

# The Shepherd's Story

*Hello.... 'ow you all doin'.... alwight ??...well listen up, 'cause I've got something to tell you ....*

You see....I'm one of them there shepherds, and I'm proud of what I do.  
Well, I ain't got no sustificates, but I know what's good & true (*know what I mean ?*)  
Coz I 'ave t' keep meself alert, when I'm countin' them sheep & goats  
And makin' sure no villains comes along an' tries to slit their throats.  
So, imagine our surprise one night when we woz sitting round the fire  
(That's me an' my mates 'Arry & Jo, and me Dad, old Zacharia)  
When all of a sudden there's a flash and a bang, and there's this geezer (*with wings !*) all dressed in white  
And I don't mind telling you, my friends, 'e gave us quite a fright !!  
Well, first he holds his hand up,... so we all done the same...  
Except me Dad, who looks him up and down and says "'ere mate, what's your game ?"  
So the geezer says "I bring joy, and peace to you, and all the earth  
And I've come to tell you all about a rather special birth"  
Well, then me Dad gets all accusing like...pointin' his finger at us three  
An' I says "'ere now, hang on Dad, it's nothin' to do with me ?!"  
So the geezer says "No Zach, you've got it wrong, it ain't one of these lads  
Has got some poor girl in the puddin' club; none of them's the dad.  
You see, He's rather special, this kid of which I tell  
And right now He's down in Bethlehem, with His Mum & Dad as well"  
"So what ?" we says, so 'e says "Well now, you might think this odd  
But I'm tellin' you the truth...you see, He is... (*wait for this*)... The Son of God !!"  
Well...(*..phew...*) we all shook our 'eads and looked from one to each, to see  
If we was dreamin', or somethin' else, but we wasn't, believe you me.  
(*No, by this time we was stone-cold-sober !!*)  
Then 'Arry says, "What now then ?", and Joe says "Yeah, what now ?"  
So the geezer says "Well now, listen up lads, and I will tell you 'what now'...  
All four of you can see 'im, in that sleepy little town;  
So off you go..... sling your 'ooks, and get yourselves on down.  
Don't worry about your flock or nothin', 'cause me mates will keep an eye"  
And that's when we looked up and saw 'em, all flyin' around, and singin', in the sky !  
(*Woah !*) Well, that was it....we all scarpered, and ran for all we was worth  
until we came to a stable, where a young girl 'ad given birth.  
And there 'e was...this little kid, about whom the angel 'ad told  
just lyin' there in a manger,... and smilin'....good as gold !!  
Well I've got to say, that night it changed our lives in many ways  
We 'eard lots of stories about 'im, over the months and days.  
How He grew up big an' strong, and doin' good around the land  
And I'm proud to say, one of me sons even joined 'im in 'is band.  
So you see,.. I'm rather biased when I tell you all this tale  
Although I'm also saddened (and somewhat angry) when I remember that as well  
Some old goats didn't like 'im, and they even wished 'im ill....  
And they wasn't even satisfied until they'd 'ad 'im killed.  
(*pause; sigh*) But,.. that's another story, and one not for this day  
Although sometime, if I'm allowed, I'll tell you about that, but I must just say  
..... for now...be joyful an' 'appy, as we all was on that night  
When an angel came down to see us....an' didn't 'alf give us all a fright !!

Well, there you are then, that's me story. Thanks for listening.  
I 'ope to see you again sometime. Take care now...God Bless...Tata !!  
(*'appy birthday to you, 'appy birthday to you, 'appy birthday dear Jesus.....*)