



# *Christmas Eve Carol Service*

## *The Innkeeper's Wife's Lesson*



### *Southlakes Anglican's Carol Service*

The Innkeeper's Wife's Important Lesson

Cast:

Narrators, Mary, Joseph, Wisemen  
(Melchior, Casper, Shazar),  
Messenger, Visitor  
Innkeeper and his wife.



Narrator: Read by RevMel

We're glad you decided to join us tonight;  
'cause there's plenty in store, that's sure to delight.

For, in what has become a Southlakes Anglican tradition,  
the old Christmas story has been given a new rendition.

We'll tell it in rhyme, with some new additions,  
different people will jump in so there's no omissions.

Although there'll be aspects you've heard before,  
We know that our version will not be a bore!

We'll hear from characters, both old and new;  
but there's one person's voice that's way overdue.

To the historical tale we've added a fictional twist,  
but there's enough of the truth for you to get the gist.


Before we start our night's Christmas festivity,  
let's stand and sing to our finest ability.

We'll sing a song about the first Noel,  
about the newly born king of Israel.

Song: **The First Nowell** Led by: Stuart Adey

The first Nowell the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds, in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

When they looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel!



And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far,  
To seek for a King was their intent  
And to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest  
Over Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those wise men three  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold, and myrrh and frankincense.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That has made heaven and earth from naught  
And with His blood salvation bought.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

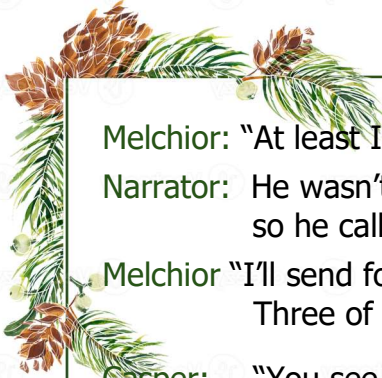
**Narrator:** Read by: Lesley Bracey

Our story begins, with a man from the East;  
Melchior was his name, part king, part priest.

Like others of his day, he looked to the sky,  
to study the stars, and what they might signify.

He looked for patterns, predictions and signs,  
He searched for their meaning in their designs.

Now Melchior knew each star by sight



Melchior: "At least I did," he said, "until tonight.

Narrator: He wasn't sure about what to do,  
so he called his friends, for perhaps they knew.

Melchior "I'll send for Caspar and Shazar to come  
Three of us will be more wiser than just one.

Casper: "You see that star, the one so bright?"

Narrator: Young Caspar clapped his hands in delight.

Casper: "Yes, of course! "what a marvellous thing!  
What could it mean? Perhaps a new king?"

Narrator: Before we hear what their convo brings  
let's sing a song about these three kings.


Song: *We Three Kings* Led by: Stuart Adey

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse 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's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign *O Star of wonder ...*

Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising, all men raising  
Worship Him, God most high *O Star of wonder ...*



Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes of life of gathering gloom  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb     *O Star of wonder ...*

Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Earth to heav'n replies     *O Star of wonder ...*

**Narrator:** Read by Lesley Bracey

Let us return to the king's conversation  
For quite a while they discussed their observation.

For ages the kings pondered the star's brilliant light  
Then the penny dropped, why it was so bright.

**All Kings:** (Jim Bissaker, Stuart Adey, Jon Noble)

"A king! A King! No wonder we're filled with glee!  
"That star's light is brighter than three."


**Shazar:** "I think, I read in an old musty book  
about such a star, let's take a look."

**Narrator:** As they ran their eyes over an old ancient scroll,  
Caspar suddenly released the story as a whole.

**Caspar:** "Look! It says here a star will come from the Jews,  
Their king will rule, what startling news!

**Melchior:** "And not just any king, it surely must mean,  
A royal king from God is entering the scene."

**Shazar:** "Quick! Get a map! We'll have to go and see.  
We must go to Bethlehem to see if that's to be."



Melchior: "Guess what! I'd almost forgotten.  
The beds at my cousin's inn  
have sheets of fine cotton.

"I'd better send word that we're on our way,  
It'll take quite a while, but it's a great place to stay.


Narrator: Now before we continue our story about them,  
let's sing a song about this town called Bethlehem

Song: **O Little Town of Bethlehem** Led by Jon Noble

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in your dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you 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 all 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:** Read by Elizabeth Bissaker

Let's return to our story about the three star gazers,  
These days they'd be considered real trail blazers!  
So a message was sent to The Bethlehem Inn,  
to the Innkeeper's wife, whose name was Lynn!

**Melchior:** "Be sure to tell her that God's King is on his way,  
we'll all want to be there on that special day."

The messenger raced off, crossing mountains and sand  
armed with a letter telling all that was planned.

When the messenger arrived, there was cousin Lynn,  
At the front desk, her hand on her chin.

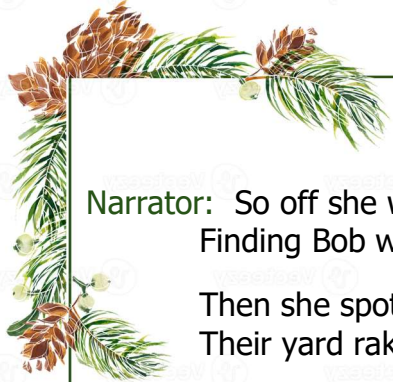
**Messenger:**

"Your cousin, the priest, who will not back down,  
writes to tell you God's king will soon come to this town.

And this great news means Melchior is coming too,  
he's hoping you'll have room for him and his crew."

**Narrator:** She read the note and sighed in despair,  
if a king is coming, there's no time to spare!

**Lynn:** I'll stop what I'm doing and go find hubby Bob,  
He'd know what to do, that's his job."



**Narrator:** So off she went, searching high and low  
Finding Bob was never fast, always slow.

Then she spotted him, feeding the pigs  
Their yard raked, clean of stones and twigs.

**Bob:** "My love, for heavens' sake, what do you need?"  
What's so important? The pigs need their feed!

**Lynn:** "My cousin sent word, and its not a lie.  
God's king is coming, and we don't know why!

**Bob:** "Of course we do! We can shout out our praise  
"Hallelujah God's Saviour is coming.  
There's no more delays!"

For ages we've been longing for him to arrive,  
we've been praying and waiting, it's helped us survive.


**Narrator:** Let's stop for a while to sing a few more songs,  
This one's about Christ's coming,  
so it kind of belongs.

**Song:** Come now long expected Saviour Led by: Jon Noble

Come, thou long expected Saviour,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.





Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Narrator:** Read by Elizabeth Bissaker

Meanwhile at the Inn, Lynn could not keep still,  
she was worried her Inn would not fit the bill.

**Lynn:** The curtains are dirty, the walls need a paint,  
we've got to fix things up, so there'll be no complaint.

**Narrator:** So week after week she fussed, and she cleaned,  
until the Inn fairly shone, in fact it gleamed!

They decided to call their newly-enhanced place,  
*The King's Royal Inn*, a grand hotel with plenty of space.

Soon after, King Caesar sent a decree throughout Rome,  
everyone was to be taxed; all must return home.

Before long accommodation was completely booked out.  
People needed a place to stay, that wasn't in doubt.

However, a visitor came and said to Lynn in Reception,  
Thinking *The King's Royal Inn* might be an exception.

**Visitor:** "I need a room, and your place just seems right,  
So I've come here hoping for a bed for the night."

'You must love God, for everything's so clean and bright,  
I'm keen to stay in a place that is so full of light.



Narrator:

As Innkeeper Bob reached to give him a key,  
his wife, Lynn, called out,

Lynn: "We have no vacancy.

You could try the Inn a little down the road,  
They're sure to provide a comfortable abode."

Narrator:

When the visitor departed, Bob challenged his wife,  
Something he'd never done, not once in his life.

Bob: "Lynn that's absurd! We've got many spare rooms.  
We could even clear the room  
filled with buckets and brooms

Why did you turn that customer away  
we need the business and they were happy to pay.

Narrator:

Bob was startled when Lynn promptly bounced back,  
Though he knew she was hard-working, never slack:

Lynn: "We can't afford to let people come and stay.  
They'll mess up the rooms;  
they'll make the whites, grey."

We must keep our rooms spotless,  
with not a speck of mess.  
If we let them get soiled, the new King  
won't come to our address."

Narrator:

Oh dear! It's time for another short interlude,  
a song that will help us stay in the mood.



Song: Make way, Make way for the king of kings

Lead by: Jon Noble (male) and Libby Birch (female)

Make way, make way for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives,  
fling wide the gates and welcome him  
into your lives.

*Make way, (make way), make way, (make way),  
for the King of kings, (for the King of kings).  
Make way, (make way), make way, (make way),  
and let his kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal  
the prisoners to free,  
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.

*Make way ...*

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh;  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
he'll beautify.

*Make way ...*

We call you now to worship him, as Lord of all;  
to have no gods before him  
their thrones must fall!

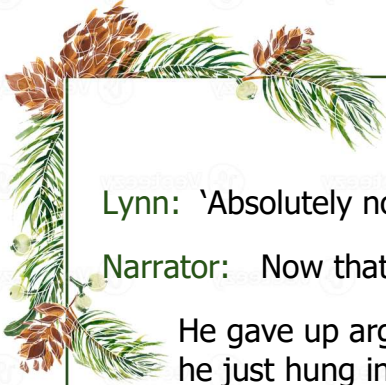
*Make way ...*

**Narrator:** Read by Elizabeth Bissaker

And so it went on, each traveller was turned away,  
while the Innkeeper's wife dusted and cleaned all day.

One by one they stopped at *The King's Royal Inn*,  
but when they sought a room, Lynn said they couldn't fit in.

Her hubby Bob begged her to make some rooms available,  
but she was completely stubborn and quite unshakeable.



**Lynn:** 'Absolutely not!', our Inn must not become dirty!

**Narrator:** Now that was the end! Bob became quite shirty!

He gave up arguing with his beloved wife,  
he just hung in the stable, to avoid any strife.

Then late one night, a man named Joseph came knocking,  
To him, no beds available was downright shocking.

For his wife, Joseph told Lynn, was about to give birth  
He offered that information, for what it was worth.

But Lynn did not budge,  
she insisted there were no rooms.  
No way could she clear the room of buckets and brooms.

**Mary:** But surely your hotel has a room that is vacant.  
It's called The King's Royal Inn, the name's pretty blatant.

This must be the place where God want us to stay,  
Sure there's not a room for us? We'll depart break of day.

**Narrator:** But Lynn responded, quick as a wink  
without taking the time even to think.

**Lynn:** "No, we're expecting one who is special indeed.  
and grubby people like you are not who we need.

**Narrator:** But, Innkeeper Bob couldn't turn them away.  
He gently offered his stable, which was full of fresh hay.

**Bob:** "It may not be much, but I've made it quite comfortable,  
Besides to turn you away, would be unacceptable."



**Narrator:**

The two strangers were grateful for the Innkeeper's barn, they settled down for the night and all was quite calm.

There's a song we could sing which speaks of that night, when holy things were happening by flickering candlelight.

**Song:** *Silent Night, Holy Night*    **Lead by:** Alec McNiven

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round the virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.


Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth! Jesus, Lord, at your birth!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend your light;  
with the angels let us sing  
"Alleluia" to our King:  
"Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born."

**Narrator:** Read by Pam Johnson

Let's return to our story of the couple in the shed,  
Now that the Innkeeper and his wife were comfy in bed.



Before very long our three star-gazers did turn up,  
and rang the bell so loud it woke Lynn and Bob right up.

**Melchior:** "Cousin Lynn, we are here! We've made it at last!  
Who did you give your rooms to? The star is a blast!

God's King is surely here! His star makes it known!  
Imagine having a King, in the Inn, that you own."

**Narrator:** But Lynn replied,

**Lynn:** 'What do you mean? God's King is here?  
That's impossible. The place is all clear.'

We've been keeping it clean, each room spick and span,  
so when God's King arrives, we'll be ready for his plan."

**Narrator:** But it was Bob who piped up and interrupted his wife,

**Bob:** "What about the couple who caused you such strife?"

This night she gave birth to a beaming baby boy,  
and the star above our stable is shining with joy."

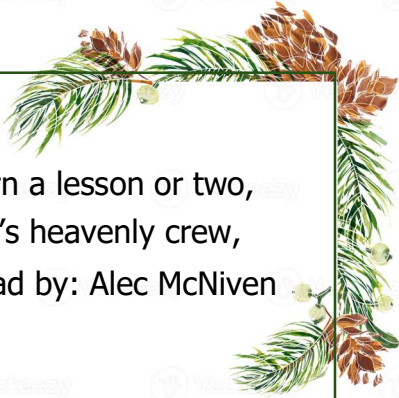
**Melchior:** "That's it, that's the King's heavenly star!'  
Show us this baby, for we've travelled quite far.

**Lynn:** "But that's impossible. A King in a stable?  
In a barn that's all dirty? There's not even a table!"

If the King had come and asked for a room to stay,  
I would have given him the best, the one on display."

**Narrator:** Bob nudged his wife, and whispered in her ear,

**Bob:** "They did ask for a room, but you were quite severe."



**Narrator:** While we leave old Lynn to learn a lesson or two,  
Let's sing another song, about God's heavenly crew,

**Song:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Lead by: Alec McNiven

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn 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 hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

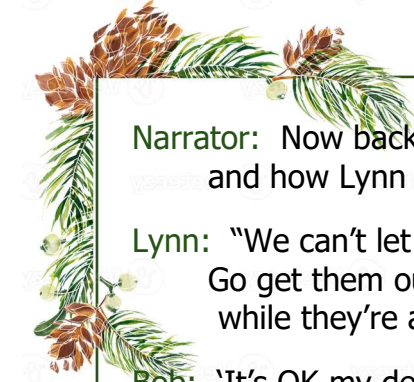
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

*Hark! The ..*

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 we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

*Hark! The ...*



**Narrator:** Now back to the drama in *The King's Royal Inn*,  
and how Lynn responded when she realised her sin.

**Lynn:** "We can't let them stay in that animal stable,  
Go get them out now! Show them a room  
while they're able."

**Bob:** 'It's OK my dear, I made the barn as good as can be,  
I felt it was right to clean not just the parts people see."

'Besides we can't move the baby right now,  
There are shepherds, and sheep all taking a bow.

With all these animals gathered around,  
they wouldn't be comfortable and  
would make too much sound.

**Lynn:** 'Oh I've made a real mess of things.  
God will never forgive me for all my sins."

**Narrator:** Then Joseph thanked the Innkeeper and his wife,  
For making them welcome when he was in strife.

**Joseph:** There are so many people who want to see our baby,  
the poor and the lowly, shepherds and .... maybe.

If we'd been inside your fancy hotel,  
there is no way they could see him so well.

**Narrator:** Bob said to his wife,

**Bob:** 'Let's go and worship the King'  
Let's let nothing stop us from making room for Him."

**Narrator:** There's a song we can sing that's very graceful,  
Let's sing together "O Come all you faithful"





Song: O Come all You Faithful Led by Stuart Adey

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come now, O come now 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.*

True God of true God, Light of light eternal,  
He, who abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created:

*O come, let us adore Him,*

Sing like the angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing with the citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest!

*O come, let us adore Him,*

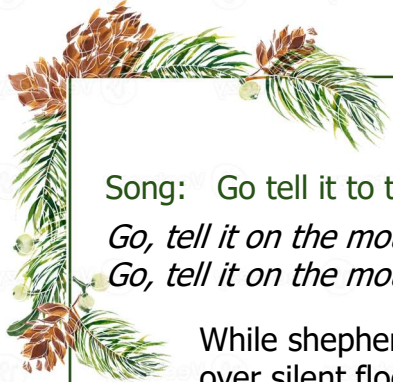
**Narrator:** Lynn, the Innkeeper's wife, never forgot  
the lesson she learned,  
She now knew God wanted  
to be welcomed, not to be earned.

He's looking for a heart that knows its need of him,  
that is a heart he will cleanse of all sin.

As morning dawned, all the doors were flung open,  
and people came, not just a few, not just the chosen.

That's the big lesson we need to learn as well,  
To open our heart to others  
is what God's wants in a nutshell.

So, let's stand to sing our final song ...  
It's one I'm sure you'll be able to sing along.



Song: Go tell it to the mountain Led by Stuart Adey  
*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
over silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens,  
there shone a holy light. *Go, tell it on ...*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth. *Go, tell it on ...*

Down in a lowly manger  
our humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation,  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Go, tell it on ...*

When I am a seeker,  
I seek both night and day.  
I seek the Lord to help me,  
and He shows me the way. *Go, tell it on ...*

He made me a watchman  
upon the city wall,  
and if I am a Christian,  
I am the least of all. *Go, tell it on ...*



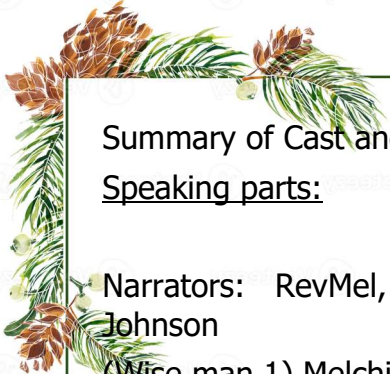
Narrator:

Before you go, we've got one more invitation,  
there's a lot more happening at this same location.  
When the clock strikes eleven, and midnight draws near,  
we'll pause for a communion we all hold so dear.

Eight o'clock is the time that has been set,  
That's when we'll meet tomorrow, please don't forget.

As you leave there's a little gift for you  
Happy Christmas, to your family, and to you!





Summary of Cast and music/singer allocations:

Speaking parts:

Narrators: RevMel, Lesley Bracey, Elizabeth Bissaker, Pam Johnson

(Wise man 1) Melchior: Jim Bissaker

(Wise man 2) Casper: Stuart Adey

(Wise man 3) Shazar: Jon Noble

Messenger: Alec McNiven

Bob (Innkeeper): Michael Birch

Lynn (Innkeeper's wife): Gail Iles

Mary: RevMel

Visitor: Deanne Thomson

Joseph: Rod Thomson

Musicians on Keyboard (Feel free to rearrange)

The First Noel – TIS 301 – Roger Philpott

We Three Kings – MP 740 – Kerry Messenger

O Little Town of Bethlehem – TIS 316 or MP 503 - Roger Philpott

Come now Long Expected Saviour – MP 102 - Roger Philpott

Make Way Make Way – MP 457 – Roger Philpott

Silent Night – TIS 311 – Kerry Messenger

Hark the Herald Angels Sing – TIS 303 – Roger Philpott

O Come all you faithful – MP 491 – Sheryn Moyon

Go Tell it To the Mountains – MP 179 – Sheryn Moyon

All songs accompanied by guitars