



A New King



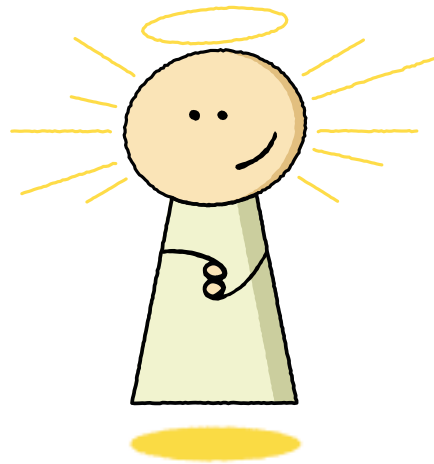
(AND RATHER ROYAL)

A BRAND NEW NATIVITY PLAY FOR 2022



10 must know Bible Stories provides primary and nursery teachers with resources that help your class discover the adventure and excitement of Bible stories and give you wonderful opportunities to teach literacy, numeracy, STEM, health and well being, and much more.

A New King



Introduction

A New King is a brand new Nativity Play for 2022 written to be used as a school Christmas performance or a class assembly.

Join a group of reporters as they remember the ascension of King Charles III and Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas broadcasts. Recalling the Queen's Christian faith, the reporters are reminded of the birth of Jesus, a baby believed by Queen Elizabeth, and Christians around the world, to be a King.

There are 29 speaking parts and an unlimited number of non-speaking parts. An older class could be allocated the speaking parts and younger classes the non-speaking parts.

To create more speaking parts, you could split the reporters into 8, or even 12 parts. To reduce the number of speaking parts, you could double up the shoppers or the family with the nativity characters (Angel Gabriel, Shepherd, King Herod, Scholar, Star).

To add non-speaking parts, you could add in animals to the nativity scenes.

The Nativity Play ends with the suggestion of carol singing, but you could also intersperse the action with songs.

A New King

Cast

Speaking Parts

- › Reporters x 4
- › Shoppers x 8
- › Readers x 11
- › Mum
- › The Garter King of Arms
- › Angel Gabriel
- › Shepherd
- › King Herod
- › Scholars

Tableau (no specific numbers)

- › A family, including a Grandad and Mum
- › Trumpeters
- › Crowd/Carol Singers
- › Mary
- › Joseph
- › Angels
- › Shepherds
- › Wise men
- › Star

Set

- › **A table** covered in files and paperwork to one side
- › **A manger** (wooden box with straw)
- › **A family living room** (some chairs and a coffee table, a TV with a picture of the Queen, some mugs and a board game)
- › If you wanted you could also create the hillside and Herod's palace in different areas

A New King

Costumes & Props

- › **Reporters** - jackets, notebooks and pens, microphones, folder labelled 'Christmas Reports'.
- › **Shoppers** - coats, hats, gloves, shopping bags, box of mince pies.
- › **Readers** - could be dressed as additional reporters.
- › **Mum** - dressed as a shopper but takes her coat off as she enters the TV scene.
- › **Trumpeters** - tabards and trumpets.
- › **The Garter King of Arms** - tricorn hat with feathers, brocade tabard, wand.
See <https://bible.scot/new-king>
- › **Angel** - angel costumes.
- › **Shepherds** - outdoor robes, toy sheep.
- › **King Herod** - robe and crown.
- › **Scholars** - robes and scrolls.
- › **Wise travellers** - robes and gifts (gold bar, perfume bottle, fancy box).
- › **Star** - tinsel and gold fabric.

A New King

SCENE 1

We're on a shopping street. Shoppers (wrapped up for winter) are walking backwards and forwards carrying lots of shopping bags (reusable ones?). A group of reporters is gathered, chatting and muttering to each other, stamping their feet and rubbing hands etc. The 4 reporters move to the front and address the audience. Reporter 1 is the senior reporter and carries a large folder entitled 'Christmas reports'.

Reporter 1: You join us here in <name of town> where we're searching for a story to write about this Christmas.

Reporter 2: There's only a few days left until the big day.

Reporter 3: And there are lots of people out last-minute shopping.

Reporter 4: We're going to ask them how they celebrate Christmas.

Reporters in turn stop a shopper on the street. They should nod and take notes as they interview the shopper. As one reporter finishes, the next should be ready to ask their question.

Reporter 1: Hello, could you spare a minute please to help with a story?
Could you please tell me something you do to celebrate Christmas?

A New King

Shopper 1: Oh, presents. I love to give presents. I choose them carefully and wrap them beautifully.

Reporter 2: How do you celebrate Christmas?

