Christmas Pedants by Robbie Lane (and his daughter)

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**Youth worker:** Good morning everyone. I’m the youth worker at (CHURCH NAME). My name is Joy. Joy Ever-Lasting.

**Kids’ worker:** And I’m the kids’ worker. My name is Patience. Patience Waring-Finn. It’s double barrelled.

**Youth worker:** Thank you for coming along to our final rehearsal for our Nativity.

**Kids’ worker:** It’s good to see so many of you arrived at church early to get a back row seat. Now, just before we get started….

**FX: *Phone rings***

**Youth worker *(speaking on phone)*:** Hello

**Youth worker *(speaking to audience)*:** It’s our vicar, Sven (*You can change the name to make it about your church*)

**Youth worker *(speaking on phone)*:** Oh, of course you can, I look forward to it

**Youth worker *(speaking to audience):*** He wants to come and see the final rehearsal.

**Sven enters: *(speaking on phone, wearing Arsenal shirt, carrying a big book called ‘The Pedants’ Guide To The Nativity’)*** Thanks love…I can’t believe Arsenal lost, *again! (We based this on our vicar who supports Arsenal – you can change it!)*

**Kids’ worker:** You’re just in time Sven. Choir, take it away!

**Song: *first verse of In The Bleak Midwinter…(child enters as snowflake and begins dancing)***

“In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;

**Sven (interrupts):** Stop, stop, stop….

**Youth worker:** What’s wrong Sven?

**Sven:** I’ve just been reading this new book – The Pedant’s Guide to the Nativity. It says there is no way the nativity took place in winter. The shepherds would not have been out with their sheep in winter. In all likelihood, Jesus was born mid to late September

Don’t worry, I’ve corrected the lyrics for you...

***Song: corrected version of In The Bleak Midwinter…(child enters dressed as autumnal leaf)***

“In mid to late September

Fairly warm wind made moan
Earth was not particularly cold,
Water was lukewarm;
Snow hadn’t fallen, no no no,
Snow was not on snow,
In mid to late September

Long ago.”

**Kids’ worker:** I’m not sure Sven, I think it’s a bit late to change the lyrics.

**Sven:** Oh, no it isn’t!

**Youth worker:** Oh, yes it is!

**Sven:** Oh, no it isn’t!

**Youth and kids workers and audience:** Oh, yes it is!

**Kids’ worker:** Anyway, this isn’t a pantomime, it’s a nativity! Carry on please, kids:

**Narrator 1:** our story begins with the visit of an angel to Joseph, who was betrothed to marry Mary. She was with child but Joseph was a righteous man and did not want to expose her so he planned to divorce her quietly...

***(Young children enter dressed as angels)***

**Angel:** “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit…”

**Sven:** Stop stop!

**Youth worker:** Yes, Sven?

***Sven: (Reading book)*** The angels in the bible weren’t children and they certainly weren’t girls. No, they were men...Don’t worry, I’ve fixed it!

***(One of the dads enters, dressed in a badly fitting angel costume, Sugar Plum Fairy music plays)***

**Burly Dad (brutish voice):** “Yo Joseph, sonna David, don’t be scared to take ya Mary ‘ome as ya wife, ‘cause what’s conceived in ‘er is from the ‘oly Spirit…”

**Sven:** much better!

**Kids’ worker:** I was really hoping we could give some more parts to the kids. Anywa-

***(Cute child angel starts to cry loudly)***

**Youth worker:** Look, you’ve made the angels cry!

***(Sign held up to audience saying ‘boo’)***

**Audience:** booooooo!

**Kids’ worker:** anyway, let’s carry on...

**Narrator 2:** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

**Narrator 3:** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

**Narrator 4:** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born…. and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

***(Animals, Mary with plastic baby and Joseph and shepherds enter as instrumental version of Away in Manger plays. Once they are settled, music plays again and everyone sings)***

**Music: *Away in a manger***

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head...

….

***(Sven interrupts)***

**Sven:** stop stop, sorry guys but this is completely inaccurate.

**Youth worker: *(weary)*** yes, Sven?

**Sven: *(quoting book)*** Scholars agree that Jesus was fully man and fully God. The idea that he didn’t cry as a baby is ridiculous. The whole thing would have been far from serene, especially with Mary giving birth without the help of modern medicine. Don’t worry, I’ve tweaked it a little bit…

**Kids’ worker:** yes, I thought you might have...

***Music: Away In A Manger (corrected)***

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His screaming head

The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Crying and crying on the hay

The cattle smell awful
The Baby keeps waking up
And little Lord Jesus
Considerable crying He makes

**Youth worker:** I’m really not sure Sven…carry on please kids

**Narrator 1:** Later, three kings came to visit Jesus

***(three kings enter as music plays)***

***(Song: We three kings)***

*We Three Kings of Orient are,*

 *Bearing gifts we traverse afar...*

**Sven:** Stop stop! It says here that the very idea that they were kings is completely wrong, they were Magi. And the bible doesn’t even say that there were three of them. Look here:***(waves book in the air)***Matthew 2 says ‘Magi from the East came’ and presented gifts of gold and of frankincense and myrrh. There’s nothing to say there was three of them at all! They probably weren’t from the Orient either – they were most likely from Persia, Arabia or Babylonia.

