



A Very British Nativity

Introduce the play by asking what it might be like if Mary and Joseph came to England today to give birth to Jesus.

Mary and Joseph walk through the church looking tired, Mary should have an improvised baby bump.

Narrator: Expectant parents Mary and Joseph are arriving into *name of your town or community* after a long journey.

However, the couple haven't quite received the welcome they'd anticipated.

Mary and Joseph walk up to three innkeepers.

Innkeeper 1: We're full!

Innkeeper 2: No foreigners!

Innkeeper 3: We don't have any room but our garage is free. We're advertising it on Airbnb as a 'rustic self-contained studio apartment'. You can sleep on the floor in there if you like.

Mary and Joseph thank Innkeeper 3 and follow him/her into a space with a manger where a Baby Jesus arrives (you can improvise how to do this).

Narrator: In the cold of an unfinished garage that looks nothing like the photos on Airbnb, Mary gives birth to a very special boy and names him Jesus.

Not long after Mary has given birth, however, the new parents receive information that it isn't safe to return home. Mary and Joseph decide to apply for asylum.

Mary and Joseph pick up a huge pile of forms, look worriedly at them and then begin to fill them in.

Narrator: While their asylum claim is being processed, the UK Government has provided Mary and Joseph with some temporary accommodation. However, the conditions leave much to be desired.

Mary and Joseph put blankets around themselves and shiver.

Mary: (looking around) I think I preferred the garage

Joseph puts his arm around Mary and comforts her.

Exit Mary and Joseph.

Enter three wise men who are stopped by an immigration enforcement officer.

Immigration enforcement officer: Stop! Do you have the legal right to be here? Can I take your names and nationalities?

Caspar: I'm Caspar.

Melchior: I'm Melchior.

Balthazar: I'm Balthazar and we're from the East.

Immigration enforcement officer: Weren't your visas checked at the airport?

Melchior: Oh no, we came by camel.

Immigration enforcement officer: And how long will you be in the UK for?

Caspar: However long it takes to deliver a present to a very special baby.

Immigration enforcement officer: So you don't have a return date?

Balthazar: No plans yet.

Immigration enforcement officer: Well in that case, you had better come with me.

The Immigration enforcement officer leads the wise men off stage. Mary and Joseph enter. They pretend to be at home.

Narrator: Back with Mary and Joseph, a group of unexpected visitors have arrived.

A group of shepherds enter and see Mary, Joseph and Jesus. If you are short on actors, your Wise Men might also double as your shepherds.

Shepherd 1: It's just like the angel said, there he is wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

The Shepherds fall to their knees in worship and give Mary and Joseph gifts (for instance, toy sheep).

Shepherd 2: But why are you living here and not somewhere more fitting for a King, like the Hilton
replace this with the name of a nice local hotel?

Joseph: This is the housing we've been given, it's not much but it is better than going home and putting Jesus' life in danger.

Shepherds huddle and whisper to each other, nodding and glancing at Jesus.

Shepherd 1: We've got a plan, we'd like you to live here, in our community.

Shepherd 2: The Angel Gabriel told us about it, it's called Community Sponsorship. We'll raise some money, find somewhere for you to live, and make you feel welcome and at home.

Mary and Joseph look at each other.

Mary and Joseph: (together) Yes please!

They all walk off together happily.

Narrator: This Christmas as we think about one very special family of refugees, what can we do to be more welcoming to people fleeing violence today?

THE END.

★ Character List:

Narrator	Caspar
Mary	Balthazar
Joseph	Melchior
Innkeeper 1	Immigration enforcement officer
Innkeeper 2	Shepherd 1
Innkeeper 3	Shepherd 2

There are twelve characters in total. If you have too many or too few children, feel free to get creative. Make extra parts, or get children to play more than one part.

#PrepareTheWay



this resource was produced by

J

P

**JOINT PUBLIC
ISSUES TEAM**

I

T

**CHURCHES WORKING
FOR PEACE & JUSTICE**