

Happy Birthday Jesus

Primary Script

by

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CAST LIST

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

Main Characters

Hannah	(18)
Richard	(19)
Jenny	(13)
John	(19)
Alice	(12)
Paul	(7)

Fairy Lights

Light 1	(3)
Light 2	(3)
Light 3	(2)
Light 4	(2)
Light 5	(2)
Light 6	(2)
Light 7	(2)
Light 8	(3)

Shepherds

Shepherd 1	(3)
Shepherd 2	(3)
Shepherd 3	(3)

Travellers

Traveller 1	(1)
Traveller 2	(1)
Traveller 3	(1)
Traveller 4	(1)

At The Inn

Mary	(4)
Joseph	(4)
Donkey	(0)
Innkeeper 1	(1)
Innkeeper 2	(2)

Crackers

Cracker 1	(3)
Cracker 2	(3)
Cracker 3	(3)
Cracker 4	(3)

Kings

King 1	(1)
King 2	(1)
King 3	(1)

In addition to these characters, a Chorus of Travellers, Christmas Trees and 18 children (each with a lettered card to spell out Happy Birthday Jesus) will be required.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has.

John.....	19
Richard	19
Hannah	18
Jenny.....	13
Alice.....	12
Paul	7
Joseph.....	4
Mary.....	4
Cracker 1	3
Cracker 2.....	3
Cracker 3.....	3
Cracker 4.....	3
Fairy Light 1	3
Fairy Light 2.....	3
Fairy Light 8.....	3
Shepherd 1	3
Shepherd 2.....	3
Shepherd 3.....	3
Fairy Light 3.....	2
Fairy Light 4.....	2
Fairy Light 5.....	2
Fairy Light 6.....	2
Fairy Light 7.....	2
Innkeeper 2.....	2
Innkeeper 1.....	1
King 1	1
King 2	1
King 3	1
Traveller 1.....	1
Traveller 2.....	1
Traveller 3.....	1
Traveller 4.....	1

CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has.

Alice.....	12
Cracker 1	3
Cracker 2.....	3
Cracker 3.....	3
Cracker 4.....	3
Fairy Light 1	3
Fairy Light 2.....	3
Fairy Light 3.....	2
Fairy Light 4.....	2
Fairy Light 5.....	2
Fairy Light 6.....	2
Fairy Light 7.....	2
Fairy Light 8.....	3
Hannah.....	18
Innkeeper 1.....	1
Innkeeper 2.....	2
Jenny.....	13
John.....	19
Joseph.....	4
King 1	1
King 2	1
King 3	1
Mary.....	4
Paul	7
Richard	19
Shepherd 1	3
Shepherd 2	3
Shepherd 3.....	3
Traveller 1.....	1
Traveller 2.....	1
Traveller 3.....	1
Traveller 4.....	1

Non-speaking roles: A Donkey, who is silent throughout, and a Chorus of Christmas Trees, Travellers and 18 children, each with a lettered card to spell 'Happy Birthday Jesus'

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Alice
Hannah
Jenny
John
Paul
Richard

Scene Two

Alice
Chorus of Christmas Trees
Hannah
Jenny
John
Paul
Richard

Scene Three

Alice
Chorus of Christmas Trees
Fairy Lights
Hannah
Jenny
John
Paul
Richard

Scene Four

Alice
Fairy Light 1
Hannah
Jenny
John
Joseph
Mary
Paul
Richard
Shepherds 1-3
Travellers 1-4
Chorus of Travellers

Scene Five

Innkeepers 1-2
Joseph
Mary

Scene Six

Alice
Hannah
Jenny
John
Paul
Richard
Crackers 1-4

Scene Seven

Innkeepers 1-2
Joseph
Kings 1-3
Mary
Shepherds 1-3

Scene Eight

Entire Cast

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Scene One**

Paper Children
 Card..... Children
 Pencil Crayons Children
 Pre-Prepared Shapes (To represent the Donkey, Wise Men & Shepherds)..... Children

Scene Two

Large Piece Of Paper With A Christmas Tree Drawn On It Children
 Pencil Crayons Children

Scene Three

Paper Stars..... Children
 String Children

Scene Four

Stuffed Toy Lamb Shepherd 3
 Pencil Crayons Hannah
 Paper..... Hannah

Scene Five

Manger Scene Prop

Scene Six

Large Piece Of Paper With A Donkey Drawn On It Hannah
 Little Presents..... Crackers
 Pieces Of Paper With Jokes On Crackers

Scene Seven

Gold..... King 1
Frankincense King 2
Myrrh King 3
Stuffed Toy Lamb Shepherd 3
Manger Scene Prop

Scene Eight

Large Lettered Cards (To Spell Out 'Happy Birthday Jesus') Members Of Chorus
Smaller Lettered Cards (To Spell Out 'Happy Birthday Jesus' On Large Card)..... Children

PRODUCTION NOTES

Happy Birthday Jesus is intended to engage the children in all aspects of the show and cover many aspects of the curriculum. This could involve art, singing, dancing, etc. The show starts with the children making a birthday card. The scene can be anywhere: in a classroom, in a bedroom, at the kitchen table, on the lounge floor; it doesn't matter.

