

**Hinckley Sunshine Club / Loreto Thursday Club – The 10 minute
“Scrooge” – January 2010**

1)

Narrator Good evening, and welcome to you all to our belated Christmas Show. We want to tell you a lovely story that is very sad and yet very happy, to cheer and encourage you for this New Year. Our story begins a long time ago, in London. It is the story of an old man called Ebenezer Scrooge. (*Scrooge is seen working at his ledgers*) Mr.Scrooge was very rich (*girl with flash card 'Hurray', passes and the audience cheer*) but he was also very mean, and I mean, mean (*flash card with 'Boo'*). He was so mean, that he wouldn't even put a bit of heat in the office to warm up his clerk, Bob Cratchit. (*Cratchit enters and tries to get warm, but can't - he stands, shivering*) He was so mean that he wouldn't even give Bob Cratchitt enough wages to feed his little family (*'Boo'*). He loved his money, and he kept it for himself, only it didn't make him happy - he was just miserable all the time.

Scrooge Bah! Humbug!

Narrator And what would Mr.Scrooge be doing at the time of the year when everyone else was preparing for the season of peace and goodwill? At home with his family, decorating the tree? (*Flash Card with 'No'*) Doing a little bit of shopping for presents for his children and grandchildren? (*Same again*) Going out to get the turkey? (*Same again*) Calling round to wish the season's compliments to a friend, perhaps? (*same again*). No, because Ebenezer Scrooge had no family, and no friends, only the money he earned and stashed away (*Scrooge looks furtively in his money box*). So what did he do on Christmas Eve? - nothing, nothing at all, and he made sure that poor Bob Cratchitt couldn't even get home early to his family (*mournful music followed by flash card - 'Aah'*). And when some carol singers came to cheer him up for Christmas?

(Enter carol singers, music, singing : "we wish you a merry Christmas..."

Singer 1 Merry Christmas Mr.Scrooge

Singer 2 And a Happy New Year to you, sir,

Singer 3 Spare us a copper, sir

All Merry Christmas

Scrooge Bah, humbug (*he shakes his fist at them and they scurry away - flash card with 'Boo'*)

- Narrator** Then there was a knock on the door and who should be there only Scrooge's nephew, Fred, a cheerful chap with a big hat.
- Fred** Merry Christmas, uncle.
- Scrooge** Bah, humbug!
- Narrator** Fred couldn't understand why his uncle was so miserable. He seemed to hate Christmas and everything to do with it.
- Fred** But Christmas is a time for peace and goodwill, uncle
- Scrooge** Bah, Humbug!
- Narrator** But Fred wasn't going to give up easily and promptly invited his uncle to Christmas lunch.
- Scrooge** No, get out!
- Narrator** So poor old Fred had to go home, but not before enquiring of Bob how his son, Tiny Tim was. Bob's youngest son, Tiny Tim, was very poorly, and his mother and father were always worried about him (*card with Aah!*)
- Fred** Merry Christmas to you, Bob, and all your family. And merry Christmas, uncle!
- Scrooge** Bah, humbug! (*flash card - 'Boo'*)
- Narrator** Hardly had Fred gone out the door when there was another knock at the and a large gentleman appeared. Bob answered the door and showed him in
- Gentleman** Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr.Scrooge or Mr.Marley?
- Narrator** Mr.Marley, was Jacob Marley, Scrooge's former partner, who died seven years ago this very night. (*flash card with Ooh'*)
- Scrooge** I am Scrooge.

Gentleman At this festive season of the year, Mr.Scrooge, it is more than desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and destitute, *(mournful background music)* who suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are hungry and cold, and in want of love and comfort. Do you think you can help them?

Scrooge Bah, humbug!

Gentleman You mean that you are not willing to help them at all?

Scrooge No!

Gentleman Not even one tiny bit?

Scrooge No!

Gentleman So you are prepared to watch them die of hunger and cold

Scrooge Yes! *(flash card – 'Boo')*

Gentleman I must confess, sir, that I have never met a meaner man in my life. Good day to you sir, and a merry Christmas to you!!

Scrooge Bah, humbug!

Narrator When the clock struck nine, the time came for Bob Cratchit to go home at last. *(Bob puts on his scarf)* He plucked up courage and asked Scrooge for Christmas Day off.

Scrooge What!

Narrator He asked for the day off - it is Christmas you know!!

Scrooge Bah, humbug!

Narrator And Scrooge reluctantly agreed.

Scrooge Bah! *(flash card - Boo!)*

Narrator And Bob wished him a Merry Christmas

Bob Merry Christmas Mr.Scrooge.

- Scrooge** Bah! 4)
- Narrator** When Bob went home, Scrooge went to lock the door and settled himself down for a nice quiet evening . He sat down with his bank book and dropped off to sleep. *(Ghost music)* Suddenly a ghost appeared *(enter Marley, making lots of noise)* It was Jacob Marley, Scrooge's former partner.
- Marley** Ooh, Ooh! Is that really you, Ebenezer Scrooge?
- Narrator** Scrooge was petrified
- Scrooge** Who are you? Who are you?
- Marley** Don't you recognize me, Scrooge? It's Jacob Marley.
- Narrator** And Marley went on to explain why he had come. Jacob Marley had been like Scrooge; he was only interested in business and making money. He had never cared about people; he had forgotten the poor and ignored those who were needy. *(flash card with Aah!)* Then he had died, miserable and unhappy. He had come back to Scrooge to warn him, that he had yet a chance to escape the fate that was Jacob's - forced to live captured in his chains for ever. Marley showed Scrooge several visions: Scrooge as a young man, who loved and looked after his sister, only she died after the birth of his nephew, Fred, the same Fred whom Scrooge had thrown out that very night when he had come to wish him a Merry Christmas. Then a beautiful young girl whom Scrooge had once loved, before he was overtaken by greed. *(A young girl appears dressed in black. She looks straight at Scrooge.)* You preferred money to me, she said - and you did, didn't you? So you lost her for ever. *(Flash card - Aah!)* Now, Marley has more to show you *(Marley points to a third vision)* - something from the present - the family life of your poor clerk, Bob Cratchit, whom you treat so badly. *(The Cratchits all appear – in a huddle).* Do you know, Scrooge, they even drank your health on Christmas Day with what little cheer they had, but today, look carefully Scrooge, said Marley, look into their faces, and what do you see? You see sadness, grief and sorrow, Scrooge. For Tiny Tim, their beloved son, is dead *(flash card - Aah)*
- Scrooge** Dead?
- Marley** Dead.
- Narrator** They loved him so much, and now they've lost him *(Aah!)*

Narrator But they'll never forget him; they will always remember him, and when they remember him they will be happy, because he brought so much happiness to them. *(The family hug each other, look upwards, smile and exit. Mournful music.)* One last vision for you, Scrooge, from your old partner, Jacob Marley - it's very simple and very stark. *(Graveyard music)* Look at this graveyard and what do you see? *(Marley points to a graveyard and a tombstone)* Yes, it's a graveyard, overrun with weeds, where people lie dead and forgotten, with no one to remember them, no one to think of them, just lying there, rotting away. Look at the stone, Scrooge, whose name is on it, look, look and see

Marley Ebenezer Scrooge *(flash card: Hurray!)*

Narrator Now that's not very Christian, is it? Give us an Aah! *(card with Aah!)* Yes, Ebenezer Scrooge, your name, your stone; this is where you will end up, dead and forgotten, Scrooge, because there's no one who will want to remember you, or to thank you because you've never done anything for them, except make them miserable, just like you are. Then something incredible happened to Scrooge. He was overcome with remorse. He begged Marley to say it wasn't him in the ground; he begged for a chance to make up for all the hurt and harm he had caused, to take away the greed and the desire for money. Scrooge was a changed man. *(Marley exits)* And then he woke up. *(Pause)* He was dreaming. It wasn't real; it was only a nightmare he was having But, Scrooge was a changed man; the man that woke from his dream was not the same miserable greedy man who fell asleep. All of a sudden something really wonderful happened to him. He was happy. Scrooge was happy. *(Card with 'Hurray'. Scrooge gets up and leaps about)* This can't be happening, surely, not to Scrooge; it can't be, it can't be. But it is - Ebenezer Scrooge was a happy man. He went out into the street, smiling, smiling, can you believe it? He saw a boy *(enter boy)* and asked what day it was.

Boy Christmas Day, sir!

Narrator Christmas Day, so it was not too late to make amends, to help people, to make them happy. He had not missed it after all. He got hold of the boy and sent him to get the biggest turkey he could find. The boy was shocked, amazed

Boy I'm shocked, amazed

- Narrator** Was this really Mr.Scrooge, Ebenezer Scrooge, the meanest most miserable man in London, smiling, and wanting to give things away? Yes it was, and what's more, he gave the boy a shilling for his trouble, with the promise of half a crown if he was back in five minutes. The boy shot off, and Scrooge looked out into the street; he could feel something very unusual happening to him; he was beginning to be happy; he felt the need to be generous, to give away his money. As he looked into the street, he saw the same gentleman he has sent away only the day before, and called him over.
- Scrooge** Come in. (*The gentleman enters*)
- Gentleman** Good day to you, sir, and a Merry Christmas.
- Narrator** At first the gentleman didn't recognise Scrooge - this was a happy man, a good man, a cheerful man.
- Gentleman** Is it Mr.Scrooge?
- Scrooge** Yes it is, sir, it certainly is.
- Gentleman** Ebenezer Scrooge?
- Scrooge** Yes it is (smiling).
- Narrator** And then Scrooge presented him with a big cheque (*Scrooge produces a very large cheque*) The gentleman was overcome.
- Gentleman** I'm overcome.
- Narrator** He didn't know what to say.
- Gentleman** I don't know what to say.
- Narrator** He was totally and utterly gobsmacked.
- Gentleman** I'm totally and utterly gobsmacked.
- Narrator** He couldn't believe his luck
- Gentleman** I can't believe my luck.
- Narrator** He wanted to shake Scrooge by the hand

- Gentleman** I want to shake you by the hand.
- Narrator** And thank him for his generosity.
- Gentleman** And thank you for your great generosity.
- Narrator** The gentleman went off smiling and happy.
- Gentleman** I'm going now, smiling and happy.
- Narrator** All right, all right, that's enough of that. Whereupon - which is as good a word as any to begin a new piece of action. Whereupon, the boy returned with the turkey; it was quite the biggest he could find.
- Boy** Here we are, sir; it was quite the biggest I could find.
- Narrator** Scrooge gave the boy the money he had promised and thanked him.
- Boy** No, thank you, sir, and Merry Christmas Mr.Scrooge.
- Scrooge** And Merry Christmas to you.
- Narrator** Scrooge was still smiling, when there was a knock at the door, and Bob Cratchit came in - ten minutes late. Scrooge glared at him, and then burst out laughing.
- Scrooge** Happy Christmas Bob.
- Boy** Eh, Merry Christmas, Mr.Scrooge.
- Narrator** Bob was very surprised; he was dumbfounded; he was amazed; Mr.Scrooge wished him a Merry Christmas. His mean, miserable, cheerless, cold employer, who paid him only a pittance, hardly enough to feed his family, who kept him in cold and poverty. This same, Ebenezer Scrooge, wished him, Bob Cratchit, a Merry Christmas. Phew! (*Card - 'Hurray'*)He couldn't believe it
- Bob** I can't believe it
- Narrator** Scrooge smiled. He was about to enjoy himself more than he had done in his whole life. He picked up the turkey and gave it to Bob
- Scrooge** Here, for you, Merry Christmas

Bob For me?

Scrooge Yes, for you

Narrator Scrooge was only beginning. Fountains of generosity were at last welling up in his heart. God, this is rubbish! Fountains of generosity were at last welling up in his heart. He told Bob he was going to raise his salary. Bob was wondering if Scrooge was feeling quite well. This was certainly not the man he worked for; this was someone quite different. This was someone kind, generous, cheerful, good. This couldn't be Scrooge; it couldn't be. But it was, it really was. Then Scrooge asked after Tiny Tim, how he was. He told Bob that he was going to try in future to be a real father to Tim, and that he was going to be good to all his family. So Scrooge sent Bob off home to enjoy his Christmas. Bob was absolutely stunned.

Bob I'm absolutely stunned.

Narrator Now don't start that again.

Scrooge Merry Christmas Bob.

Bob Merry Christmas Mr.Scrooge.

Narrator And so ends our story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable man who found happiness at last. Merry Christmas Scrooge, and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. *(Card with 'Hurray' All on stage for 'We wish you a Merry Christmas')*

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