Shopper 2: With my family. Everyone gets together, there's games and food and fun. We spend all day together.

Reporter 3: How do you celebrate Christmas?

Shopper 3: With good food. I love it all, chocolate and sprouts and roast potatoes and mince pies. Oh yes, mince pies, they're my favourite.

Shopper 3 takes a mince pie out the bag, offers one to the reporter who shakes their head before shopper 3 wanders off, eating a mince pie.

Reporter 4: How do you celebrate Christmas?

Shopper 4: Oh, there's one thing I do every year. I always listen to the Queen's speech.

A New King

The reporters move to the table (to the side) as a tableau of a family in a living room appears and acts out the scene the shopper describes it.

Shopper 4: It's in the middle of the afternoon, we've finished lunch and are maybe playing a new game. Grandad is having a nap, mum is stepping over everyone trying to tidy up the mess but everything stops when the Queen comes on the TV.

Mum: Quiet, quiet, everyone it's starting ...

Family quietens down and all turn to watch the TV.

Reporters speak again from the side of the stage.

Shopper 4: Of course, there is no Queen's Speech this year. Sadly, Queen Elizabeth died. But now we have a new King.

Reporter 4: Yes, King Charles III. We were there to cover the announcement.

Looks to other reporters.



A New King

Reporter 4: Do you remember?

Living room tableau disperses.

Reporter 1: Yes, it was at St James' Palace in London.

Reporter 2: There were crowds of people.

A class of children could come on stage as the crowd. They should have their phones ready to pretend to film the event and be chattering together excitedly.

Reporter 3: There was press from all over the world. Everyone was waiting for the announcement from the balcony.

Trumpeters come out and line up – the crowd falls silent and trumpet music plays. The Garter King of Arms comes out and reads the proclamation from a scroll:

The Garter King of Arms:

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whose decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George:

A New King

We, therefore, publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now our only lawful and rightful King.

Given at St. James's Palace this tenth day of September in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-two.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

Trumpets play and the crowd cheers. The trumpeters, Garter King of Arms and the crowd leave the stage, perhaps in formation.

Reporter 4: I wonder if the King will give a speech this Christmas? I wonder what he will say.

Reporter 1: That's it! That's our story to write about this Christmas.

Reporter 2: Yes, of course. We can write about the Queen's Christmas speeches. What did she talk about? Where did she film them? What was important to her at Christmas?

Reporter 3: And we can finish by wondering what the King's speech will be like.

Reporter 4: Great idea. Let's go and start our research.

A New King

SCENE 2

The 4 reporters around a table, lots of documents and folders spread out. Taking notes. Just before speaking each reporter pulls out a sheet of paper as if they're discovering new information. The reporters could read the excerpts of the speeches or these could be allocated to 3 different children.

If you have the ability to project pictures, you could project different images of the Queen making her Christmas broadcasts throughout this scene.

Reporter 1: The Queen first made a Christmas Speech in 1952. It was live on the radio from her home at Sandringham.

“Each Christmas, at this time, my beloved father broadcast a message to his people in all parts of the world. Today I am doing this to you, who are now my people.

As he used to do, I am speaking to you from my own home, where I am spending Christmas with my family; and let me say at once how I hope that your children are enjoying themselves as much as mine are on a day which is especially the children's festival, kept in honour of the Child born at Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago.”

Reporter 2: It says here that her speech was first shown on the television in 1957.

“Twenty-five years ago my grandfather broadcast the first of these Christmas messages. Today is another landmark because television has made it possible for many of you to see me in your homes on Christmas Day. My own family often gather round to watch television as they are this moment, and that is how I imagine you now.”

A New King

Reporter 3: And did you know that the only year the Queen didn't give a Christmas Speech was in 1969, she wrote a Christmas letter instead.

Reporter 4: And I've just found her final speech from 2021.

"It is this simplicity of the Christmas story that makes it so universally appealing, simple happenings that formed the starting point of the life of Jesus – a man whose teachings have been handed down from generation to generation and have been the bedrock of my faith.

His birth marked a new beginning.

As the carol says: 'The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.'

I wish you all a very happy Christmas."

Reporter 1: So, what have we learnt?

Reporter 2: The Queen always had a beautifully decorated tree!

Reporter 3: Her family was really important to her. She often spoke about them and there were always photos of them on her desk.

A New King

Reporter 4: I think most important to her was her Christian faith. For her Christmas was about the birth of Jesus. She often mentioned that at Christmas.

Reporter 1: The birth of Jesus – that’s a good lead to follow next. Let’s find out more about that.

A New King

SCENE 3

One side of stage, press are now seated round the table, listening and pretending to take notes. Other side of stage, readers tell the story of Jesus birth. If possible, they should hold open Bibles, their script can be placed inside. In the middle actors create the tableau.

Enter Mary and the angel

Reader 1: God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to a young woman who was engaged to be married to a man called Joseph. The young woman's name was Mary.

Reader 2: The angel told Mary not to be afraid. He told her that God had a surprise for her. She would have a baby and call him Jesus. He would be a very special baby. He would be a King whose kingdom would never end.

Joseph appears to the side of the stage and lies down, asleep. The angel moves over to him.

Reader 3: Meanwhile, God's angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that Mary's baby was God's son and that he should still marry her. The angel told him that the baby should be called Jesus, which means 'God saves'.



A New King

Joseph wakes up and moves to stand beside Mary.

Reader 4: About that time, the emperor ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. Everyone had to travel to their home town.

Reader 1: So, Joseph and Mary travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem which was David's town - the town that Joseph's family came from.

Angel exits. Joseph and Mary set off to travel to Bethlehem, moving through the audience or around the stage. Reporters chat around their table.

Reporter 1: So, Christians believe Jesus is a King. A King whose kingdom will never end.

Reporter 2: Yes, but his arrival wasn't announced with trumpets from a balcony, was it?

Reporter 3: And there weren't crowds of people there.

Reporter 4: But, the King's parents, the young couple called...sorry, it's here somewhere in the notes...what were they called again?

A New King

Reporter 1: Mary and Joseph.

Reporter 4: Thank you. Yes, the young couple called Mary and Joseph were on their way to a town called Bethlehem. They must go to the palace when they get there. Let's find out more.

Reader 5: While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have the baby. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. Just as the angel had said to her, they called him Jesus, which means 'saviour'.

Mary and Joseph come to the middle of the stage and lay a baby in the manger.

Reporter 1: Hang on. Did you hear a palace mentioned?

Reporter 2: No, it said that Jesus, who is the baby King, was placed in a manger.

Reporter 3: That's a feeding trough for animals, right?

Reporter 4: Yes. So, does that mean, this King was born amongst the animals?

A New King

Reporter 1: It must do.

Reporter 2: Wow, in the place animals ate and slept and pooed.

(everyone holds their nose)

That's not a place you'd expect a King to be born.

Reporter 3: It's not. And how is everybody going to hear about this King? When Prince Charles became King Charles, it was all over the TV and there were trumpets and cameras and so many people from all over the world. This doesn't seem to be a place where they would visit.

Reporter 4: But news of his birth spread. I mean, Queen Elizabeth II knew all about it. This baby King must have had some visitors!

A New King

SCENE 4

Shepherds gather to the side of the stage where the readers are - there is the sound of sheep baaing. The shepherds are all sound asleep apart from one little shepherd (Shepherd 1) who is on watch. During the next set of readings, they mime appropriately.

Reader 6: There were some shepherds camping in the fields. They had set night watches on their sheep. Suddenly God's angel stood among them, and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified.

The angel Gabriel appears, shepherds look terrified.

Reader 7: The angel said:

Angel Gabriel: Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event for everybody, everywhere. A saviour has just been born in Bethlehem, a new King! You are to look for a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.

A chorus of angels appear and stand with Gabriel.



A New King

Reader 7: At once the angel was joined by a huge choir of angels singing God's praises.

ALL: Glory to God in the heavenly heights! Peace to all people on earth!

Reader 6: The shepherds talked it over and said:

Shepherd 1: Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see this new King for ourselves!

The shepherds run, skip and dance over to where the manger is positioned. Once they arrive they gather around, to worship the baby. Angels also join.

Reader 7: After seeing the baby King, the shepherds told everyone they met what had happened and what the angel had said about Jesus.

The shepherds, angels, Mary and Joseph freeze.

A New King

SCENE 5

The star, wise travellers, Herod and scholars mime along with the following readings.

Reader 8: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, a group of wise travellers arrived in Jerusalem from the East.

Reader 9: They had come to find and worship the newborn King of the Jews.

Reader 10: They had seen a star in the eastern sky that signalled his birth.

Reader 11: When word of their inquiry got to King Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well.

Reader 8: Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked:

Herod: Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?

A New King

Reader 9: They told him,

Scholars: Bethlehem.

Reader 10: Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the wise travellers from the East. He got them to tell him exactly when the star appeared. Then he said:

Herod: Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship.

Reader 8: Instructed by King Herod, they set off.

Reader 9: Then the star appeared again. It led them on until it hovered over the place where Jesus was.

Reader 10: They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place!

All: They had arrived at the right time!