For simplicity, it probably is best for it to represent taking place in school, thus minimising the scenery required to that which is readily available. This play can be performed anywhere; in class, in the hall, on a stage, even outdoors. It is designed to be flexible to suit all needs. Centre stage is a large frame that represents a giant version of a birthday card. It is made from white card and folded like a birthday card would be.

As the play progresses, the children will be placing items on this with sticky tape so that the audience can see them. Several children are either lying face down on the floor working with bits of paper and card etc., or could be sitting at a table doing the same. To one side of the stage is the nativity scene, with a crib, manger etc. If possible it should be unlit until the appropriate moment in the show. If this is not possible, then possibly a screen could be set in front to represent one of the inn doors. This would then be removed when required to reveal the nativity.

During **Track 1**, the children add pre-prepared shapes to represent the Donkey, Wise Men, Shepherds etc. This is done at the time indicated by the appropriate lyrics i.e. the Donkey is attached whilst they sing verse 2 etc. Similarly, during **Track 2**, they either draw a large Christmas tree and fix it to the card or use a pre-prepared cut-out and affix it. This theme, of the children drawing various characters etc. onto the card, will keep the children occupied and create a visual connection between the creation of the card and the action on the stage area.

Alternatively, if digital backdrops have been purchased, the Christmas card itself can be projected eight times as a giant Christmas card, with each different projection showing the addition the children make during each scene. It is recommended that the children create the images for the card on stage (as detailed above) so that the children can then go to the backdrop, holding the image for the giant card, and then act out placing it onto the backdrop. The children can drop the card image they have created as they 'attach' it. The child's card image will then be projected as if it has been added and 'magically' enlarged. The images will need to be added in the following order: -

Image 1: Donkey artwork

Image 2: The Three Wise Men

Image 3: Three Shepherds

Image 4: A Christmas tree

Image 5: A daisy chain of fairy lights

Image 6: A child's hand drawn donkey

Image 7: Christmas crackers and jokes

Image 8: 18 individual letters to spell out HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

When the Kings (Wise Men) enter, they take presents to the crib and offer them. This could be done silently, with the crib song (backing track only) playing or you could add simple additional lines for each King, i.e. King 1: "I bring Gold;" King 2: "I bring Frankincense" and King 3: "I bring Myrrh."

At the end of the show, 18 children need to each have a piece of A4, or bigger, paper with a letter drawn on to make the phrase "HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS". The children need not enter in the correct order, but could come on randomly, one other child could indicate they have spelt it wrongly and the children could shuffle around to spell the phrase correctly. Each letter could be in a different colour and could be drawn in class beforehand with festive or religious symbolism added.

The aim is to be colourful and bright but to keep the staging as simple as possible. The Fairy Lights, for example, could have battery operated Christmas lights added to their costumes; the trees could be holding baubles and have earrings made of Christmas baubles etc.

Costuming should be simple using readily available items such as tea-towels, shawls etc. for the historic characters and normal school uniform or everyday clothes for the children making the card.

SCENE ONE:**BIRTHDAY CARD**

(The show starts with the Children making a birthday card. The scene can be anywhere: in a classroom, in a bedroom, at the kitchen table, on the lounge floor, it doesn't matter. Centre stage is a large frame that represents a giant version of the birthday card. It is made from white card and folded like a card would be. As the play progresses, the Children will be placing items on this with sticky tape so that the audience can see them. Several children are either lying face down on the floor working with bits of paper and card etc., or could be sitting at a table doing the same.)

HANNAH: How do you spell Birthday?

RICHARD: B-E-R-F-D-A-Y, I think.

JENNY: No it isn't. It's got a "th" in it

(John and Alice enter and see the other children working.)

JOHN: What are you doing?

HANNAH: Making a birthday card.

RICHARD: Well we would if we could spell birthday.

ALICE: Whose birthday is it?

JENNY: Jesus's.

PAUL: That's why we have a Christmas holiday - 'cos it's His birthday.

JOHN: How old is he?

RICHARD: Two thousand years.

JOHN: *(Wide eyed)* Wow! My dad's thirty six and I thought he was old.

JENNY: My granddad's fifty four. I thought that he was ancient.