***(Sign held up saying boo)***

**Audience:** booooo!

**Kids’ worker:** Oh Sven, I do wonder if you might be taking this a little bit far

**Sven:** Don’t worry, I’ve fixed it -

***(Four more kings enter as song starts again, youth and kids’ worker have their heads in their hands)***

***(Song: We seven kings)***

*1. We Seven Magi of Arabia are*

*Or maybe Persia or Babylonia,*

 *Field and fountain,*

 *Moor and mountain,*

 *Following yonder Star.*

 *O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,*

 *Star with Royal Beauty bright,*

 *Westward leading,*

 *Still proceeding,*

 *Guide us to Thy perfect Light.*

**Narrator 2:** The wise men presented Jesus with three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

***(Kings 1, 2 and 3 are carrying gifts)***

**King 4:** Hang on, where’s my gift? Give that that me!

**King 5:** Well I haven’t got one either, give me the gold!

***(Fight breaks out amongst kings)***

**Youth worker:** Stop! Now we’ve got kings fighting, angels crying! I’ve had enough!!

**Kids’ worker (addressing Sven):** You’ve ruined the nativity, you’ve ruined Christmas and you’ve ruined all the parts people actually know, like the three kings...

**Sven:** You mean Magi?

**Youth worker:** No! She means three kings! Get over it! Christmas doesn’t need fixing!

**Kids’ worker:** And by the way, Arsenal are rubbish!

**Sven:** Alright, there’s no need to get personal.

**Youth worker:** And if I want to have some non-theologically accurate characters in *MY* nativity then why shouldn’t I? So what if I want to have a, I dunno, banana in my nativity, why shouldn’t I?

 ***Bananaman enters stage and runs around high-five-ing the congregation whilst music plays. He ends up on the stage. We used a banana as we had a costume and it lined up a nice gag, but you could change it for Father Christmas or any other non-nativity character.***

 **Sven:** Well now, you’re just being ridiculous. Get off the stage bananaman!

 **Banana exits stage sadly, boo sign up held up to audience**

 **Audience:** boooo!

 **Sven:** Oh, stop booing, what’s that got to do with Christmas?

**Youth worker:** It’s the fruits of the spirit.

**Sven:** It’s a banana!

***Child from choir 1 steps forward:***

***Child from choir 1:*** Stop arguing!! Surely there’s something you can agree on?

**Child from choir 2:** Yeah, how about this?

 **(Sign on screen invites audience to stand up and join in)**

***Song: From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable by Stuart Townend (we used a*** [***Youtube video***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-6vNR1SK4k&ab_channel=@gospelshow1) ***but you could play it live). Congregation join in with this song.***

**Kids’ worker:** yes, we can agree on that

**All choir:** finally!

**Child from choir 3:** Then does it really matter if one or two of the nativity details aren’t quite right?

**Sven:** No, I guess not

**Child from choir 4:** Well then what are we waiting for? DJ Santa, hit it!

**Music: *Jingle Bell Rock plays***

***Everyone enters the stage and does a simple dance routine to the tune of Jingle Bell Rock, then a conga around the church.***

**Sven: *(throwing book over his shoulder)*** I'm really sorry. You're right. It really doesn't matter whether Jesus was born in September or December, if the Angels were cute or not or whether there were 3 or 7 wise men...or Magi.

**Youth Worker:** That's right. What matters is that God had an amazing rescue plan to save the world and that was Jesus.

**Kids worker:** Yes. We celebrate because God came to earth as a baby, grew into a man and then died and rose again. God's rescue plan complete.

**Sven:** For God so loved the world that He sent his only son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

***Cast list with suggested costumes and suggested microphones:***

***Main speaking parts:***

***Youth Worker*** *- casual clothes – WIRELESS HANDHELD MICROPHONE 1*

***Kids******Worker*** *– casual clothes – WIRELESS HANDHELD MICROPHONE 2*

*Note: these two roles can be merged together to make one role.*

***Sven*** *– Arsenal T-shirt – WIRELESS HANDHELD MICROPHONE 3 (Change this for a football team relevant to your church)*

***Narrators*** *– Smart shirts or similar - SHARED WIRED MICROPHONE ON STAND*

*Note: we had six narrators but you just need one*

***Other parts, mostly non-speaking:***

***Choir*** *– Black clothes – WIRELESS HANDHELD MICROPHONE 4 - SHARED BETWEEN SPEAKING PARTS (not essential, as they don’t say much)*

***Snowflake*** *– Snowflake costume in white or light blue*

***Autumnal leaf*** *– leaf costume in red, orange or yellow*

***Angels*** *– angel costume (white, halo etc)*

***Dad angel*** *– badly fitting angel costume (white sheet, halo, tinsel)*

***Mary*** *– Blue dress*

***Joseph*** *– Brown tunic or similar*

***Shepherds*** *– Similar to Joseph. Ideally with a crook or toy sheep under arm.*

***Animals*** *– animals costume of your choice! Cows, sheep, pigs, camels etc.*

***Wise men*** *– colourful tunics, crowns or colourful head-dress*

***Person holding up sign*** *– black outfit*

***Bananaman*** *– banana costume (you can change this for any other character who shouldn’t be in the Nativity, such as Father Christmas).*