

# The Grumpy Innkeeper

## Cast:

Narrator 1:

Narrator 2:

Innkeeper:

Mary:

Joseph:

Head Shepherd:

Shepherds:

Head King:

King 2:

King 3:

Head Angel:

Angels (including one to carry star):

‘Knock’: (dressed in *colour?*) *green?*

‘SShh’: (dressed in *colour?*) *yellow?*

## Scenery:

Stable on chancel steps:

Stable back-drop

Large star

x4 bales

Collishaw straw animals

Innkeeper’s bedroom in front of bell vestry

Large bed with big fluffy pillows, duvet & blankets

## Additional props:

Bikes/scooters for the kings (with bicycle bells)?

Lanterns for the angels?

Real dog for the shepherds?!

Real donkey?!

Knock & Sshh placards

## Positions after introduction:

Mary & Joseph by the main door & Angels around the font

Knock crouches in aisle

Sshhh settles in the stable

Innkeeper in bed  
All other characters in 'book corner'  
Narrators; one in pulpit & one standing on pew next to organ (?)

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*All characters collect at the front of the Church*

*Music: 'I hear you knocking, but you can't come in' (Dave Edmunds) – burst of chorus*

**Narrator 1:** Welcome to our Christmas Nativity, we hope that you have lots of fun!

**Narrator 2:** This year we would like you to join in sometimes – but don't worry! We will give you instructions ...

**Narrator 1:** ... whenever you are needed!

**Narrator 2:** Let us introduce you to 'Knock'

*Knock jumps forward holding up sign & runs up & down the aisle*

**Narrator 1:** When you see this sign, please knock loudly on your pew!

*All characters knock on front pews*

**Narrator 2:** And now ...

**Narrator 1:** Let us introduce you to 'Sshhh'

*Sshhh creeps forward holding up sign & runs up & down the aisle*

**Narrator 2:** When you see this sign, please make a Sshhh sound just like this ...

*All characters make a Sshhh-ing sound*

*All characters run to their starting positions*

**Narrator 1:** Our first carol is – O Little Town of Bethlehem

**Carol:        Oh Little Town of Bethlehem**

*Dim all the lights except for one just above door/font to spotlight Mary, Joseph & the Angels*

**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:** Now we will sing the first verse of Little Donkey

**Carol:** **Little Donkey (1st verse only)**

*During the carol, Mary & Joseph begin to walk around the church.*

**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

*Knock jumps out & everyone knocks on pews  
& Joseph knocks on the door*

**Innkeeper:** No room!

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

*Innkeeper mimes walking down stairs*

**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 down to the stable*

*Sshhh creeps forward holding up sign & runs up & down the aisle*

**Narrator 2:** And now we will sing, Silent Night

**Carol:        Silent Night**

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

*Knock jumps out & everyone knocks on pews  
& 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 stable  
Sshhh creeps forward holding up sign & runs up & down the aisle*

*Narrators point to book corner (to draw congregation eye!) & move their arms round to follow the shepherds as they move to centre of Church (herding sheep in front of them) and settle themselves on the ground.  
Angels follow, a little distance behind.*

**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

*Knock jumps out & everyone knocks on pews*

**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  
Sshhh creeps forward holding up sign & runs up & down the aisle*

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

**Narrator 1:** Now we will sing the next carol, 'While Shepherds Watched'

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

**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.

*Angel carries star towards the Inn*

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

*From book corner 3 kings (on bikes) shout loudly & ringing cycle bells:*

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

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

*Knock jumps out & everyone knocks on pews  
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  
Sshhh creeps forward holding up sign & runs up & down the aisle*

*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 carol, We Three Kings of Orient Are

**Carol: We Three Kings of Orient Are**

*During the carol, the Angels twirl & dance round to the stable (from the font)*

**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  
Sshhh jumps out & everyone Sshhh-es*

**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,*

**Member of Congregation:** Who's making all that noise?

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

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

*Children sing Away in a Manger*

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

*Dim lights except for the stable scene*

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

*At the end of last verse:*

*Sshhh creeps forward holding up sign*

**Closing prayer** *(read by one of the children who steps forward during the last verse).*

Father God,

thank you for sending your son Jesus to be with us on earth.

He came to an ordinary family, in a poor place and was greeted by angels, shepherds kings and an innkeeper.

Thank you that you love each one of us, however ordinary we are.

And now may we, ordinary people, become extraordinary as you enter our lives anew.

Amen

**Children sing:** **We Wish You A Merry Christmas**