

# **A WEDNESBURY CHRISTMAS CAROL**

## **CHARACTER LIST**

**Charles Dickens- Demi**

**Scrooge- Harry**

**Bob Cratchit- Ewan**

**Fred (Scrooges Nephew)- Bevan**

**Charity Worker- Millie**

**The ghost of Jacob Marley- Shannon**

**The ghost of Christmas past (First Spirit)- Paris**

**Young Scrooge- Keegan**

**Fan (Scrooges Sister)- Isla**

**The ghost of Christmas Present- Amir**

**Mrs Cratchet- Broody**

**Cratchit Child- Jaydon**

**Tiny Tina- Lauren**

**Freds Wife- Maddison**

**Party Guest 1 Courtney/Party Guest 2 Leah/Party Guest 3 Sian**

**The ghost of Christmas Yet To Come (Non Speaking Role) Brandon**

**Businessman 1 Jonathan /Businessman 2 Paris**

**Thief 1 Courtney/Thief 2 Leah/Thief 3 Sian**

**Old Joe- Freddie**

## **ACT ONE**

**SCENE 1** – *overture plays and Charles Dickens enters from the back of the hall and makes his way through the audience. When he reaches the stage he removes his hat and coat and addresses the audience from centre stage.*

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Good evening ladies and gentleman! My name is Charles Dickens, but you can call me Charlie. You might have heard of me before, I've had a few classics. Who could forget the tale of two cities? Or the young boy who asked for more, 'Oliver'? But it is tonight ladies and gentleman that you are about to witness my most famous story of all! A tale of a man who goes on a momentous journey to learn the true meaning of Christmas! It is my pleasure tonight to take you on this magical journey so now I please ask that you to switch off all mobile telephones and make yourself comfortable as the 5 star performance academy present to you, A Wednesbury Christmas Carol...

*SLIDE SHOWS 'MARLEY WAS DEAD TO BEGIN WITH...'*

**SCENE 2** – *Musical Number 'Scrooge'*

When a cold wind blows it chills you, chills you to the bone  
But there's nothing in nature that freezes your heart  
Like years of being alone  
It paints you with indifference like a lady paints with rouge  
And the worst of the worst  
The most hated and cursed  
Is the one that we call Scrooge  
Unkind as any  
And the wrath of many  
This is that Ebenezer Scrooge

Oh, there goes Mr. Humbug  
There goes Mr. Grim  
If they gave a prize for bein' mean  
The winner would be him  
Old Scroogey loves his money  
'Cause he thinks it gives him power  
If he became a flavor you can bet he would be sour

There goes Mr. Skinflint  
There goes Mr. Greed  
The undisputed master of  
The underhanded deed  
He charges folks a fortune  
For his dark and drafty houses  
As poor folk live in misery  
It's even worse for mouses

He must be so lonely  
He must be so sad

He goes to extremes  
To convince us he's bad  
He's really a victim of fear and of pride  
Look close and there must be  
A sweet man inside--Naaaah!

There goes Mr. Outrage  
There goes Mr. Sneer  
He has no time for friends or fun  
His anger makes that clear  
Don't ask him for a favor  
'Cause his nastiness increases  
No crust of bread for those in need  
No cheeses for us meeses

There goes Mr. Heartless  
There goes Mr. Cruel  
He never gives  
He only takes  
He lets his hunger rule  
If bein' mean's a way of life you  
Practice and rehearse  
Then all that work is paying off  
'Cause Scrooge is getting worse  
Every day  
In every way  
Scrooge is getting worse

*Number ends and scrooge is writing at his desk, Bob Cratchit is filing papers and looks bitterly cold.*

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Scrooge was a tight fisted hand at the grindstone! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! He carried his own cold temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days, and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas. Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?" And for good reason...

**SCROOGE:** Bah! Humbug.

**BOB CRATCHIT:** If you please Mr Scrooge, the fires gone out in this office and its cold, bleak, biting weather!

**SCROOGE:** Are you after coal again Cratchit? I let you have a shovelful yesterday, don't you remember? You and I will find it necessary to part if you continue this way!

