

Cast

The Bethlehem Builders includes some main speaking parts and lots of different groups, who can rehearse separately.

Builder:	Links the show together, so needs to be a confident performer, able to learn lines
Handyman:	Another important role - always with the builder
Innkeeper & Innkeeper's Wife	These also have lots of lines and need to be strong performers
Mary & Joseph:	Important characters. (Scenes 2, 6 and 8)
Roman Soldiers 1-3	These need to be loud, bold and bossy. (Scenes 1, 3 and 6)
Shepherds 1-6	Each of the shepherds has lines to learn: this is the chorus group with most to do. Have as many extra shepherds as you like (Scenes 5, 7 and 8)
Kings 1-3	Brief but important roles (Scenes 4 and 8). The Kings sing as a solo group

The following chorus groups can be as big as needed. As well as the individual speaking parts, there are times when the chorus groups speak together, so all children will have some lines.

Citizens:	5 speaking parts (Scenes 1, 3, 6)
Travellers:	6 speaking parts (Scenes 2 and 3)
Neighbours :	4 speaking parts. This little group only appear once (Scene 2) and have very simple lines
Kings' Servants:	3 brief speaking parts. Appear in Scenes 4 and 8
Angels :	3 speaking parts. They have a song and dance, then some very brief and simple lines. (Scene 7 and 8)

Of course, you can include everyone when the cast gather together for the Nativity tableau in Scene 8.

If you have a small cast, the **Servants** could be cut (the Kings can carry their own bags!) and **Neighbours** could easily double as **Angels**.

Scene 1

(People of Bethlehem, including Innkeepers, Citizens, etc are onstage. The Builder and Handyman are central, miming the actions).

Song 1: One More Job!

(All)

CD track 1/9

VERSE 1: **One more job
Got to do our best, now
One more job
Really need a rest, now
One more job
Till we can stop for tea**

**One more roof
Got to stop it leaking
One more door
Got to stop it creaking
One more job
There always seems to be *(shouted)* ONE MORE JOB!**

CHORUS: **Everything needs fixing
Is the whole town falling down?
It's a busy old life for the builders of Bethlehem!**

VERSE 2: **Hoist that joist, try and keep it straight, boy
Pass that plank, we'll be working late, boy
One more job
Till we can stop for tea**

**Someone new, absolutely desperate
Join the queue! *Everybody's* desperate
One more job
There always seems to be *(shouted)* ONE MORE JOB!**

REPEAT CHORUS

(chanted)

**Cut that timber / Sand those floors
Fetch another barrow of 2 by 4's (repeated)**

REPEAT CHORUS

It's a busy old life for the builders of Bethlehem!

(After the song, the Builder sits down to rest with his mate, the Handyman)

- Builder: Now then! It must be time for a cup of tea.
- Innkeeper: Good morning, Mr Builder!
- Builder: I don't know what's good about it. I've got so much work to do.
- Innkeeper: You're always busy.
- Builder: I never stop.
- Innkeeper's Wife: You've stopped now!
- Innkeeper: Looks like you might have a minute to spare...
- Innkeeper's Wife: To mend our stable roof!
- Handyman: We've already got three jobs on today.
- Innkeeper's Wife: You said you'd do it in September!
- Builder: It's been raining a lot.
- Innkeeper: I know! Straight into our stable!
- Roman Soldier 1: Hey! You! Mr Builder!
- Roman Soldier 2: We need a platform just here.
- Roman Soldier 3: It's very important.

(Citizens approach with cups of tea for Builder and Handyman)

- Builder: I'll just drink this tea.
- Roman Soldier 1: Oh, no you won't. This way!
- Builder: All right, all right!

(The Roman Soldiers lead him to another part of the stage, where they point and wave arms about as if explaining to him. Citizens shrug and drink the tea themselves)

- Innkeeper's Wife: We'll never get that stable roof fixed.
- Innkeeper: Oh yes we will!

Citizen 1: Those Romans are so bossy!

Citizen 2: What are they up to now?

(The Builder and Handyman mime building/repairing a box which the Romans will stand on)

Roman Soldier 1: *(Standing on the box)* Roll up! Roll up, citizens of Bethlehem!

Roman Soldier 2: Important news!

Citizen 3: What's all this?

Citizen 4: Come and listen, everyone!

(Citizens and Innkeepers gather round)

Roman Soldier 1: There's a new rule for all of you.

Citizen 5: More rules! I told you they were bossy.

Roman Soldier 2: Everybody has to be written down on our register.

All: Everybody?

Roman Soldier 1: That's right.

Roman Soldier 2: And then you will have to pay your taxes.

(All moan, groan and complain loudly)

Roman Soldier 3: *(Trying to get onto the box)* Hey! It's my turn!

(The other Roman Soldiers make way for him)

Roman Soldier 3: Hundreds of visitors will be arriving here in Bethlehem.

Citizen 1: Why?

Roman Soldier 1: Because EVERYBODY has to be written down on our register!

Roman Soldier 2: They don't listen, do they?
Roman Soldier 3: Ahem! It's my turn!
Roman Soldier 1: Sorry.
Roman Soldier 2: Go on, then.
Roman Soldier 3: *(scratching head)* Er... that's it. I've finished.
Roman Soldier 1: Back to work, everyone! We've finished! *(Exit Soldiers)*
Citizen 2: Hundreds of visitors?
Citizen 3: Here in Bethlehem?
Citizen 4: We'd better get ready!
Citizen 5: Come on! I'm going to clear out the spare room.
Citizen 1: I'm going to bake some extra bread.
Citizen 2: Hey builder! Come and fix my wobbly windows!
Citizen 3: Mend my broken bathtub!
Citizen 4: Repair my rickety roof!
Citizen 5: Build me a brand new bedroom!
All: We've got visitors coming!

Song 2: One More Job (reprise)

(All)

CD track 2/10

**Everything needs fixing
Is the whole town falling down?
It's a busy old life for the builders of Bethlehem!**

(Exit all, talking excitedly)