HANNAH: Jesus was born two thousand years ago and we're making a card for His birthday.

ALICE: Can we help?

RICHARD: Yes.

JOHN: What are you going to put on the card?

HANNAH: Christmas things of course.

ALICE: Come on then.



TRACK 1:**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS**

(During Track 1 the Children add pre-prepared shapes to the card to represent the Donkey, Wise Men & Shepherds. This is done at the time indicated by the appropriate lyrics.)

CHILDREN:

MAKE A CARD FOR JESUS' BIRTHDAY
MAKE A CARD FROM ME AND FROM YOU
SING A SONG FOR JESUS' BIRTHDAY
SING A SONG AND MAKE A CARD TOO

'COS IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESU.

ON THE CARD FOR JESUS' BIRTHDAY
WE'LL DRAW A DONKEY ON A DUSTY ROAD
ON THE CARD FOR JESUS' BIRTHDAY
MARY, JOSEPH ON A DUSTY ROAD.

'COS IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESU.

WISE MEN TRAV'LING, SHEPHERDS ARE WATCHING
THEY ALL SEE A TWIN-KL-ING STAR.
ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM'S STABLE
BRINGING GIFTS, THEY TRAVEL AFAR-

'COS IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESU.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESU.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESU.



SCENE TWO:**CHRISTMAS TREES**

JOHN: What shall we put on the card?
ALICE: How about Happy Birthday?
RICHARD: No, let's do some pictures first.
HANNAH: I like doing pictures. Let's draw a Christmas tree.
JOHN: Why a Christmas tree?
THE OTHERS: 'Cos it's Christmas! ***(Together)***
JOHN: I know that, but why have we got to draw a tree.
JENNY: Well, the stable was made from wood.
PAUL: And wood comes from trees.
HANNAH: And the manger was made from wood.
JOHN: What's a manger?
RICHARD: The crib that they put the baby in.
JOHN: Come on then, let's draw a tree.

(They draw and then fix a large Christmas tree onto the card.)



TRACK 2:**CHRISTMAS TREES**

(The Children are joined onstage by other cast members (Chorus) dressed as Christmas Trees. They accompany the Children for the song.)

**CHILDREN
& TREES:**

CHRISTMAS TREES, WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES
TO PUT YOUR PRESENTS AROUND
WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES, WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES
OUR BRANCHES REACH DOWN TO THE GROUND.

COVER US IN TWINKLING LIGHTS
BAUBLES SHINING BRIGHT
AN ANGEL PLACED UPON MY BROW
EV'RYONE KNOWS IT'S CHRISTMAS NOW.

WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES, WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES
OUR BRANCHES REACH DOWN TO THE GROUND
CHRISTMAS TREES, WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES
TO PUT YOUR PRESENTS AROUND
WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES, WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES
WITH BRANCHES SO SPIKY AND BROWN.

COVER US IN TWINKLING LIGHTS
BAUBLES SHINING BRIGHT
AN ANGEL PLACED UPON MY BROW
EV'RYONE KNOWS IT'S CHRISTMAS NOW.

WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES, WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES
OUR BRANCHES REACH DOWN TO THE GROUND
CHRISTMAS TREES, WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES
WE GROW SO TALL FROM THE GROUND
WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES, WE'RE CHRISTMAS TREES
FOR YOU TO PUT YOUR PRESENTS AROUND.
FOR YOU TO PUT YOUR PRESENTS AROUND.
FOR YOU TO PUT YOUR PRESENTS AROUND.

(The Chorus of Christmas Trees remain on stage after the song.)



SCENE THREE:**FAIRY LIGHTS**

HANNAH: That looks good, doesn't it?
RICHARD: Ace! What shall we put on the card now?
JOHN: If we've got a Christmas tree we should put some lights on it.
JENNY: We call them fairy lights at home.
HANNAH: We put them round the window and on the tree.
PAUL: They look like stars twinkling in the sky.
ALICE: There were lots of stars in the sky when Jesus was born.
RICHARD: Yes. A star guided the Wise Men to the stable, didn't it?
HANNAH: And a star shone over the stable so that the shepherds could find their way.
RICHARD: Let's draw some stars then.
ALICE: Let's pretend they're fairy lights.

TRACK 3:**STARLIGHT**

(The music starts as the Fairy Lights enter and join the Christmas Trees. These dancers could be dressed to look like miniature Christmas lights or stars and hold hands for the dance routine, like a string of lights. They dance for a short time whilst the Children make stars and 'daisy-chain' them together. They pin them onto the Christmas card then all sing the song.)

**FAIRY LIGHTS
& TREES:** WAY UP IN THE SKY TONIGHT
 SEE OUR STARLIGHT SHINING BRIGHT
 TWINKLING IN THE COLD NIGHT AIR
 TO GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY.

