

Camels come to town

Friday, 29 December 2017

by **Suzanne Kelsey**



The three wise men travel through the Market Place on their camels photograph by Anna Marlow

A wonderful time was had by all at the Faringdon Town Nativity on Friday 8th December.

The event was a huge success with a cast of 25, a choir of 50, professional lights and sound, a real donkey, baby Jack as baby Jesus and, of course, three real camels.

The project has been in the planning since April 2017 and saw many different community groups and members come together to pull off this spectacular event.

Faringdon Town Council were delighted to work with Faringdon Dramatic Society, Faringdon Baptist Church and Faringdon All Saints' along with many other partners.

Directed by Carolyn Taylor from Faringdon Dramatic Society the show saw Faringdon Market Place be transformed into Bethlehem and the nativity story retold with a touch of local humour.

The audience of approximately 1000 (including lantern makers from Year 1 at Faringdon Infants) were delighted when Mary and Joseph arrived with Beatrice the Donkey and the excitement grew as the three wise men arrived on the wonderful camels (Baxter, Blizzard and Kazack) provided by Joseph's Amazing Camels.

A community choir brought together and directed by Sjoerd Vogt provided an amazing soundtrack to the play whilst holding the fabulous lanterns made by member of the public and students at FCC.

The sound was provided by Gary Bates and his wonderful team and all was set off by fabulous lighting by Ian Chandler.

Many local businesses offered their support including The Crown which became the stable, Faringdon Electrical Services for the stable star and Christmas lighting, BGI one of the sound stations, Barry Clark Decorating for the Angel tower, and Stay Grounded lent sacks as props. There were also many special camel based promotions after the show in local shops.

Funded by Faringdon Town Council, Faringdon Baptist Church, Faringdon All Saints', The Mustard Seed, Faringdon United Charities, The Bishop of Oxford and Tesco Bags for Change, the project required over 1400 hours of volunteer time and the organisers would like to thank each and every person involved.

A full list of thanks can be found on Faringdon Town Council Website www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk.