

# A NOTE ON STAGE DIRECTION

Suggestions for stage directions are provided throughout the script, but please note that these are meant as guidelines only. To set the scene, we suggest a backdrop showing a simple mountain view and depending on the available space, side screens either side of the stage, one with a seascape and boat (stage left) and the other with a town square (stage right). The narrator should be seated at the side of the stage, preferably with a microphone.

## CAST SIZE

There are 16 speaking parts in this musical, but these can easily be increased to as many as 30 by splitting the narrator's role into 8 parts; using 3 children to play each tree and having 2 carpenters, splitting the lines accordingly.

For increasing the number of non-speaking parts, have as many fishermen, Roman soldiers, members of the crowd and guards as you like. The trees (up to 3 children each) could be replaced by up to 9 other children who act out the objects the trees become when they are chopped down. See Page 8.

If you did want to reduce the cast, the narration could be taken by a teacher and the Roman soldiers could double up as the guards.

## COSTUMES & PROPS

**Narrator:** smart clothes.

**Trees:** brown trousers and green tops. Green umbrellas can be used for the trees or any colour decorated with crêpe-paper leaves either covering them or hanging from them. If you are using 3 children per tree, try using 1 child for the trunk, 1 for the left branches and another for the right branches. Or, they could all be in brown trousers with green tops, holding a large green umbrella between them.

**Woodcutters:** traditional adult clothing and a cardboard axe each.

**Carpenter:** dark clothing, an apron and some woodworking tools, perhaps a saw made from cardboard, and a work bench would be a bonus.

**Mary and Joseph:** traditional costumes with baby Jesus wrapped in a blanket.

**Fishermen:** traditional clothing with an oar each and some nets.

**Jesus:** should be dressed like the fishermen in Scene 4 and then more dishevelled in Scene 5.

**Roman soldiers and Guards:** tunics and tabards over tops and trousers; boots with laces binding the legs; helmets and spears.

**Crowd/Choir:** traditional adult clothing.

If the 'trees' are not becoming the objects they are made into, you will need a manger, a boat and a cross.