WAY UP IN THE SKY TONIGHT
 SEE OUR STARLIGHT SHINING BRIGHT
 TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR
 TO GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY.

WAY UP IN THE SKY TONIGHT
 SEE OUR STARLIGHT SHINING BRIGHT
 CALLING YOU TO FOLLOW ME
 AND GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY.
 GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY.
 GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY.



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SCENE FOUR:**THE SHEPHERDS**

(Fairy Light 1 moves around the stage. A group of three Shepherds enters.)

- SHEPHERD 1:** The sky is very bright tonight.
SHEPHERD 2: It's all these stars.
SHEPHERD 3: Look, that one is moving. Let's follow it.
SHEPHERD 1: It looks like it's shining over Bethlehem.
SHEPHERD 2: Let's hurry down there and see why.
SHEPHERD 3: What about our sheep?
SHEPHERDS 1&2: Never mind them! Come on!
SHEPHERD 3: I'll bring this young lamb with me. I can't leave him here.

(The three Shepherds exit, Shepherd 3 carrying a small lamb.)

- HANNAH:** I want to draw a donkey.
JOHN: Why a donkey?
JENNY: Why not? A donkey carried Mary to Bethlehem.
RICHARD: You can't have a donkey on a birthday card.
ALICE: A Christmas card is a sort of birthday card, isn't it?
PAUL: It's a card for Jesus's birthday.
JENNY: You have donkeys on Christmas cards?
RICHARD: I suppose so.
HANNAH: A donkey carried Mary all the way to Bethlehem, didn't it?
JOHN: Why didn't they catch a bus?
HANNAH: Buses hadn't been made then.
PAUL: What did they do then?
HANNAH: They walked.
RICHARD: I hate walking. Mum makes me walk to school every morning.
JENNY: Why did they walk to Bethlehem?
ALICE: They had to do the register.
HANNAH: ***(Busily drawing throughout this conversation)*** Do donkeys' ears stick up, or flop down?
JOHN: Up!
RICHARD: ***(At the same time)*** Down!
HANNAH: I wish they'd gone by bike, I can draw one of them! ***(She screws up the piece of paper and throws it away)***



(At this moment the lights fade on this scene and come up on a procession, perhaps through the auditorium [hall]. It is a couple of casual groups of weary Travellers including a Donkey with Mary and Joseph. They are on their way to Bethlehem for the census.)

TRAVELLER 1: Nearly there, now.
TRAVELLER 2: Not far.
TRAVELLER 3: I hope I can get a drink. I'm thirsty.
TRAVELLER 4: It's the dusty road that makes you dry.
MARY: I can't go on, Joseph. I'm really tired.
JOSEPH: Hold on, Mary. It's not far now.
MARY: I hope so.



TRACK 5:**TRAVELLERS' SONG**

(For the purposes of this song, the Travellers break into two groups, listed here as "Travellers 1" and "Travellers 2".)

TRAVELLERS 1: WE HAVE TRAVELLED FROM DISTANT LANDS
WALKED SO FAR, WE'RE VERY TIRED
+ MARY & JOSEPH: ACROSS THE DESERT OF DRIFTING SANDS
FROM MILES AND MILES AWAY.
FROM MILES AND MILES AWAY.

TRAVELLERS 2: KEEP ON PLODDING DOWN THE ROAD
THROUGH THE DAY AND THROUGH THE NIGHT
KEEP ON PLODDING ALL DAY LONG
BETHLEHEM'S IN SIGHT.
BETHLEHEM'S IN SIGHT.

(Instrumental section during which the Children plod around the stage.)

TRAVELLERS 1: WE HAVE TRAVELLED FROM DISTANT LANDS
WALKED SO FAR, WE'RE VERY TIRED
+ MARY & JOSEPH ACROSS THE DESERT OF DRIFTING SANDS
FROM MILES AND MILES AWAY.
FROM MILES AND MILES AWAY.

TRAVELLERS 2: KEEP ON PLODDING DOWN THE ROAD
THROUGH THE DAY AND THROUGH THE NIGHT
KEEP ON PLODDING ALL DAY LONG
BETHLEHEM'S IN SIGHT.
BETHLEHEM'S IN SIGHT.

(Instrumental section during which the Children plod around the stage.)

ALL: KEEP ON PLODDING DOWN THE ROAD
THROUGH THE DAY AND THROUGH THE NIGHT
KEEP ON PLODDING ALL DAY LONG
BETHLEHEM'S IN SIGHT.
BETHLEHEM'S IN SIGHT.
BETHLEHEM'S IN SIGHT.



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