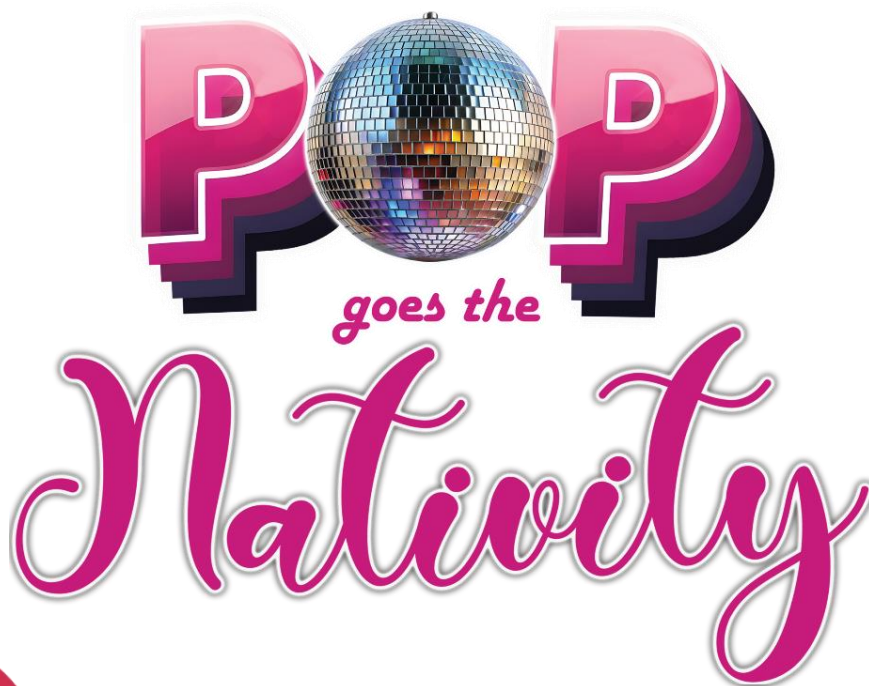


The logo features the word 'POP' in large, pink, 3D block letters. A shiny, multi-colored disco ball is positioned between the two 'P's. Below 'POP' is the phrase 'goes the' in a smaller, pink, cursive font. At the bottom is the word 'Nativity' in a large, pink, cursive font with a white outline.

POP goes the Nativity

SCRIPT SAMPLE



Scene 1

(As the **continuity music** plays (**track 8**) the cast enters and all stand to sing the opening song.)

Song POP Goes The Nativity

Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 9 - backing track
Lyrics p17

(As the **continuity music** plays again (**track 10**) the cast members exit to the seating areas to one side and in front of the main stage – fade the music as soon as they are seated. DJs Beth and Liam remain on the small side-stage, sitting behind their DJ table on which there is a laptop and a desk microphone for each of them. **They have quite a few lines, so these can be on their laptops as cues.** They wear headphones around their necks, putting them to their ears whenever they 'spin' a track. The **Bethlehem FM jingle (track 11)** plays before the duo excitedly make their introductions!)

Beth Good evening, Bethlehem! You're tuned-in to the one, the only, the glitteringly-glorious...

Liam ...Bethlehem FM! Broadcasting from the tiny town with all the biggest hits!

Beth I'm Beth...

Liam ...and I'm Liam, and this is...

Beth and Liam Beth 'n' Liam's Pop Party!

Liam And what a special show we've got lined-up for you this evening!

Beth As well as spinning the most popptastic tunes, we're covering a breaking story that is happening right here, right now!

Liam A story that is going to put Bethlehem on the map!

Beth So, listeners, buckle up your sandals, because we're taking a short trip back to where this story started.

Liam To give us the lowdown, please welcome two special guests into the Bethlehem FM studio...Mary and Gabriel!

(Mary enters and waves shyly, while Gabriel enters with more of a swagger. They sit on two spare chairs by the DJ desk.)

Liam Mary, Gabriel, welcome to the studio.

Mary Thank you. It's lovely to be here.

Gabriel Delighted! I don't often get invited onto radio shows!

Beth Now, we hear you two met in rather surprising circumstances?

Mary You could say that! I was just minding my own business, at home in Nazareth.

Liam Ah yes, a quiet town up north in Galilee. And Gabriel, you just appeared out of nowhere, right?

Gabriel Well, we angels do like to make a dramatic entrance!

Mary He arrived with a message from God, telling me I had an important job to do!

Beth No pressure then!

Mary Well, perhaps a little bit! But he told me not to be afraid.

Liam Which I imagine was easier said than done?!

Gabriel I explained to Mary that she'd been specially chosen by God. What He wanted from her might seem scary, but He would be with her through it all.

Beth Well, we're going to hear exactly what you told Mary about how God wanted her help, with a performance of a song you've recorded together! So, if you'd like to move to our live lounge...

(Mary and Gabriel move to the main stage.)

Liam Oh, are you in for a treat, you lucky listeners!

Beth Yes, you are indeed lucky...so, lucky, lucky, lucky!

(A choir of angels joins Mary and Gabriel, to sing the choruses. As Mary sings her solo verses, Gabriel and the angels can perform a simple dance routine.)

Song He Has Chosen You

*Track 2 - vocal demo
Track 12 - backing track
Lyrics p18*

(The song finishes and Mary, Gabriel and the angels remain centre stage, lapping up the applause.)

Liam What a heavenly tune to kick things off! Gabriel really hits those high notes!

Beth Well, you'd kind of expect it...he is an angel! Now, Gabriel, I'm told you and your crew are needed on urgent business elsewhere, so we'll say goodbye for now. Mary, come and have a seat.

(Mary rejoins Beth and Liam. Gabriel and the angels exit.)

Liam So, Mary. You'll soon be giving birth to the son of God! Why are you not at home in Nazareth with your feet up? What brings you to Bethlehem?

Mary Well, I needed to tell my husband-to-be, Joseph, all about God's plan for me.

Beth Wow! That's big news for a husband-to-be! How did he take it?

Mary Well, it didn't put him off! We got married not long after! Then he gave me some news of his own. Every man had to return to the town of his birth with his family, to register for a census. So, we and the bump *(pointing to her tummy)* have had to travel here to Bethlehem.

Liam Because this is where Joseph is from. I get it!

Mary That's right. In fact, I really should get back to him. He's stuck on the ring road and we've still got to get to the centre of town and find a room for the night. This baby is on His way and we don't want to be left out in the cold!

Beth Of course, Mary! Get yourself outta here! And hey, everyone at Bethlehem FM wishes you all the luck in the world...sounds like you'll need it!

Mary *(exiting)* I'll be fine. God's with me, remember? But thanks anyway. Bye!

Liam There she goes, to join Joseph for the final leg of their journey into town. Well, listeners, we're ready for a short break here in the studio, but we'll be right back, so don't go touching that dial!

*(As the **continuity music** plays again (track 13), Beth and Liam hi-five and relax. The travellers and their donkeys enter the main stage and crowd together. Hidden amongst them are Mary, Joseph and their donkey. Fade the music when everyone is in position.)*

Scene 2

*(We hear the **Bethlehem FM jingle (track 14)** and it's back to Beth and Liam.)*

Beth Welcome back to Beth 'n' Liam's Pop Party on Bethlehem FM, the station that keeps you movin' and groovin'!

Liam But before we spin another track, it's time for a travel update from our very own Dusty Lane, who's coming to us live from the Bethlehem ring road. How are things looking, Dusty?

(Dusty Lane emerges from the crowd of travellers, standing front and centre. S/he holds a finger to the ear when talking to Beth and Liam, to signify a remote connection.)

Dusty Thank you, Liam. As you can probably hear behind me, the road is absolutely packed tonight. Travellers and carts everywhere, and enough donkeys to start a donkey disco!

(The donkeys bray and everyone sighs frustratedly.)

The traffic is at a complete standstill! Let's try and talk to someone who can give us a clear picture about what's going on. Sir, can you tell us who you are?

Joseph *(stepping forward)* I'm Joseph, a carpenter from Nazareth.

Dusty Hi Joseph. And who's travelling with you today?

Joseph My new wife Mary. She's in the crowd somewhere. *(calling)* Mary!

(Mary and the donkey emerge from the crowd.)

Dusty So, like everyone else here, you're heading to Bethlehem for the census?

Mary Yes, but it's not exactly perfect timing. As I told Beth and Liam earlier, I'm about to have a baby!

Dusty Oh dear. So not quite the relaxing honeymoon you'd both planned then?

Joseph Not really. I was hoping for fewer blisters and more sightseeing!

Dusty And are you hopeful of getting into Bethlehem before nightfall?

Joseph I am, actually. *(patting the donkey)* I've just bought this new donkey and it's in excellent shape. Strong, dependable, good mileage...perfect for carrying Mary in her delicate condition.

Dusty *(glancing around)* Indeed, donkeys do seem to be the transport of choice today.

Joseph Well, they're reliable, hardworking, easy to park, the fuel's cheap...

Mary And they're very eco-friendly too.

Dusty Quite right. Forget sports chariots, this is net-zero travel!

(The donkey brays proudly.)

Joseph Well, apart from the fumes from the exhaust! That's the only real downside.

(The donkey brays indignantly.)

Dusty *(glancing around)* But I guess it doesn't matter how good your transport is, when you're stuck in a traffic jam. From me, Dusty Lane, here on the Bethlehem ring road, it's back to the studio.

Beth I reckon those travellers will be on that ring road for quite a while, listeners. Still, it's nice to catch up with Mary and Joseph. It's a good job they have a reliable donkey for when the traffic does start moving again.

Liam You know what, Beth, I think donkeys deserve a little appreciation. So here to celebrate those wonderful four-legged friends, it's time for a classic soul favourite. This is The Travellers, with their smash hit 'D-O-N-K-E-Y'...

(Joseph, Mary and the donkey lead the other travellers and donkeys in the next song.)

Song D-O-N-K-E-Y

*Track 3 - vocal demo
Track 15 - backing track
Lyrics p19*

(The song finishes and the travellers and donkeys remain centre stage, lapping up the applause.)

Liam I bet none of our listeners managed to keep still during that! What a song!

Beth And we've got more top tracks on the way, after this short break. Stay tuned to Bethlehem FM and we'll be back before you know it!

*(As the **continuity music** plays again (track 16), Beth and Liam hi-five and relax. The travellers and their donkeys exit. Fade the music when the stage is clear.)*

Scene 3

*(We hear the **Bethlehem FM jingle (track 17)** and it's back to Beth and Liam.)*

Beth Welcome back to Beth 'n' Liam's Pop Party on Bethlehem FM! You're listening to the coolest hits coming from the funkiest town!

Liam And currently the busiest! It seems that this census is causing absolute chaos! Traffic jams, packed streets and overflowing inns!

Beth So, we thought we'd open up the lines for our listeners to get in touch. We'd love to hear from any innkeepers out there – how's business?

(Three innkeepers enter centre stage, each carrying a sign reading 'NO VACANCIES'. They hold fingers to ears when talking to Beth and Liam, to signify a remote connection.)

Liam And I believe we have Naomi on the line. Tell us Naomi, how's the hospitality industry in Bethlehem at the minute?

Innkeeper 1 *(giving a thumbs up)* Ker-ching! Business is booming. I've never seen crowds like this! I've tripled my takings!

Beth So you're really cashing-in! And how do you plan to spend all these profits?

Innkeeper 1 It looks like I'll be expanding.

- Beth** You mean you'll be building new rooms?
- Innkeeper 1** Errr...no. With all this money coming in, I'll be able to treat myself to the finest food whenever I like. I'll be literally *(patting her tummy)* expanding!
- Liam** Oh, you mean the waistline! Okay, next we can talk to Rebecca. Hi Rebecca.
- Innkeeper 2** Hi Liam. If we could keep this brief, I'm a bit busy here!
- Liam** Of course! We're just asking innkeepers how they'll be spending their profits from all the census visitors.
- Innkeeper 2** Well, my roof's been leaking for ages and all I've got is a small bucket under the hole. When it rains I'm forever emptying that bucket! It's a pain.
- Beth** Ah, so you'll be able to afford to fix the roof now?
- Innkeeper 2** Nah! I'm just going to buy a bigger bucket!
- Beth** I see! Watching the shekels, eh? Very wise. And we're also talking to Samuel who has been quite creative in finding room for the extra visitors arriving at his inn. Tell us more, Samuel.
- Innkeeper 3** Well, all my rooms were snapped-up really fast! So, I put a family in the bathhouse and squeezed one chap into a cupboard on the landing!
- Beth** And what will you do if anyone else turns up?
- Innkeeper 3** My wife was joking about that! She says that we could always find room for a few more in the stable with the animals! Ha! Just imagine!
- Liam** Yes, that would ridiculous! Just one more question: do any of you think that...
- All Innkeepers** *(interrupting)* AAAAAAGH! INCOMING...!

(All the travellers and donkeys from the previous scene rush the stage and swamp the innkeepers, begging for a room. The innkeepers disappear in the crowd, then emerge crawling from between their legs and make a tip-toed escape off stage, unseen by the crowd who are left squabbling with each other and wondering where the innkeepers have gone!)

- Liam** Well, it seems we've lost contact with the innkeepers of Bethlehem!
- Beth** A good time to spin our next track then? Here with their follow-up single, it's those Travellers again, with a synth-pop banger... 'Just Can't Find A Room'...

Song **Just Can't Find A Room**

*Track 4 - vocal demo
Track 18 - backing track
Lyrics p20*

(As continuity music plays again (track 19) the travellers exit and the stage is made ready for the next scene.)

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE
