



A New King is Born!

**A Simple Traditional
Musical Nativity Play with a modern feel.**

**Comes with a CD featuring an attractive mixture
of 12 easy traditional songs and original songs**

Price (2005) £35.00 including all licences

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Cast

Narrator 1, 2, 3, 4

Mary and Joseph

Angel Gabriel.....Other angels.....

Centurion

Innkeeper and wife

Shepherds.....

Sheep (optional)

Villager 1 Villager 2.....

Other villagers

Wise Men 1, 2 and 3

HerodServant.....

Courtiers.....

Children Bearing Gifts

CD Listing (Tracks 1-12 have vocals. Tracks 13-24 are backing tracks)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1.....Long Long Way to Bethlehem | 7.... .Oh Come all ye Faithful |
| 2.....Try Another Door | 8.....A New King is Born |
| 3.....Oh Little Town of Bethlehem | 9.....This King |
| 4.....Away in a Manger | 10...What an Honour to Worship this King |
| 5.....Hark! The herald angels sing | 11...Oh Come Little Children |
| 6.....Ding Dong Merrily on High | 12....Silent Night |

Dual Format CD

This traditional Nativity Play is designed to be easy and quick to stage with a minimum of fuss. No musical ability is needed- simply play the backing tracks as the children sing along. The script is on the dual format CD so you can customize it if you wish (e.g. shorten it, add a few more lines etc.) The CD also contains songsheets (to make OHP transparencies) A simple melody-line score (sheet music) is also provided free of charge on the CD, if you prefer to use a pianist rather than play the backing tracks. Please note that the sheet music is only intended as a rough guide. Feel free to arrange the songs as you wish.

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A New King is Born

Narrator 1: Welcome to our Nativity celebration. Today we are remembering a very happy event in the Christian calendar, the time when God first sent His son Jesus down to Earth. At Christmas time we show our joy and say thank you to God by singing carols and other Christmas songs. We have Christmas services in school and in church. We decorate our homes and light up our streets and we eat special food. Families and friends meet and enjoy a special dinner or a Christmas party. At Christmas most people make a special effort to be happy and generous. Christmas is traditionally a time of giving and sharing. We celebrate Christmas by giving each other gifts, just as Jesus was given gifts when He was born.

Narrator 2: Here's our poem to tell you all about Christmas.

(NB This poem could be rehearsed as a separate item and presented by a class- with art work held up to see.)

A is for the animals living in the stable.
B is for the Baby in the manger cradle.
C is for the choir singing loud and clear.
D is for December, the best month of the year!
E is for excited smiles on every girl and boy.
F is for the family sharing Christmas joy.
G is for the many gifts spread around the tree.
H is for the holiday, a time of Christmas peace.
I is for the inns, so full on Christmas Eve.
J is for Lord Jesus, the Child in whom we believe.
K is for the Kings who saw the shining star.
L is for its light spreading out to lands afar.
M is for the manger where baby Jesus lay.
N is for Nativity, our joyful Christmas play.

O is for the ornaments hanging from the tree.
P is for the presents - gifts for you and me.
Q is for the quaking of the shepherds on the hills.
R is for the ringing of the chiming Christmas bells.
S is for the star, which announced the happy birth.
T is for the truth of God spreading on the earth.
U is for unselfish feelings at this time of year
V is for our visitors - we welcome you all here!
W is for the wisdom of the three wise men.
X is for our Xmas day- it's nearly here again!
Y is for the Yuletide joy all across the nation.
Z is for the zest for our Christmas celebrations!

Narrator 1: But why is Christmas time so special? Let us tell you the story of the first Christmas.

Narrator 2: *(Mary enters and sits sewing a shirt)* Just over 2000 years ago, a young girl, Mary, lived in a town called Nazareth. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. Mary and Joseph loved each other very much. One evening, Mary was sitting in the candlelight at home, sewing. *(Angel Gabriel appears)* Suddenly, as she worked in the dim room, a bright light shone. She looked up and she saw a glorious angel standing in front of her. Mary fell to her knees in fear. *(Mary kneels and prays)*

Angel Gabriel: Do not be afraid, Mary. I bring you good news. You are the chosen One. You are going to have a baby boy, who is the son of God. You will name Him "Jesus".

Mary: I will obey God's wishes and I will be honoured to be the mother of this special child. I will tell Joseph when I see him in the morning. *(Exit Angel Gabriel, exit Mary)*

Narrator 4: *(Enter Joseph who lies down and sleeps. Enter Angel Gabriel.)* That night, the angel appeared to Joseph too, in a dream.

Angel Gabriel: Joseph! Joseph! You must marry Mary. Mary has been chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son. The baby will be named Jesus. He is being sent to earth to bring light into the world. Be at peace, Joseph. Fear not! Sleep easy, good Joseph. You will be the guardian of God's Holy child. *(Exit Angel Gabriel)*

Narrator 1: In the morning, Mary visited Joseph with her amazing news. *(Enter Mary and Joseph. Mary is carrying Joseph's shirt that she has mended.)*

Mary: Joseph!...Joseph!...Ah! There you are! I have some amazing news ...

Joseph: Amazing news? Ah! Let me guess...You have mended my shirt for me! Thank you very much, Mary!

Mary: No! Well.....yes I have, but.....

Joseph: Hush, Mary! I already know what you are about to tell me. You have been chosen to be the mother of the Lord Jesus.

Mary: But...How did you know?

Joseph: The angel told me in a dream, Mary! We are so very lucky. You have been specially chosen from all the women on earth. *(They hug. Exit Mary and Joseph)*

Narrator 2: Mary and Joseph married and had a great feast with lots of guests. Mary sewed clothes for the baby. Joseph was a carpenter. He made a lovely wooden crib for the baby and carved lots of wooden toys. Months passed. The baby was due to be born any day. They were so excited. But, the baby was not going to be born at home after all. One day, there was a noise out in the street. *(Enter Centurion)*

Centurion: Hail Caesar! Attention! All citizens must listen and obey. I have an order from your emperor Caesar Augustus. Everyone must go back to the town where they were born, to pay their taxes and be counted. Do as the Emperor says or you will go to prison. Hail, Caesar!

Narrator 3: The Emperor wanted to make sure that everybody was paying his or her taxes. He decided to have a census to count everyone in his kingdom. This news worried many people, as they would have to travel through wild deserts to reach their hometowns. It was most difficult for people with children and those who were old or sick. Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem, the town of his birth. He was very worried about the long journey, especially because Mary's baby would soon be born. *(Enter Mary and Joseph)*

Mary: What does this mean, Joseph?

Joseph: It means we must travel to Bethlehem. That's where I was born!

Mary: Oh, but Joseph! That's seventy miles away!

Joseph: We have no choice, Mary. If we don't go, we will be thrown into jail by this emperor who has taken over our lands.

Mary: What about King Herod? Hasn't he got anything to say about it?

Joseph: Herod is still our great and powerful King, but I think he has to do what the emperor says too. Come, Mary. We must get ready for the journey. *(Exit Mary and Joseph)*

Narrator 4: Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem even though the baby was nearly due. Mary packed the things for their journey. There were no buses, no cars and no trains in those days. But they did have a donkey, which Mary could ride. However, it would be a difficult journey on very poor roads. It was a long long way to Bethlehem.

***** CD TRACK 1 Long Long Way to Bethlehem *****

Mary should be resting. Her child is due to be born.
Mary shouldn't be travelling anywhere at all. Anywhere at all!
Mary should be sleeping. At home she should stay.
Mary shouldn't be going anywhere today! Anywhere today!
It's a long long way to Bethlehem. It's a long long way to go.
It's a long long way to Bethlehem on a long hard dusty road. *(Repeat All)*

Narrator 1: At last, Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem. The streets were crowded, as many other people had also come to pay their taxes. They knocked at several innkeepers' doors. But all the inns were full, with five or six travellers in every room. It was getting late. Joseph knocked at another door. *(Enter Innkeeper and wife)*

Innkeeper: Who's that knocking on my door? It's late! You should learn to tell the time!

Innkeeper's Wife: There's no room here! We've already got five or six in every room! Can't you read the sign? Try another door!

***** **CD TRACK 2 Try Another Door!** *****

(Innkeeper:) Who's that knocking on the door? You should learn to tell the time!
It is late and we are closed! Can't you read the sign? Oh, can't you read the sign?
(Joseph:) Tell me, Mister innkeeper, do you have a room to spare?
We have come a long long way. Can we please stay here? Oh can we please stay here?
(Innkeeper's Wife:) We are full! We can't help you! There's five or six to every room!
Go away! We can't take more! Try another door! Try another door! (Repeat all, sung by all)

Narrator 2: The innkeeper saw how desperate and tired Mary was. He took pity on Mary and Joseph and showed them to his stable.

Innkeeper: I have no rooms left....but you can sleep in my stable if you wish. My animals will help keep you warm.

Narrator 3: Mary and Joseph were very grateful. They prepared to spend the night in the stable. They filled a manger with hay to make a crib ready for baby Jesus. During the night, in the soft glow of a lantern, in the little town of Bethlehem, the Holy baby Jesus was born.

***** **CD TRACK 3 Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem** *****

Oh 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.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

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!

Narrator 4: Joseph was so proud of his wife and he gazed lovingly into the manger where the baby lay on his bed of hay.

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE