

WHO CARES?

A nativity play

(Written by Silvia Purdie)

Characters:

- Mary
- Joseph
- 3 Wise men
- Shepherds (speaking parts of 2)
- Angels (one speaking part)
- Reader

Setting:

- There is a bale of hay at the front of the church, with a bit more hay scattered around.
- There is a star hung high up at front of the church.
- A lectern for the Reader, with Bible

Props:

- Some clothing to suggest the characters: e.g. angel wings, cloaks for the Wise Men, jackets for the Shepherds, a blue dress for Mary. Modern is fine.
- A thermos and cups for the Shepherds

DRAMA:

Reader **Luke 2: 1-7**

(Enter Mary and Joseph walking slowly along, pretending to walk up Bethlehem's main street.)

Mary Oh, Joseph, I'm going to have to stop soon! I can't walk another step
 Look! There's your aunt and uncle's house - can't we go in there for a rest?

Joseph No, dear, we've been over this a dozen times. They sent us a nasty email making
 it quite clear that we were not welcome.

Mary I know, your family thinks I'm a shameless hussy! I would love to have seen their
 faces when you told them about the angel. I'm sorry, dear. You were such a
 respectable son. Now, who knows what is in store for us?

Joseph It's OK, Mary. God will look after us. But it would be nice if somebody else did!
 Come on, love, let's try one last hotel. Maybe if I get down and beg this time!

(They got off and sit down at the side of the church.)

Reader **Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-10**

(The WISE MEN walk in quickly, pointing up at the star)

Wise man 1 I'm so excited! I can't believe it. After all those years of waiting -

Wise man 2 All those years of watching the stars, of observations and calculations -

Wise man 3 All those year of arguments going around and around in circles, getting nowhere -
Wise man 1 We are here!
Wise man 2 Yes, but where are we? It doesn't look like anywhere in particular -
Wise man 3 anywhere special -
Wise man 1 anywhere important.
Wise man 2 Are we sure, quite, quite sure?!
All together YES!!
Wise man 3 But, surely, God himself can't be born here, in nowhere in particular, in a cow
shed! What does this mean???

Wise man 1 It's almost unbelievable!
Wise man 2 It's radical! Outrageous!
Wise man 3 It's astounding! astonishing!
(silence for a minute)
Wise man 1 It would be nice if someone else cared.

(They walk off to the side of the church and wait, looking up at the star)

Reader Luke 2: 8

(The SHEPHERDS run on, puffing)

Shep 1 *(Grabs a pretend sheep)* Got you! There, that's all 97 sheep accounted for. Little
blighter! That one could run!
Shep 2 Sit down. Relax. At least a run warmed us up for a while. Have some coffee.
(They sit down, and share out some pretend coffee from the thermos)
Shep 1 You know, sometimes I think about the boss and his family, fast asleep ages ago
in their nice soft, warm beds. Why are we out here in the cold, then?
Shep 2 Yeah, yeah. Who ever said life was fair, eh? But it would be nice if someone
cared.

Reader Luke 2: 9-14

*(ANGELS run in, and lead everyone to the centre, where they make the nativity scene. Bring the
baby to Mary. Everyone else is amazed to see the angels, and happy to see the
baby Jesus. While this is happening, the congregation sing:)*

ALL sing: While Shepherds watched their flocks by night (WOV 223)

Angel Glad tidings of great joy I bring, to you and all humanity!
God is with us! God cares for us!

Reader (1 John 3:16) And the Word became flesh, and lived among us. And we have
seen his glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. From
his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
(John 3:16.) For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life.