**BOB:** Yes Mr Scrooge.

**SCROOGE:** Go and warm your hands over your candle Cratchit, then you won't be a drain on the firm!

**BOB:** Certainly Mr Scrooge. Thank you Mr Scrooge.

*Scrooges nephew 'Fred' enters*

**FRED:** A Merry Christmas, Uncle! God save you!

**SCROOGE:** Bah! Humbug

**FRED:** Christmas is a humbug, Uncle? I hope that's meant as a joke.

**SCROOGE:** Well, it's not. Come, what is it you want? Don't waste all day, Nephew.

**FRED:** I only want to wish you a Merry Christmas, Uncle. Don't be cross.

**SCROOGE:** What else can I be when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out with Merry Christmas! What's Christmas to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older but not an hour richer. If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas" on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart.

**FRED:** Uncle!

**SCROOGE:** Nephew, keep Christmas in your own way and let me keep it in mine.

**FRED:** But you don't keep it.

**SCROOGE:** Then leave it alone then, much good it may do you. Much good it has ever done you.

**FRED:** Although Christmas has never put a scrap of gold in my pocket, I believe it has done me good and will do me good, and I say God bless it!

**SCROOGE:** Bah!

**FRED:** Don't be angry, Uncle. Come! Dine with us tomorrow.

**SCROOGE:** I'll dine alone, thank you.

**FRED:** Why?

**SCROOGE:** Why? Why did you get married?

**FRED:** Why, because I fell in love with a wonderful girl.

**SCROOGE:** And I with solitude. Good afternoon.

**FRED:** Nay, Uncle, but you never came to see me before I was married. Why give it as a reason for not coming now?

**SCROOGE:** Good afternoon.

**FRED:** I am sorry with all my heart to find you so determined; but I have made the attempt to homage Christmas, and I'll keep that good spirit to the last. So, a Merry Christmas, Uncle.

**SCROOGE:** Good Afternoon!

**FRED:** And a Happy New Year! *(He exits)*

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Just as Fred left the bitterly cold office, a passing gentleman entered through the door...

**CHARITY WORKER:** Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr. Scrooge?

*(Scrooge says nothing. Eyes him with suspicion)*

**CHARITY WORKER:** We are collecting funds for the poor. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when want is keenly felt. Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts.

**SCROOGE:** Are there no prisons?

**CHARITY WORKER:** Plenty of prisons.

**SCROOGE:** And the union workhouses? Are they still in operation?

**CHARITY WORKER:** They are. I wish I could say they were not.

**SCROOGE:** I'm very glad to hear it.

**CHARITY WORKER:** So what shall I put you down for?

**SCROOGE:** Nothing!

**CHARITY WORKER:** You wish to be anonymous?

**SCROOGE:** I wish to be left alone! I help support the establishments I have mentioned—they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there.

**CHARITY WORKER:** Many can't go there. And many would rather die.

**SCROOGE:** If they would rather die, they had better do so and decrease the surplus population. Besides...it's not my business. It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with the affairs of other people's. Good afternoon sir!

**CHARLES DICKENS:** With that, the gentleman ran home to Tipton as fast as he could and left Scrooge and Bob to their business...

**SCROOGE:** Latch the door, Cratchit. Firmly, firmly! Cratchit!!

**BOB:** Yes, sir?

**SCROOGE:** Well, to work then!

**BOB:** It's evening, sir.

**SCROOGE:** Is it?

**BOB:** Christmas evening, sir.

**SCROOGE:** Oh, you'll want all day tomorrow off, I suppose.

**BOB:** If it's quite convenient, sir.

**SCROOGE:** It's not convenient, and it's not fair. If I was to deduct half a crown from your salary for it, you'd think yourself ill used, wouldn't you? Still you expect me to pay a day's wage for a day of no work.

**BOB:** It's only once a year, sir.

**SCROOGE:** Be here all the earlier the next morning.

**BOB:** I will, sir. Merry Christmas, Sir!

**SCROOGE:** Bah! Humbug.

*Christmas Music plays as Scrooge and Cratchit leave the office.*

**SCENE 3** - Charles Dickens takes centre stage setting up Scrooges bedroom.

**CHARLES DICKENS:** It was late Christmas eve and Wednesday was shutting up for Christmas. Fog and frost enshroud the old and dreary building in which Scrooge lived alone. Before Scrooge retired to his bedroom he did his routinely check to make sure everything was as it should be. Nobody under the table, nobody under the sofa, nobody in his dressing gown... With that he entered his gloomy bed time chambers that had once belonged to his deceased partner JACOB MARLEY...

*Lights come down, should be a spooky atmosphere maybe some ghostly music.. and then silence! A bell rings and scrooge awakes! The ghost of Jacob Marley enters...*

**SCROOGE:** What do you want with me?

**MARLEY:** Much.

**SCROOGE:** Who are you?

**MARLEY:** Ask who I was.

**SCROOGE:** Who were you?

**MARLEY:** In life, I was your partner, Jacob Marley.

**SCROOGE:** He's Dead.

**MARLEY:** Seven years this night, Ebenezer Scrooge.

**SCROOGE:** Why do you come here?

**MARLEY:** I must. It is commanded of me. I must wander the world and see what I can no longer share, what I would not share when I walked where you do.

**SCROOGE:** And the chains?

**MARLEY:** Locks and vaults and golden coins. I forged it, each link, each day when I sat in these chairs, commanded these rooms. Greed, Ebenezer Scrooge, wealth. Feel them, know them. Yours was as heavy as this I wear seven years ago and you have labored to build it since.

**SCROOGE:** If you're here to lecture, I have no time for it. It is late, the night is cold. I want comfort now.

**MARLEY:** I have none to give. I know not how you see me this night. I did not ask it. I have sat invisible beside you many and many a day. I am commanded to bring you a chance, Ebenezer.

**SCROOGE:** Quickly then, quickly.

**MARLEY:** You will be haunted by three spirits.

**SCROOGE:** (Scoffing) Is that the chance?

**MARLEY:** Mark it.

**SCROOGE:** I do not choose to.

**MARLEY:** Then you will walk where I do, burdened by your riches, your greed.

**SCROOGE:** Spirits mean nothing to me.

**MARLEY:** (Slowly leaving) Expect the first tomorrow, when the bell tolls one... I must wander. Look that, for your own sake, you remember what has passed between us.

**SCROOGE:** Jacob...Don't leave me! ...Jacob! Jacob! *(He falls to his kness)*

**CHARLES DICKENS:** With that Scrooge collapsed into a troubled sleep only to be awoken with the sound of the chimes....

*CHIMES SOUND – blackout*

*LIGHTS UP – Ghost of Christmas Past has appeared before him.*

**SCROOGE:** Are you the spirit whose coming was foretold to me?

**FIRST SPIRIT:** I am.

**SCROOGE:** Who and what are you?

**FIRST SPIRIT:** I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.

**SCROOGE:** Why are you here?

**FIRST SPIRIT:** Your welfare. Rise. Walk with me.

*Music as Scrooge takes ghost hand and they exit through the audience. As this happens the ensemble set up a playground scene on the stage - a memory from Scrooges past.*

**SCENE 4 –** *The playground scene comes to life. Children playing games of tag, hop scotch, skipping etc. A young scrooge is sat at a desk alone reading.*

**FIRST SPIRIT:** Do you know where we are?

**SCROOGE:** I knew it! I knew you would show me this. This is the school i attended when I was a boy... *(He notices his younger self)* Is that...

**FIRST SPIRIT:** Your younger self.

*Scrooge peers at the book that his younger self is reading.*

**SCROOGE:** It's Ali Baba! One Christmas time, when I was all alone at school, he came, for the first time, just like that. Dear old honest Ali Baba. Poor boy. Poor, lonely boy.

**SCROOGE:** But it wasn't just Ali Baba who came, was it?

*(FAN darts in. Throws her arms around Boy Scrooge's neck.)*

**SCROOGE:** Fan! My darling Fan... Alive again? Oh, I wish it could be!

**FAN:** Dear, dear brother. I have come to bring you home. To bring you home, home, home!

**YOUNG SCROOGE:** Home, little Fan?

**FAN:** For good and all. For ever and ever. Father sent me in a coach to bring you!

*Musical Number – A Place Called Home*

**First spirit:** There's a place called home  
I can almost see, with a red front door, and  
A roaring fire, and a Christmas tree.  
Yes, a place called home  
Full of love and family,  
And I'm there at the door  
Watching you come home to me.

**SCROOGE:** Through the years  
I'll recall this day

**FAN/YOUNG SCROOGE/SCROOGE:** In your arms  
Where I finally found my way  
To a place called home  
And a life for two  
You'll have everything  
You could ever want  
All I want is you  
And a place called home  
You and I will always be  
In the dark of the night  
Let your heart come home To me

**FIRST SPIRIT:** Through the years I recall this day...

**FAN/YOUNG SCROOGE/SCROOGE:** In your arms...

**FIRST SPIRIT:** In your arms

**ENSEMBLE:** When I finally found my way

To a place called home  
And to life with you  
Where the days are long

And the love is strong  
And the dreams are true  
To a place called home  
You and I will always be

**FIRST SPIRIT:** In the dark of the night  
Let your heart come home To me...

**ENSEMBLE:** To the place in my heart  
Where you're always home With me...

*Ensemble leave and the ghost and Scrooge are left alone on stage...*

**SCROOGE:** A delicate, delicate child. A breath might have withered her.

**FIRST SPIRIT:** She dies a woman and had, as I remember, children.

**SCROOGE:** One child.

**FIRST SPIRIT:** Your nephew.

**SCROOGE:** Yes, yes, Fred, my nephew. Well? Well all of us have that, haven't we? Childhoods? Sadness? But we grow and we become men, masters of ourselves. I've no time for it, Spirit.. Yes, yes, I've learnt what you have to show me. No more! I don't wish to see it... Leave me. Take me back. Haunt me no longer!

*Children chant 'TAKE ME BACK' as scrooge ends up in a whirlwind and back to his chamber.*

**SCENE 5** – Scrooge is asleep in his chamber and Dickens takes centre stage...

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Scrooge fell into a deep sleep, troubled by the events of the night so far. But it was not long before the bells began to chime once more...

*CLOCK CHIMES AGAIN - into joyful music! It is Christmas day.*

**SECOND SPIRIT:** Ebenezer Scrooge.... I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. Look upon me! You have never seen the like of me before.

**SCROOGE:** Never.

**SECOND SPIRIT:** You see what you will see, Scrooge, no more. Will you walk out with me this Christmas Eve?

**SCROOGE:** But I am not yet dressed.

**SECOND SPIRIT:** Take my tails, dear boy, we're leaving.

**SCROOGE:** Then we are traveling here? In this town? Wednesbury? Just down there?

**SECOND SPIRIT:** Yes, yes, of course. It's your Christmas, Scrooge; I am only the guide.

**SCROOGE:** Where are you guiding me to?

**SECOND SPIRIT:** Bob Cratchit's.

**SCROOGE:** My clerk?

**SECOND SPIRIT:** You did want to talk to him? Don't worry, Scrooge, you won't have to...

**CHARLES DICKENS:** And with that the Ghost of Christmas present led Scrooge through the streets of Wednesbury. Past the well filled streets, the mecca bingo, through the snow in Friar park until they reached Bob Cratchit's humble dwelling...

*The ghost leads Scrooge offstage as the Cratchit family set up on stage to create a family home. Music playing as scene changes.*

**SCENE 6** – *Bob Cratchit's house. Mrs Cratchit and two other children are seen milling around the house. Mrs Cratchit could be cooking etc.*

**MRS CRATCHIT:** Give me a hand with this cloth Belinda. Where on earth has your father got to?

**CRATCHIT CHILD:** Here they are mother!

*Bob and Tiny Tim enter from the back of the stage.*

**BOB:** We're here!

**MRS. CRATCHIT:** How did little Tim behave in church?

**BOB:** As good as gold. And better. He gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard.

**MRS. CRATCHIT:** What did he say?

**BOB:** He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant for them to remember, on Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk and blind men see. It's so wonderful, seeing him grow strong and hearty...

*Action crosses to Scrooge and second spirit who are watching this unfold...*

**SCROOGE:** Spirit, tell me if Tiny Tim will live.

**SECOND SPIRIT:** I see a vacant seat in the poor chimney-corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the future, the child will die.

**SCROOGE:** No, no. Oh, no, kind Spirit, say he will be spared.

**SECOND SPIRIT:** If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population!

*Action crosses back to the Cratchit house*

**MRS CRATCHIT:** Come! Lets eat.

**BOB:** Mr. Scrooge. I'll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast.

**MRS. CRATCHIT:** The Founder of the Feast indeed. I wish I had him here. I'd give him a piece of my mind to feast upon, and I hope he'd have a good appetite for it.

**BOB:** My dear, the children. Christmas Day.

**MRS. CRATCHIT** It should be Christmas Day, I am sure, on which one drinks the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge. You know he is, Robert. Nobody knows it better than you do.

**BOB:** My dear. Christmas Day.

**MRS. CRATCHIT:** I'll drink his health for your sake and the day's, not for his. Long life to him. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He'll be very merry and very happy, I have no doubt.

**TINY TIM:** To Mr Scrooge!

*The ensemble join them on stage for a carol; maybe Silent Night or O Come All Ye faithful?*

**SCROOGE:** Tell me Tiny Tim will live. Say he will be spared!

**SECOND SPIRIT:** He is very ill. Even song cannot keep him whole through a cold winter.

**SCROOGE:** Spirit say he will be spared!

*Carol closes Act 1*

## **ACT TWO**

### **SCENE 7 – Musical Number ‘It Feels Like Christmas’**

It's in the singing of a street corner choir  
It's going home and getting warm by the fire  
It's true, where ever you find love, it feels like Christmas

A cup of kindness that we share with another  
A sweet reunion with a friend or a brother  
In all the places you find love, it feels like Christmas

It is the season of the heart  
A special time of caring  
The ways of love made clear  
It is the season of the spirit  
The message if we hear it  
Is 'Make it last all year'

It's in the giving of a gift to another  
A pair of mittens that were made by your mother  
It's all the ways that we show love that feel like Christmas

A part of childhood we'll always remember  
It is the summer of the soul in December  
It's when you do your best for love, it feels like Christmas

It is the season of the heart  
A special time of caring  
The ways of love made clear  
It is the season of the spirit  
The message if we hear it  
Is 'Make it last all year'

It's in the singing of a street corner choir  
It's going home and getting warm by the fire  
It's true, where ever you find love, it feels like Christmas

It's true, where ever you find love  
It feels like Christmas  
It feels like Christmas  
It feels like Christmas  
It feels like Christmas

*The musical number finishes and the ensemble form positions as if at a Christmas party, Scrooge and second spirit stand together as Charles Dickens takes centre stage.*

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Scrooge and the Spirit journeyed far and wide that day. Past houses brightly lit by roaring fires...where children ran out into the snow to greet their visiting relatives...streets teeming with others on their way to celebrate with family and friends. Eventually they reached a house that Scrooge recognised immediately...

**SCROOGE:** This is my dear nephews house, oh lets go inside spirit!

*Spirit leads him up onto the stage to witness the Christmas party. Fred and his wife are centre stage chatting to some friends.*

**FRED:** He said that Christmas was humbug, as I live. He believed it too.

**FRED'S WIFE:** More shame for him.

**FRED:** He's a comical old fellow, that's the truth, and not so pleasant as he might be. But his offenses carry their own punishment, and I have nothing to say against him.

**FRED'S WIFE:** I'm sure he is very rich. At least you always tell me so.

**FRED:** His wealth is of no use to him. He doesn't do any good with it.

*Charles Dickens bustles through to break up the small group.*

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Enough chatter, lets play a game!

**SCROOGE:** Here is a game! One half hour, Spirit, only one!

**FRED:** All right. I have one.

**PARTY GUEST 1:** A vegetable.

**FRED:** No.

**FRED'S WIFE:** An animal?

**FRED:** Yes!

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Does it growl?

**FRED:** It does.

**PARTY GUEST 2:** Is it a dog?

**FRED:** No.

**PARTY GUEST 3:** Is it a bear?

**FRED:** No.

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Does it live in Wednesbury?

**FRED:** YES!

**FREDS WIFE:** Does it walk?

**FRED:** Yes!

**FREDS WIFE:** I have found it out! I know what it is, Fred. I know what it is. It's your Uncle Scrooge.

**FRED:** YES!!!

*The party all go into rapturous applause and laughter!*

**SECOND SPIRIT:** Come. My life upon this globe is very brief. It ends tonight.

**SCROOGE** Tonight!

**PRESENT:** The time is drawing near.

*Music plays as the scene comes to an end. Ensemble vacate the stage and take props with them. BLACKOUT*

**SCENE 8** – *Back in Scrooges chamber and he is alone on stage. Eerie music...CHIMES. Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come appears on stage and approaches Scrooge. He offers a hand, he his hidden underneath a cloak...*

**SCROOGE** I...I am in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come?

*(Spirit says nothing. Just stares at Scrooge.)*

You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the time before us, aren't you?

*(Spirit nods)*

**SCROOGE:** I fear you more than any specter I have seen. Will you not speak to me?

*(Spirit raises his arm. Points, indicating Scrooge is to follow him. They lead offstage)*

**SCROOGE** - Lead on spirit...

**SCENE 9** -

*Ensemble enter onto stage in a busy 'market' environment. They are back in their winter clothes. Charles Dickens takes centre stage.*

**CHARLES DICKENS:** The spirit led Scrooge into a busy street, an obscure part of the town, where Scrooge had never been before, although he recognized its situation, and its bad repute. The ways were foul and narrow; the shops and houses wretched; The whole quarter reeked with crime, filth, and misery.

**BUSINESSMAN 1:** No I don't know much about it either way. I only know he's DEAD! Old scratch has got his own at last.

**BUSINESSMAN 2:** When did he die?

**BUSINESSMAN 1:** Last night I believe.

**BUSINESSMAN 2:** Why, what was the matter with him? I thought he'd never die!

**BUSINESSMAN 1:** God knows

**BUSINESSMAN 2:** What has he done with his money?

**BUSINESSMAN 1:** I haven't heard... Left it to his company perhaps? He hasn't left it to me, that's all I know!

*They disappear into the crowds and another group come forward*

**THIEF 1:** Look at my things first Joe! I've got 'em 'ere ready! Here's the old misers blanket!

**OLD JOE:** Not up to much, I'd say a penny or two?

**THIEF 2:** And here's his pencil case!

**OLD JOE:** Nobody wants second hand pencil cases!

**THIEF 3:** Here's the old miser's sheets

**OLD JOE:** Stained and rotting... no use even as rags!

*THIEF 1 offers out another bundle*

**OLD JOE:** What do you call this eh? Bed curtains?

**THIEF 1;** Bed curtains! What else!

**OLD JOE:** You don't mean to say you took all his bed curtains down, rings an' all while the old miser was still lying there? Before he'd been put in his grave?

**THIEF 1:** Yes I do! Why not?

**OLD JOE:** You were born to make your fortune and you'll certainly do it.

**THIEF 1:** He frightened everyone away from him when he was alive, to profit us when he was dead. Ha, ha, ha!

*They disappear into the crowd. Scrooge and the spirit come forward.*

**SCROOGE:** Spirit. I see, I see. The case of this unhappy man might be my own. My life tends that way, now.

*Eerie music continues. The spirit leads Scrooge away. The ensemble leaves the stage and the Cratchit family set up for the next scene.*

**SCENE 10:** *Bob Cratchit's home again. Tiny Tim's seat is empty and the other children play quietly as Mrs Cratchit is seen cooking again. Bob enters.*

**MRS. CRATCHIT:** You went then?

**BOB:** Yes, my dear. I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. But you'll see it often. I met Mr. Scrooge's nephew Fred on my way home. He was extraordinarily kind. He said he was heartily sorry to hear about Tiny Tim's... He said if he could be of service to us in any way to contact him, and he gave me his card. It really seemed as if he had known our Tiny Tim, and felt with us.

**MRS. CRATCHIT:** I'm sure he's a good soul.

*They huddle together in a state of grief.*

**SCROOGE:** Oh no! Not Tiny Tim! Spirit why do you delight in torturing me?

*DRAMATIC MUSIC*

*Tiny Tim slowly walks forward through the audience holding a grave stone. The spirit points towards it.*

**SCROOGE:** I see a stone. Before it draws nearer answer me one question spirit. Are these the shadows of things that WILL be or are they the shadows of things that MAY be?

*Tiny Tim walks up onto the stage and holds the stone which clearly displays EBENEZER SCROOGE*

**SCROOGE:** EBENEZER SCROOGE! Am I that man that they talked of in the streets? In the alleyways? No spirit! Oh, no, no! Spirit, hear me! I am not the man I was. Why show me this if I am past all hope? I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all year!

**CHARLES DICKENS:** The wind was howling outside...Scrooge clung to the spirit with all of his might but it was no good the spirit was disappearing at the light of dawn and before he knew Scrooge was back in his bed chamber...

**SCENE 11:** *Scrooge wakes up startled in his bed chamber and realises he is in the present day once more.*

**SCROOGE:** I am here! The shadows of the things that would have been may be dispelled! I will forever live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. I say this on my knees, old Jacob, on my knees. I...I don't know what to do. I am as light as a feather. I am as happy as an angel, as merry as a schoolboy, as giddy as a drunken man!

*He spots Charles Dickens watching him from the side of stage.*

You there! What's today my fine fellow?

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Today? Why Christmas Day Sir!

**SCROOGE:** It's Christmas Day! I haven't missed it! The Spirits have done it all in one night. They can do anything they like—of course they can!

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Scrooge quickly got dressed and headed out onto the streets of Wednesbury where he found himself immersed in the hustle and bustle of Christmas Day.

*Christmas Music plays as ensemble re enter celebrating Christmas day.*

*Scrooge re appears and approaches Fred and his wife. He is carrying a Christmas wreath and a turkey!*

**SCROOGE:** My dear nephew!

**FRED:** Why bless my soul, who is this?

**SCROOGE:** It is I! Your Uncle Scrooge, I want to come to dinner with you today Fred. Will you let me?

*Fred clearly looks gobsmacked.*

**FREDS WIFE:** Let you in... Let you in...? WHY OF COURSE! We'll have a wonderful party! We've waited years for you to come to us for Christmas, we'll have wonderful games!

**FRED:** We'll all be wonderfully happy! Oh look who comes here now!

*The Cratchit family approach all wrapped up and with caution.*

**SCROOGE:** Hello Mr Cratchit! And what do you mean by being abroad at this time of day?

**BOB:** I am very sorry Sir. I am behind my time...

**SCROOGE:** Now, I'll tell you what, my friend. I am not going to stand this sort of thing any longer. And therefore...

*(He digs his finger in Cratchit's chest. Cratchit staggers back, startled.)*

**SCROOGE** ...and therefore I am about to raise your salary! A merry Christmas, Bob! A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you for many a year! I'll raise your salary, and assist your struggling family, and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon!

**CHARLES DICKENS:** Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father! He had no further interaction with spirits, and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed:

**TINY TIM:** (stepping forward) God Bless Us, Every One!

*Musical Number 'God Bless Us Everyone'*

Let the Stars in the sky

Remind us of mans compassion

Let us love 'til we die and God Bless us everyone

In your heart there's a light

As bright as a star in heaven

Let it shine through the night and God Bless us everyone

Till each child is fed

Till all men are free

Till the world becomes a family

Star by star up above and

Kindess by human kindness

Light this world with your love and God Bless us Everyone

God Bless us everyone!

**BOWS AND TABS**