**CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**Seen Through the eyes of the animals**

**WELCOME & PRAYER: Child**

**KIDS CHOIR**: Christmas Isn’t Christmas Till It happens in Your Heart

**DRAMA READING:** Christmas Jesus versus Easter Jesus

**CONGREGATION**: “Light Of the World”

**DONKEY’S STORY:** Script

**BIBLE READING 1**: Luke 2 v 1-7

**CHORUS:** Bumpy Journey (Mary and Joseph come up )

**SHEEP’S STORY:** Script

**BIBLE READING 2**: Luke 2 v 8-16

**CONGREGATION**: There Were Shepherds

(Shepherds and Angels come up during this Carol)

**CAMEL’S STORY:** Script

**BIBLE READING 3**: Matt 2 v 1-5a & 7-12

**CONGREGATION:** O Come All Ye Faithful (Wise Men come up during this song)

**BIBLE READING 4:** 1 John 4 v 9 - 12

**TALK**:

**CHORUS:**  Look to Jesus

**CONGREGATION**: Hark The Herald Angels

**CLOSE AND PRAYER**

**DONKEY’S STORY**

Well what a journey! Here I am packed high with luggage and then poor Mary. Oh how tired she is and I have had to carry her all the way ***and*** she is pregnant. The traffic jams are terrible, worse than going to Portrush on a Bank Holiday Monday. Donkeys nose to tail, literally. Joseph tried to find somewhere to stay but he hadn’t booked ahead. Doh!! Here we are in the middle of a census and he didn’t book ahead, he could at least have used Lastminute.com.

So here we are - baby on the way, and no place to lay our heads? Poor Mary can’t go on much longer, the baby is coming. It is a strange night – **hey are we nearly there yet?** (walks off) (from offstage) Well are we nearly there yet? Stable!! we are staying in a stable – what do you think I am – a donkey???

***THE CAMELS’ STORY***

CAMEL 1: (haughty voice) Twinkle twinkle little star how I wonder what you are!

CAMEL 2: What you are? Indeed, that’s a good question, when our masters said we would follow the star to see the new born King, I thought they had finally lost their marbles!! Follow a star, but the sky is full of them!!!

CAMEL 1: But follow that star we did, even I could see it and I normally have sand in my eyes!!

CAMEL 2: That star was soooooo bright it was like the light of day. It was a long journey, but when we arrived at the palace to find the King, he wasn’t there! Very strange not to find the King at the palace?

CAMEL 1: That King seemed so nice, wanting to meet the new King himself!! Sweet!!

CAMEL 2: (getting upset) Well, what a shock we were in for- the star had stopped over a – a – a, (can’t bring himself to say it)

CAMEL 1: ---STABLE, spit it out, no maybe you shouldn’t!!

CAMEL 2: Yes one of those places – we Camels are above all that, I don’t do stables. I thought this star would have led us to a beautiful Palace – hey you don’t think we followed the wrong star do you??

(they start to wander off together the rest of the dialogue is said offstage)

CAMEL 2: Maybe we need to go and have a better look at those stars??

CAMEL 1: I know, stable just can’t be right – back to the star charts for them I think!!

**SHEEP’S STORY**

Well, what a night, there I was minding my own business, trying to have a doze, busy day ahead of me, when BOOM someone turned the lights on and what a noise, well actually it was kinda special in an other worldly sort of way.

The sky was lit up like a Christmas tree and there were so many people singing, it was like watching X factor, only better!!! I was amazed – they said we weren’t to be afraid, though all the men were hiding behind us sheep!!! Then they told us to visit the King who was born –WOW – so off we go! Must hurry and keep up or I might get left behind. Don’t want to miss seeing the new King – wonder what his palace will be like??

(Wanders off and the rest is said off stage)

Stable!!!! A stable we’re going to a stable, there must be some mistake – all those angels, for a stable birth??? I don’t believe it!!! (Victor Meldrew style)