Wise travellers make their way to the nativity scene.

A New King

Reader 11: They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother.

Reader 8: Overcome, they kneeled and worshipped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts.

Reader 9: Gold.

Reader 10: Frankincense.

Reader 11: And Myrrh.

Reporters start to gather up their notes and folders and stand up for their last lines.

Reporter 1: So, there we have it, Jesus is believed to be a King. But a King born in a humble stable not a palace.

Reporter 2: A King whose arrival was announced not by trumpets and the Garter King of Arms to the world but by an angel to a young girl.

A New King

Reporter 3: A King whose only visitors were shepherds and wise men.
There was no press or TV cameras!

Reporter 4: But his arrival is still celebrated thousands of years later by
children and adults.

Reporter 1: By children and adults all around the world.

Reporter 2: Even by Kings and Queens!

Reporter 3: I wonder, does knowing King Jesus, like Queen Elizabeth
did, change the way people celebrate Christmas?

The 4 shoppers come on, one after another. Shopper 5 could be holding a nativity set. Shopper 7 could have a birthday cake with a candle, and after they have spoken the entire cast sing "Happy Birthday to You" (Inserting 'Jesus' as the name in the song.) As Shopper 8 speaks, or just after, children dressed in hats and scarves and holding 'song words' could join them on stage ready to lead everyone in singing some carols.

Shopper 5: I have a nativity set. I put it out in my living room every
Christmas. It's a reminder that Christmas is all about the birth
of Jesus.

A New King

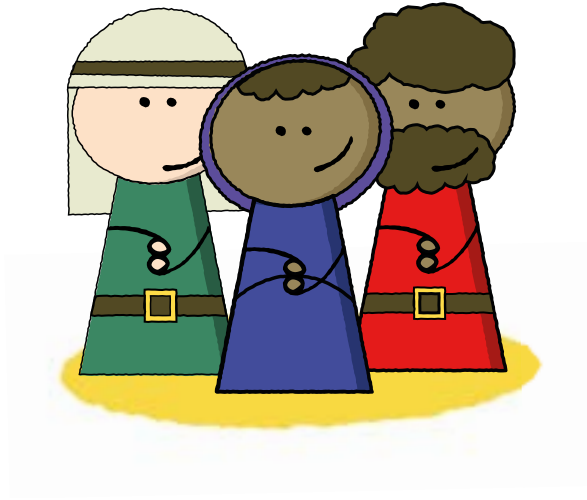
Shopper 6: On Christmas Day we go to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus with other Christians.

Shopper 7: We always have a birthday cake for Jesus. We sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and blow out the candles.

Shopper 8: I love singing carols. They are Christmas songs that are all about the birth of Jesus. I wonder if you've ever sung them.

Invite the audience to join with the children singing Christmas Carols.

A New King



Curriculum Links

Early Level

› **RME 0-01a, Christianity - Beliefs**

As I explore Christian stories, images, music and poems, I am becoming familiar with some beliefs Christian people have about God and Jesus.

› **RME 0-03a, Christianity - Practices and Traditions**

I am becoming aware of the importance of celebrations, festivals and customs in Christian people's lives.

› **RME 0-07a, Development of Beliefs and Values**

I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values.

› **EXA 0-01a, Expressive Arts - Participation in Performances and Presentations**

I have experienced the energy and excitement of presenting/performing for audiences and being part of an audience for other people's presentations/performances.

A New King

First Level

› **RME 1-01a, Christianity - Beliefs**

Through exploring Bible stories, I can describe some beliefs Christians have about God and Jesus.

› **RME 1-03b, Christianity - Practices and Traditions**

I am developing an awareness of the ways in which Christians celebrate different times of year and can relate these to my own life and community.

› **RME 1-07a, Development of Beliefs and Values**

I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values.

› **EXA 1-01a, Expressive Arts - Participation in Performances and Presentations**

I have experienced the energy and excitement of presenting/performing for audiences and being part of an audience for other people's presentations/performances.

Second Level

› **RME 2-01a, Christianity - Beliefs**

Through investigating and reflecting upon biblical and other Christian stories, I can show my understanding of these stories.

› **RME 2-03b, Christianity - Practices and Traditions**

Through investigating the ways in which Christians mark major life events and times of year, I can explain key features of such festivals and celebrations.

› **RME 2-01a, Development of Beliefs and Values**

I am developing respect for others and my understanding of their beliefs and values.

› **EXA 2-01a, Expressive Arts - Participation in Performances and Presentations**

I have experienced the energy and excitement of presenting/performing for audiences and being part of an audience for other people's presentations/performances.



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES