

“BANKING ON CHARITY”

Cast: Collectors A, B, C, D
Banker (who is also Collector D)
Neighbours 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, who are also Creditors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Child of Neighbour 5
2/3rd's World Jesus.

A Stage Hand: For sound effects

Props: 4 x Bags of money
- for Neighbour 1, 3, 4, & Child of Neighbour 5
5 x Collectors' ID badges
1 x “Bank Open” sign
6 x Bowler hats - 1 for Banker, & 5 for Creditors
1 x Invoice on string loop saying, “DEBT” - for Creditor 5

(Collectors A, B, C, D assemble at front of church for said/sung commissioning by Collector D (leading) “Hi Ho Hi Ho!”)

Collector A:)

Collector B:)
“It’s Christian Aid* Collecting we go! ...”

Collector C:)

Collector D:)
(* or All We Can / CAFOD / SCIAF / OXFAM / etc.)

(Collectors disperse to collect, going from front to back, to Neighbours and Child in pews next to central aisle.)

(Collector A knocks on imaginary door while Stage Hand knocks on church door. Neighbour 1 stands up and opens imaginary door.)

Collector A: **“I’m collecting for Christian Aid/ _____*”.**

Neighbour 1: (sickly, patronising concern)

“Oh I know, it’s so important, and isn’t it terrible, but what can one do?”

(etc, while hands bag of money to Collector A.)

Collector B: (knocks on imaginary door. Stage Hand knocks. Neighbour 2 stands up and opens imaginary door.)

“I’m collecting for Christian Aid/ _____*”.

Neighbour 2: **“Not from me you’re not!”**

(sits down)

Collector C: (knocks on imaginary door. Stage Hand knocks. Neighbour 3 stands up and opens imaginary door.)

“I’m collecting for Christian Aid/ _____*”.

Neighbour 3: **“Why do you people always have to call when it’s**

Eastenders? Here's a quid, now buzz off!"

(hands bag to Collector C)

Collector B: *(knocks on imaginary door. Stage Hand knocks. Neighbour 4 stands up and opens imaginary door.)*
"I'm collecting for Christian Aid/ _____*".

Neighbour 4: **"Oh! What an absolutely splendid idea! Do come in, I haven't seen anyone for days and I do fancy men/women wearing collectors badges!"**
(drags Collector B down onto seat!)

Collector D: *(knocks on imaginary door. Stage Hand knocks. Neighbour 5 stands up and opens imaginary door.)*
"I'm collecting for Christian Aid/ _____*".

Neighbour 5: **"Time for bed, kids! - Oh. Yeah, hang on... Where's my purse/wallet".**
(can't find it)

Child of N 5: *(hands bag of £ to Collector D)*

Neighbour 5: **"Can't find it, sorry, bye. - Kids! Bed time!"**

Neighbour 4: *(hands bag of £ over while Collector B extracts himself/herself to leave)*
"Well! That was so enlightening! Do call again please!"

(Collectors return to front.)

Collector A: **"How did you get on ?"**
(puts bag down)

Collector B: **"I, um, didn't get time to do many houses."**
(puts bag down)

Collector C: **"Some people only put in coppers"**
(puts bag down)

Collector D: **"Some people put in empty bags"**
(puts bag down)

Collector C: *(counts bags/money)*
"100, 200, £300! That's still better than last year."

Collectors B,C & D: **Hurrah!"**

Collector A: **"But with all the injustice, is it really worth it?"**

Collector C: **"Well, I think so!"**

Collector B: **"Me too!"** *(over enthusiastically!)*

Collector D: **“Well, back-to-work time, I’m afraid.”**

(Collectors A & B remove their ID badges and sit down. Collectors C & D “go to work”: Collector C leaves his/her ID badge on, and walks with Collector D to the other end of the church. Collector-D-&-Banker takes off his/her ID badge, puts on a bowler hat, and then returns to the front of the church, hangs up the “Bank Open” sign, faces everyone, waiting for business.)

Collector C: *(goes to Collector-D-&-Banker)*
“Hello! Time to bank what we've collected.
(hands bags over) **Better than last year!”**

Collector D & Banker:
“Yes! Brilliant!”

(Collector C walks back down the aisle & returns to his/her seat. Stage Hand knocks door very loudly & deliberately. 2/3rds World Jesus enters, walks to the Banker at the front, and stretches out his arms.)

2/3rds World Jesus: **“For me, I believe.”**

(Banker hands bags to him. Jesus turns and walks back to the entrance door. On the way back the 5 Neighbours – now Creditors with bowler hats on – lie in wait. As 2/3rds World Jesus is about to pass each one, they stand up abruptly.)

Creditor 1: **“I’ll take that!”** *(takes bag)* **“To pay for the food you need.”**

Creditor 2: **“I’ll take that!”** *(takes bag)* **“Since your crops sell for less than last year.”**

Creditor 3: **“I’ll take that!”** *(takes bag)* **“As my products cost you more than last year.”**

Creditor 4: **“I’ll take that!”** *(takes bag)* **“To pay the interest on your IMF loan.”**

Creditor 5: **“And I’ll take... what you haven’t got! You owe me for the schooling and medicine for your family.”**
(puts debt invoice round neck of 2/3rds World Jesus)

(2/3rds World Jesus leaves church slamming door)

(Remaining characters freeze for a short time)

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