

Morning Service - 19th December 2021



Bible Reading: [Luke 1: 26-38](#)

Spot the mistakes story

Once upon a time there was a grand knight. His name was Sir Joseph. He was a brave, handsome man who rode a white stallion, a fine horse it was too. He was madly in love with a beautiful young lady. Her name was Princess Mary. They decided to marry and not long after she gave birth to a boy. They named him George. They went to the palace and placed him in a golden cot. Many kings, queens and important lords and ladies came to celebrate his birth. The town crier went into the streets to announce the birth of the new king. They all lived happily ever after.

THE END!

Bethlehemian Rhapsody <https://youtu.be/oUxxYHwQdWA>

I want to finish this morning by telling you this story about a young boy by the name of Billy. I don't know if this is a true story or not although that doesn't really matter.

In this story Billy is 8 years old. He had ginger hair and lots of freckles and Billy was also rather overweight. You couldn't miss Billy.

Billy was also the kindest, sweetest little boy you could ever hope to meet. He would often share his sweets with other children and was always very helpful in the classroom.

However, Billy found it really difficult to remember things, this was a big problem for Billy, and he had to have extra help with his schoolwork. And so, every year when it came to the school nativity Billy was never given a speaking part – he was usually a shepherd or an angel, but he would just stand there with nothing to say and feeling pretty hopeless.

Well, this particular year Billy's teacher asked if he would like to play the part of the Innkeeper. He would only have one line to learn.

To say Billy was over the moon would be an understatement.

When he saw Mary and Joseph coming down the aisle towards him, he was to say, ***'I'm sorry, there's no room in the Inn.'***

That's all he had to remember.

Billy was so excited as he ran home from school that day, and he kept repeating his line over and over and over again, so that he wouldn't forget it.

'I'm sorry, there's no room in the Inn.'

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When he got home, he went straight into the kitchen and headed for the biscuit tin.

And even there he continued to repeat his one line.

Billy's mum overheard him and wondered what was going on, she had never seen him this excited before, then she quietly smiled to herself – she realised he had been given an important speaking role in the nativity.

As the day for the nativity grew closer, Billy got more and more nervous, but he was sure he would remember his words – which he had virtually never stopped saying.

Then the day came.

About half an hour before the nativity was due to start, Billy was back stage with all the other children and he could see the hall begin to fill up.

Quietly under his breath Billy would keep going over his line again and again.

There was a real buzz in the hall, which by now had completely filled up with parents and grand parents and aunts and uncles.

Billy's mum and dad waved to him which brought a smile to his face.

The moment came when Mary and Joseph would begin their slow walk from the back of the hall towards Billy.

Joseph looked tired and weary, and Mary looked exhausted.

Before he had time to think, there they were stood in front of him with the sound of knocking.

Billy took a deep breath, ***'I'm sorry, there's no room in the Inn,'*** Billy said, but then added, ***'but you can stay at my house if you want.'***

At that point there was spontaneous uproar of laughter from the audience.

Billy immediately felt sick. He ran off the stage and sat down behind the curtain. Tears were streaming down his face.

The teacher tried to console Billy, but it was no use. ***'I've messed up the whole nativity, I've ruined everything – I only had one line to say and I couldn't even get that right. I'll never be asked to take part in the nativity again.'***

When Billy got home that evening, he went straight to his bedroom.

After a little while, his mum went in to see him.

'Billy, you were fantastic tonight she said, ***not only did you remember your line, but you understood the real meaning of Christmas.***

Christmas is about welcoming Jesus into your home and into your heart. You understood that Billy in a way that many people miss.'

