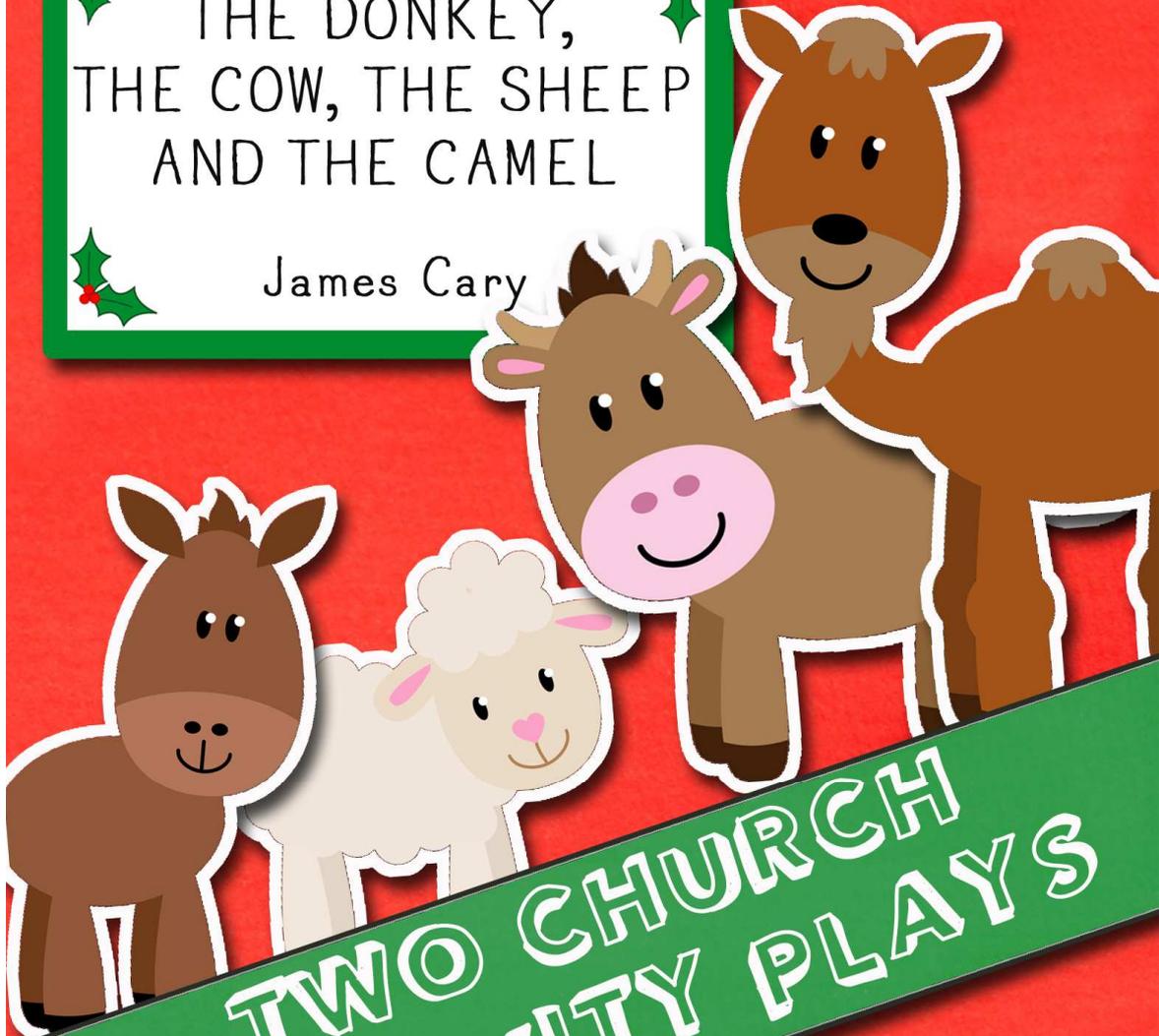


THE DONKEY,  
THE COW, THE SHEEP  
AND THE CAMEL

James Cary



TWO CHURCH  
NATIVITY PLAYS



THE NATWIVITY

Ros Clarke

## **Two Nativity Plays for Churches**

***The Donkey, the Cow, the Sheep and the Camel***

by James Cary

***The Natwivity***

by Ros Clarke

## **The Donkey, the Cow, the Sheep and the Camel**

by James Cary

Originally written for St John's Church, Yeovil, Somerset

### **The Donkey, The Cow, The Sheep and The Camel**

#### **Carol 1: O Come O Come Emmanuel**

*Scene 1: The Annunciation*

*Cast for this scene: Donkey, Angel, Joseph*

*Joseph is sleeping on some kind of bed, or chair. The Donkey is the facing the audience.*

Donkey: Hello. Good morning. And welcome. I'm a Donkey called Little. Apparently it's a song, but I've never heard it. Anyway, today's an amazing day because we're all going on a journey to Bethlehem! No, I hadn't heard of it either, but I'm told it used to be a Very Important Place. We have to go there because of a thing called a Census. And a man called The Emperor. And Bethlehem is where Joseph's family is from. That's Joseph. Sleeping. I wonder what he's dreaming about.

Joseph: *(eyes shut. Sleep talking)* He shoots! He scores! And AC Jerusalem win the match!!

*Joseph, still sleeping, is celebrating while the Angel appears (in the pulpit).*

Angel: Joseph? Joseph! Your fiancée Mary is... JOSEPH!!

*Joseph stops celebrating and sits up.*

Angel: That's better. Joseph, your fiancée Mary is going to bear a son and you shall give him the name Jesus, which means God Saves.

Joseph: Jesus. God Saves. Got you!

*Joseph falls back down again and starts snoring.*

Donkey: Hello, Gabriel.

Angel: Hello, Donkey. Did you hear the news?

Donkey: Yes.

Angel: Isn't it a big surprise?

Donkey: Not really. I get weird dreams too. The other day, I dreamt I was eating a huge sack of hay. And when I woke, my huge sack of hay had gone!

Angel: No, Donkey! The big surprise is that Mary is going to have a baby. Who's going to save the world. It's probably too much for a donkey to understand.

Donkey: Whoa, there! I'm very open---minded. Especially for a donkey.

Angel: Well, you've got a long journey ahead of you so better get some sleep. Maybe I'll see you in Bethlehem!

*The Angel disappears back into the pulpit.*

Donkey: It's a long journey but I shouldn't complain. Joseph bought me for journeys. I don't need much fuel, I always start on a cold morning and the air-conditioning's incredible. So, we're off to Bethlehem. My name is Little, and I'm a donkey, so we're all going to sing... Once in Royal David's City. Let's all stand to sing.

## **Carol 2: Once in Royal David's City**

### *Scene 2: Arrival at the Stable*

*Cast for this Scene: Cow, Mary, Joseph, Innkeeper, Assorted Animals*

*The Cow, wearing a cowbell, is there with some other assorted animals – Chickens. Goats. Calves.*

Cow: Welcome to my stable. And my name is Poppy the Cow. I don't want much. Just somewhere to lie down. And stand up. Eat my lunch. And then lie down again. I'm very busy. And this stable can get busy, especially with my little calves...

Calves: Moooooo!

Cow: Then there are the goats...

Goats: Bleat bleat bleat!

Cow: And the chickens...

Chickens: Cluck cluck cluck!

Cow: Anyway, all was quiet in the stable when in came the innkeeper. Which is what innkeepers like to do.

*The Innkeeper walks in followed by Mary, Joseph and The Donkey.*

Cow: This innkeeper is new and I don't really like him.

Innkeeper: Aaaah, this is the place. Just right for you. I know it's a stable but think of it as ... rustic. Like River Cottage. It's the 'in thing'. Trust me. I'm an innkeeper. I keep track of what's in. Seriously.

Joseph: Does this room have Sky?

Innkeeper: Yes! You see the gap in the roof? That's the sky. Now, if you need anything, ring the bell.

The Innkeeper rings the cow's cowbell and leaves. Mary and Joseph sits down.

Cow: Well, of all the cheek. Bringing a pregnant human women into my stable! I know this new innkeeper needs to make a living. The incoming innkeeper's inn's gotta keep the income coming in. But why does he need to use the stable? What do you think about it, calves?

Calves: Moooo!

Cow: What about you, goats?

Goats: Bleat bleat bleat!!

Cow: And what about you, chickens...

Chickens: Cluck cluck cluck!!

Cow: Exactly. It's not on! Here I am, minding my own business and...

Donkey: *(Interrupting)* Whoa there! Don't have a cow, cow!

Cow: A talking donkey?! What are the chances?

Donkey: About the same as a talking cow. Now I think Mary's about to have her baby. So, maybe we should ring for some towels.

*Donkey rings cow's cowbell.*

Cow: But it's just a baby. Baby's are born every day.

Donkey: Not like this one. He's going to be very special indeed. Tell you what. While we wait for the innkeeper, let's all sing a Christmas song. How about Silent Night – because Mary's about to have a baby, so it won't be silent for long. Let's all stand to sing.

**Carol 3: Silent Night**

*Scene 3: The Shepherds*

*Cast for this scene: Sheep, shepherds, Angels and some lambs*

*The Sheep is on stage with various lambs and a few shepherds.*

Sheep: Ding dong merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing. Ding dong  
verily the sky, ... angels singing.

Glo---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---o---ria!

Hosanna in the highest.

