We are three kings. We've come ...

**Innkeeper:** **ROUND THE BACK!!!**

**Narrator 2:** Then he shut the door, climbed the stairs, got into bed and went to sleep.

*Innkeeper mimes closing the door, stomps round the bed, gets into bed etc  
Kings leave the innkeeper and go to Mary & Joseph in the stable*

**Narrator 2:** Entering the stable, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and bowed to the ground in homage to him; then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense & myrrh.

**Narrator 1:** Perhaps we should sing the innkeeper back to sleep with our next carols, 'We Three Kings', 'Little Donkey', 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'Silent Night', whilst we walk down to the real village Inn.

**Narrator 2:** Please follow us!

**Carols:** **We Three Kings of Orient Are  
Little Donkey and**

## **Hark the Herald Angels Sing Silent Night**

*During the carol:*

- The Innkeeper is wheeled down the road to The Plough*
- Mary (on the donkey) and Joseph and the shepherds & kings move down the road to the pub and settle in to the next stable scene.*
- Congregation follow*

### **Scene 3**

*Stable set up in front of pub*

*Angels arrive*

*Full nativity tableau around crib*

**'Silent Night' - finishing as crowd assembles around front of pub.**

**Narrator 1:** And all who heard were astonished at what the shepherds and Kings had to say. Mary treasured up all these things and pondered over them.

**Narrator 2:** Meanwhile, the Innkeeper was still fast asleep and still snoring loudly.

**Narrator 1:** But now he really does need waking up, one last time.

**Narrator 2:** And we need your help!

**Narrator 1:** Shout after me!

**Narrator 1&2:** **WAKE UP, GRUMPY INNKEEPER!!!**

**Narrator 1:** I'm sorry, I don't think that was loud enough!

Everybody, all together now!

1,2,3!

**Crowd:** **WAKE UP, GRUMPY INNKEEPER!!!**

**Innkeeper:** *leaps out of bed*

**RIGHT – THAT DOES IT!!!**

**Narrator 1:** So he got out of bed

**Narrator 2:** Stomped down the stairs

**Narrator 1:** Threw open the door

**Narrator 2:** Went round the back

**Narrator 1:** Stormed into the stable, and was just about to speak when ...

*Innkeeper moves across to the manger*

**Whole Cast:** *(loudly) Ssshh!*

**Narrator 1:** whispered everybody

**Whole Cast:** You'll wake the baby!

**Innkeeper:** The baby?

**Narrator 2:** Yes, a baby has this night been born ...

**Narrator 1:** The innkeeper looked crossly into the manger

**Narrator 2:** And just at that moment,

**Narrator 1:** Suddenly,

**Narrator 2:** Amazingly,

**Narrator 1:** His anger seemed to fly away

**Innkeeper:** Oh, isn't he lovely!

**Narrator 2:** In fact, he thought he was so special ...

**Narrator 1:** He woke up all the guests at the Inn.

*Innkeeper rings his bell loudly, pub windows open,*

**From pub:** Who's making all that noise?

**Innkeeper:** Come and see the baby!!

**Narrators 1&2:** So no one got much sleep that night!

**Narrator:** Please join us for our last carol, Oh, Come All Ye Faithful!

**Carol:** **Oh, Come All Ye Faithful**

**Closing prayers.**

**Invitation to mulled wine & mince pies in The Plough**

**Collection going to Farms For City Children& towards the building of  
a new children's hospital in Dar es Salam; please give generously.**