

## Nativity Mistakes!!

Don't you all just love watching children perform in Nativity scenes and speak out those immortal words. But not every Nativity goes to plan:

1. The Innkeeper what an important and vital he/she had when Mary & Joseph having exhausted LastMinute.Com tired and close to the birth trudged around Bethlehem seeing if there was anywhere they could lay their heads down? The problem was that this particular innkeeper was to say: No room at the Inn. Billy was most troubled by this, indeed his mum and his Sunday school teacher had always told him that he should receive Jesus gladly into his life. So when the time came for his vital role, Joseph knocked on the door and asked if there was any room, the audience awaited the immortal words, but at the last moment Billy just could not say them. *"Come on in he said and have a cup of tea"*. A problem for the play but I think you might agree that Billy did the right thing. Don't we need to welcome Christ and doesn't he delight to come on in and eat with us and we with Him (Revelation 3:20).

2. The Angel Gabriel well you could not land a better part than that. Chief Archangel (nothing to do with Noah by the way) with hundreds of Angels in his angel army of praise. They had to announce to the Shepherds the Good News about Jesus' birth and get them on their way to Bethlehem. What a privilege! But do you know, when you are excited about such things you get nervous and Freddie playing Gabriel got nervous and forgot his lines. The big moment came: the heavens lit up the sky, the Shepherds looked pretty scared, and it was Freddie's turn to make the announcement: he did remember that it had to be possible so right at the last moment he jumped out in front of the Shepherds, through his wings back, and said: *"Boy have I got Good News for you"*. Maybe he was a modern day Eugene Peterson, and

maybe just maybe he captured the excitement and anticipation of the moment, and more importantly that this was Good News that would change the world forever. Have we become so familiar with the Gospel that it no longer grips us and thrusts us to the Bethlehem's of this world to see for ourselves and from there out in all the world?

**3. The Wise Men/Magi** our last 'mistake' (as opposed to Mr stake and Mrs stake) concerned the wisemen and their gifts. Poor old Frank: you know you lucks out when you draw the short straw as a wisemen and get the third gift to present to the Baby Jesus! His mates were to present Gold and Myrrh, Gold was easy to say, Myrrh a little tricky but manageable, just, but his gift was unpronounceable..... the moment fast approached for him to offer his gift, and as it approached he got more and more nervous. But Frank recalled that it what was really important was that he gave something that mattered. So he reached down and put his gift at the foot of the Manger and blurted out: "***And Frank sent this!***" And doing so he was spot on: for what Jesus wants more than anything is our love obedience and worship.

Let's pray:

Lord Jesus we welcome you as Babe of Bethlehem, Servant King and Saviour of the World. Father, You have given to us everything worth having in your son, Jesus. Help us not only to make room for Him but also realise afresh the unique and amazing Good News of that first Christmas and share it with all the Lord sends across our path. May we give of ourselves afresh to you on this Saviours Day and everyday.

Amen.