

## *Cast*

There are 41 speaking parts in this production, some with very few lines, some with lots. It could easily be done with fewer children by doubling up some of the small parts. If you have a larger cast, there is plenty of room for extras amongst the Children and the Mice.

<b>Mr Gruber</b>	An important acting role
<b>The Vicar</b>	Lots of lines. A lady vicar is fine! If you have a good actor who can also play the guitar, s/he would be perfect.
<b>Anna</b>	Needs to be a good singer: has <i>Silent Night</i> solo
<b>Inspector Grim</b> <b>Mr Sly</b>	Must be strong, confident actors and singers: both have solo singing in <i>Celebrating Christmas is Serious</i> . Boys or girls
<b>Mama Mouse</b> <b>Papa Mouse</b> <b>Little Mouse 1</b> <b>Little Mouse 2</b> <b>Baby Mouse</b>	The Mouse family are really important. Lots of solo singing in the Mouse songs. Don't just use small/young cast members - these are challenging roles!
<b>Gladys</b> <b>Betty</b> <b>Bertha</b>	The talkative Cleaning Ladies. Good parts with no solo singing.
<b>Fred</b> <b>Jim</b>	The Repair men. Brief, comic roles
<b>Policeman</b>	One short appearance
<b>Mice</b>	As many as you like. Bear in mind that the Mice get some really good songs and action, so - once again - be sure to cast confident, older kids in this chorus group.
<b>Children</b>	As many as you like. This is Mr Gruber's church choir, a straightforward chorus group. Ideal for younger cast members. Policeman/ repair men can also be Children.
<b>Kids 1-14</b>	Short speaking parts amongst the Children

These Nativity characters should be cast amongst the Children, for when they perform their play-within-a-play:

**2 Narrators** - must be excellent readers  
**Mary and Joseph**  
**2 Innkeepers**

**2 Shepherds**  
**3 Angels**  
**3 Kings** (No lines)

**Extract from Scene 1**

Vicar: *(Entering)* Bravo! Really, Gruber, they are sounding splendid.

All: Hello, Vicar!

Vicar: It is wonderful to hear this little church full of children's voices.

*(Children all talk at once)*

Vicar: Yes, yes, that's enough! We may not have much, children, but we do have a proper absent-minded genius to write our Christmas songs.

Gruber: *(Enthusiastically)* And an exceptional church organ.

Vicar: Ah yes. *(The Vicar and children have obviously heard Mr Gruber say all this many times before...)*

Gruber: It really is an unusually fine instrument for a country church. It has a rich and glorious voice of its own.

Vicar: How nice.

Gruber: ...and tremendous dynamic range...

Vicar: Lovely.

Gruber: These wonderful pipes and genuine leather bellows give it such expressive qualities -

*(Children are falling asleep)*

Vicar: Yes, yes, I know you're very fond of it. Shall we sing another song now?

All: *(Cheer)*

Inspector: *(From the back)* Just one moment!

*(Pause. Inspector and Sly approach from the back of hall)*

- Vicar: Er - who are you?
- Inspector: My name is Inspector Grim from OFCHRISP.
- Gruber: OFCHRISP?
- Sly: The Office for Standards in Christmas Productions.
- Inspector: And this is Mr Sly, my invaluable assistant.
- Vicar: Welcome to our humble church, Mr Grim.
- Inspector: Humble? It's a disgrace!
- All: (GASP!)
- Inspector: I have been observing this shambles of a rehearsal all evening. You'll never meet your targets like this!
- (During dialogue, Sly goes about with clipboard peering at objects and people, making notes, shaking head etc. At some point he should go through the vestry door, emerging with a thoughtful smile)*
- Inspector: I'll need to see your accounts, of course, and your action plans. Have you filled in a risk assessment?  
*(Piles paperwork onto Vicar)*
- Vicar: Actually, I'm not sure I -
- Sly: Now then children, do you come to choir every week?
- Children: Yes, sir.
- Sly: And you're never late?
- Children: No, sir.
- Sly: What about him? *(Points at Mr Gruber)* Is he ever late?
- (Silence)*
- Sly: I see... now, Mr Gruber, when is your Christmas concert?
- Gruber: Some time in December, I think.

Kid 1: It'll be really good!

Inspector: Then we shall be sure to attend, little girl, to make sure everything is up to scratch.

Sly: Inspector Grim!

Inspector: Yes?

Sly: I have found evidence of MICE in the building!!!

Inspector: WHAT! Intolerable!

## *Song 2: Celebrating Christmas Is Serious*

(Inspectors/All)

CD 2/14

**There are blackbirds in the chimney,  
Woodworm in the pews  
The smell in the vestry is very bad news!  
The boiler needs a service,  
The roof has sprung a leak  
And shame on the plumbing, it's up the creek!**

**Clean up this unholy mess,  
We are sadly unimpressed,  
Strive for perfect cleanliness,  
Make sure you are neatly dressed**

*Chorus:*  
*Celebrating Christmas is serious,  
No-one should be having fun,  
Too much festive spirit is dangerous  
Merry Christmas everyone!*

**The windows all need cleaning,  
There's clouds of filthy dust  
And though there's a Hoover, the Hoover is bust!  
There's a cockroach in the kitchen,  
The belfry's full of bats;  
and down in the basement, I saw some rats!**

**Clean up this unholy mess,  
We are sadly unimpressed,  
Strive for perfect cleanliness,  
Make sure you are neatly dressed**

*Chorus: Celebrating Christmas...*

**Here's what we say  
This church won't do at all  
More work less play  
Make up the ground or we'll close you down!  
*[Others, spoken]* - Close us down??**

**Celebrating Christmas is serious,  
No-one should be having fun,  
Too much festive spirit is dangerous,  
Merry Christmas everyone!  
Merry Christmas everyone!**

*(Children and Mr Gruber exit at end of song, looking worried)*