*The sheep takes a huge breath having sung their lungs out.*

Sheep: I love Christmas! It's great. We're only half way through the first Christmas and it's  
already going really well. I think it could seriously catch on. Now, I know what you're thinking.  
I'm just a stupid sheep getting carried away. But I'm not stupid. 87% of people think Sheep  
are stupid. Although 76% of people don't believe surveys. And because I'm happy all the time,  
people assume I'm stupid. But I'm not. I'm can name the 12 tribes of Israel. Or the 10  
Commandments. In order. Or King David's genealogy!

*The Donkey walks on and moves towards the Sheep as it prattles on.*

Sheep: Abraham was the father of Isaac who was the father of Jacob who was the father of Judah  
who was the father of Perez who was the father of Hezron who was the father of Ram – ha ha,  
Ram. I'm a sheep – Ram was the father of...

*The Donkey whispers in the sheep's ear and makes a 'keep it moving' gesture.*

Sheep: Sorry! I do get carried away. Don't I, little lambs?

Lambs: Baaaaaa!

Sheep: And did you know King David was a shepherd in these very fields? The shepherds love  
acting out the story of David and Goliath.

*Shepherds start to act out David slaying Goliath.*

Shepherd 1: Fee Fi Fo Fum. I'm Goliath the Philistine and I will make you all our slaves!

Shepherd 2: I am David, son of Jesse...

Sheep: Who was son of Obed! Who was... okay. Not now.

Shepherd 1: I am David. Son of Jesse and I'm going to save us from slavery!

*Shepherd mimes a catapult at Goliath Shepherd who falls over with a shout. Joseph jumps onto stage.*

Joseph: He shoots! He scores!

*The Donkey coughs pointedly at the Sheep. Joseph also leaves.*

Sheep: Sorry. Again. Anyway, the big story is what happened just now. A bunch of angels came, not a bunch, a host of angels, that's the collective noun, came and told us some amazing news.

*At that moment, the angel reappears from the pulpit with some played in Angel Music (Hallelujah Chorus). Some other little angels come running in. The Donkey leaves the stage.*

Angel: Don't be afraid! I bring you news of great joy that's for everyone everywhere! In the City of David, a saviour has been born. He is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest! And peace on earth to God's people!

Shepherd 2: Let's go to Bethlehem!!!!

*Shepherd 2 charges off the stage. Nobody moves. Shepherd 2 walks back on. The Sheep points the other way. The Shepherd leads everyone off the stage.*

Angel: And while they do go to Bethlehem, the City of David, we're all going to stand and sing While Shepherds Watched their Flocks.

#### **Carol 4: While Shepherds Watched their Flocks**

*Scene 4: The Magi*

*Cast for this scene: Camel, Three Magi, Stars*

*The Three Magi are on stage, peering through telescopes at the sky. There is also a camel.*

Camel: If you're a camel like me and you live in the desert like me, it's quite easy to feel left out. People would say 'Did you hear the one about the Englishman, the Irishman and the Scotsman? And I'd say. 'No?' And they'd say 'Me neither.' News travels slowly. Especially good news. So it was a big surprise when we got to hear some really good news before the King Herod of Judea. News about the birth of a King! But when we turned up looking for this king, Herod had no idea

what we were talking about. Anyway, it all started with a star.

*Little stars come running on and prance around for a bit – to Carnival of the Animals No.7 (Aquarium).*

Camel: Every night, the wise men would look at the stars wondering if the heavens were trying to tell them something.

*Then a big star appears (probably someone carrying it – maybe in the pulpit or a gallery?).*

Camel: And this time, they were.

*The Magi stop looking through their telescopes, and look at the big star with their own eyes.*

*Then the big star goes off the stage, the little stars go off the other way – and the Magi following the big star around the church.*

Camel: Why don't you sing We Three Kings, while we go to Bethlehem! See you there!

### **Carol 5: We Three Kings**

*Scene 5: The Stable/Finale*

*Cast for this scene: Everyone!*

*The Magi and the Camel walk around the back of the church as the front is set up with Mary and Joseph round a crib, joined by Shepherds and the Innkeeper. The Angel looks down from the pulpit. The various stable animals are around.*

*As the Magi and Camel approach the stable, Poppy the Cow and Little the Donkey and The Sheep face the audience.*

Sheep: Tell you what, this First Christmas is going really well, isn't it?

Donkey: It certainly is. Everyone looks very happy.

Cow: I'm not! Look in the manger! There's a baby lying in my dinner!

*The Camel arrives.*

Camel: I hope we're not too late. We've come to worship the new born king!

Cow: Yes. You're too late. Sorry. There's no more room in the stable.

Camel: We bring gifts!

Cow: Come on in!!

Sheep: Wait, Camel! How did you find us?

Camel: We followed the star.

Sheep: The star? In the heavens? But that star must be billions of miles away! And the light will have taken years to get here! So we're seeing the light of the star that was in exactly the right place hundreds of years ago...

Donkey: Maybe that a thousand years! When David lived in this very city.

Sheep: And saved the Israelites from slavery!

Donkey: And the baby's called Jesus, which means God Saves!

Sheep: And the baby's great great great great great great grandfather is King David.

Angel: Yes! It's almost like there was someone in charge of the entire universe! Someone who'd planned the whole of human history.

Cow: Yes, but who?

Angel: He's there. Lying in your dinner.

*The Angel points at Jesus in the manger, and Cow goes over to look followed by Donkey, Sheep and Camel.*

Angel: I think I'll choose the final song. And I don't want to blow my own trumpet, but we're going to have Hark the Herald Angels Sing!

**Carol 6: Hark The Herald Angels Sing**

The Natwivity

by Ros Clarke

Originally written for Castle Church, Stafford

*This is a short Nativity play based on Matthew's gospel.*

*There are four characters, each with their own twitter account. You could set up real accounts, or you can find free 'fake' tweet generators online. These are helpful for making a powerpoint of the twitter conversation including the twitpics and status updates etc. The play takes about 10 minutes to perform and works well as part of an all-age Christmas church service. We took a social media theme for the whole service and did things like getting people to tweet in Christmas jokes, text to vote for the final carol, and taking a huge group selfie.*

*If you use real twitter accounts, you can tweet the whole play, but I wouldn't advise trying to do this in real time during the service, just in case!*

*The four accounts are:*

*@Natwivity*

*Nativity*

*@NatwivityJoseph*

*Joseph Davidson*

*@NatwivityMary*

*Mary*

*@NatwivityAngel*

*AngeloftheLord*

*Each character should stand at the front of the stage with a smartphone or tablet. They will pretend to be tweeting or reading and responding to their tweets throughout. They should read the hashtags and at symbols aloud, with some of the punctuation too.*

*e.g. She said YES!!! #engaged #pew*

*Read: She said yes exclamation mark exclamation mark hashtag engaged hashtag pew*

*If you're sneaky, you can put the script onto the screens and read it directly from that.*

Nativity: This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. #nativity #christmas

Mary: He asked me! FINALLY. #downononeknee

Joseph: She said YES!!! #engaged #pew

Mary: @natwivityjoseph Love you! [TWITPIC RING]

Joseph: @natwivitymary Love you too!

Mary: Got some news for you, @natwivityjoseph. DMing you now...

Joseph: Sounds ominous. \*checking DMs anxiously\*

Mary: @natwivityjoseph Well, you're not going to believe this but don't freak out. I'm pregnant. #glowing

Joseph: @natwivitymary I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO DM THAT

Mary: @natwivityjoseph Oops. #awkward

Joseph: \*FREAKING OUT\*

Mary: Sorry, @natwivityjoseph It was pretty freaky, though. The Holy Spirit did it. #trifax

Joseph: @natwivitymary O\_o

Joseph: @natwivitymary Also, WHAT?

Mary: @natwivityjoseph Holy Spirit. You know, God. It's God's baby.

Joseph: @natwivitymary Well, it was nice knowing you... #losingtheplot

#breakingtheengagement

Joseph: UNFOLLOWS @natwivitymary

Joseph: \*writing the divorce papers now\* #sadface

Joseph: Angel. Of. The. Lord. #weirdestdreamEVER

Joseph: FOLLOWS @natwivityangel

Angel: @natwivityjoseph STOP FREAKING OUT. Marry Mary.

Joseph: STILL FREAKING OUT.

Angel: @natwivityjoseph Baby is God's. Call him Jesus.

Joseph: @natwivityangel We were thinking Jacob for a boy, after my father.

Angel: @natwivityjoseph Call him Jesus because he will save the people from their sins.

#godsaves

Joseph: @natwivityangel It's not up to me, mate. @natwivitymary was fairly set on Jacob.

Also, how can the baby be God's? #confused

Angel: @natwivityjoseph Holy Spirit.

Joseph: @angelofthelord That's what \*she\* said.

Joseph: FOLLOWS @natwivitymary

Nativity: All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son..." (1/2)

Nativity: "...and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us'." (2/2) [TWITPIC: Bible]

Joseph: @natwivitymary Still want to get married?

Mary: @natwivityjoseph YES! #happydance

Joseph: @natwivitymary I'm coming to see you.

Mary: MARRIED!!! Yay! Updating twitter bio now: Mrs Joseph Davidson.

Nativity: Not quite nine months later...

Mary: IT'S A BOY!!!! #bethlehembaby

Joseph: Welcome Jesus Josephson to the world! #immanuel #godsaves