

## ET4Bs Christmassy Quiz 2023 (including answers)

### Christmas-themed Entertainment (TV, Films, Theatre and Music)

1. In the song *Little Drummer Boy*, which gift are we told the drummer boy offers to Christ?  
**A: He doesn't have a gift to offer, so he plays Christ a tune on his drum.** TBH, not sure how welcome that would have been to Mary, Joseph and the wee donkey? However, in the days before Marshall amplifiers, the song's lyrics assure us 'the ox and the lamb kept time'!
2. In *Doctor Who*, who began his tenure as the new Doctor in the 2005 special 'The Christmas Invasion'?  
**A: David Tennant**
3. Complete the opening verse from the song *Winter wonderland*: 'Sleigh bells ring, are you listening, in the lane, snow is glistening...?'  
**A: '...A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walking in a winter wonderland'** (any approximation of the lyrics will do, remember it's only a bit of fun!).
4. Which festive song, made famous by Nat King Cole, might you find 'Jack Frost nipping at your nose'?  
**A: The Christmas Song** (the opening line of the song, 'Chestnuts roasting on an open fire' is perhaps more famous than the song title).
5. The character Oogie Boogie is one of the bad guys in which fantasy festive film?  
**A: (Tim Burton's) The Nightmare Before Christmas**
6. In the film *Love Actually*, which real-life UK boy band does the singer Billy Mack (played by Bill Nighy) compete against, in a race to have the Christmas No 1 record?  
**A: Blue.** Billy's exaggerated deference to other real-life celebs is one of the comedy features of the film.
7. In which festive carol is a request made for the dessert 'figgy pudding'?  
**A: We wish you a merry Christmas**  
Random additional fact; an olde-style traditional figgy pudding or plum pudding didn't necessarily contain any figs or plums, these were just generic names for a typical Christmas pudding at the time. Also BTW, no figs or plums were harmed in the making of this quiz - just in case you were wondering.
8. Michael Caine starred in which festive based muppets film?  
**A: The Muppets Christmas Carol?** (no doubt quite a lot of people know that!)
9. Complete the title of this 1963 festive novelty hit by Dora Bryan: 'All I want for Christmas is...'  
**A: ..a Beatle.** Although a novelty hit, we think the sentiment was quite a popular one at the time.
10. Natalie Wood appeared as a young (initially Santa-sceptic) child actress in the 1947 film version of *Miracle on 34th Street*? Is that true or false?  
**A: True.** She was only 8 years old (that's assuming you believe her PR material).
11. Which festive favourite Judy Garland song contains the lyrics 'Once again, as in olden days, happy golden days of yore'? A bonus point to name the 1943 film which made the song famous?  
**A: Have yourself a merry little Christmas.** Bonus: Meet me in St Louis.
12. Put these Christmas No 1 novelty songs in the order in which they were initially hits (earliest first): a) Don't stop me eatin' by LadBaby, b) Long haired lover from Liverpool by Little Jimmy Osmond, c) Save your love by Renee and Renata, and d) Lily the pink by the Scaffold.  
**A: Correct order d) (1968), b) (1972), c) (1982) and a) (2020).** Points may be deducted (or added, depending on how many egg nogs you've had!) based on who can give us the best or worst version of the above songs.

13. Setting a less frivolous tone; 'Hallelujah Noel be it heaven or hell, the Christmas we get we deserve' are the profound lyrics at the end of which 1975 hit song?  
**A: I believe in Father Christmas** by Greg Lake. Using the full-on production methods favoured by 1970s prog-rockers, Greg incorporated elements of Prokofiev's Lieutenant Kije (Troika) suite to create the song's memorable musical score.
14. *Twelfth Night* is of course William Shakespeare's best known festive 'comedy'. Which of these Shakespeare quotes does NOT come from *Twelfth Night*:  
 a) Better a witty fool than a foolish wit  
 b) Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon 'em  
 c) If music be the food of love play on  
 d) All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players  
**A: d) 'All the world's a stage'** which comes from *As you like it*.  
 It doesn't get as many repeats as Morecambe & Wise, so, if you do see *Twelfth Night* over Christmas, do try to show the *milk of human kindness* (to borrow one of the Bard's other well-known quotes) and raise a smile. But at the same time, try not to fall off your chair laughing! To be fair, we can't imagine anyone will still be smiling at any of our so-called jokes, in 400 years.
15. What is the title of Tchaikovsky's festive ballet, first performed in the 1890s, and set on Christmas Eve?  
**A: The Nutcracker**
16. The popular Christmas song 'Jingle Bells' is said to have been originally written for another US holiday festival, which one?  
**A: Thanksgiving.** Not sure we would normally be 'dashing through the snow' in November, but maybe things are different Stateside!
17. In 2023, Matthew McFadyen starred in a dramatized TV account of which British MP who faked his own death in the 1970s.  
**A: (John) Stonehouse.** The MP used the ruse, made famous in *The Day of the Jackal*, of applying for a fake passport under the name of someone who had died as an infant, and travelled to Australia on it.
18. Which Charles Dickens novel was controversially adapted for TV by the BBC in 2023 (starring amongst others, Olivia Colman, as Miss Havisham)?  
**A: Great Expectations:** All we can say is, if you want to know what the original story is all about (and you can't be bothered reading Dickens' classic book), don't watch this!
19. On which saint's feast day is the story of *Good King Wenceslas* set?  
**A: (St) Stephen**, aka Boxing Day. There's no truth in the story that, when he got home, Wenceslas ordered in a pizza and asked for it to be delivered 'deep pan crisp and even'.
20. In which popular carol are we told 'In heaven the bells are ringing'?  
**A: Ding dong merrily on high**

### Ghosts of Christmas past

The following questions reference a few historical events that happened at Christmas time, in years gone by (some more recent than others).

21. What political institution came to an end on Boxing Day 1991?  
**A: The Soviet Union** (officially the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). President Gorbachev resigned on 25 December 1991, which led to the 15 constituent republics gaining independence the following day on 26 December 1991, with formal dissolution of the USSR on 31 December 1991
22. All-time brainiac Sir Isaac Newton was born on Christmas Day in which decade of the 17<sup>th</sup> century? An extra point if you can guess the right year.

**A: 1640s** (1642 to be precise). BTW, if you are up for a bit of full-on pedantry, Christmas Day during that period was observed using the Julian rather than the Gregorian calendar (the Gregorian calendar is currently 13 days ahead of the Julian calendar).

23. Singer George Michael died prematurely, aged just 53, on Christmas Day 2016. Complete the next line from Wham!'s festive standard *Last Christmas*: 'A face on a lover with a fire in his heart....'?

**A:..... a man under cover, but you tore me apart.** *Last Christmas* was understood to have been the biggest selling UK single *never* to have made No 1; however that anomaly was rectified when one of the numerous re-releases of the song finally made No 1 in early January 2021.

24. The first manned spacecraft to reach the moon (without actually landing) happened over Christmas 1968 (that's assuming you don't believe the lunar-landing sceptics). What was the name of that 1968 mission, was it: a) Apollo 7, b) Apollo 8, c) Apollo 9 or d) Apollo 10?

**A: b) Apollo 8**, which was one of the preliminary trips to assess future potential lunar landings, and flight paths for the return to earth. Apollo 11 subsequently became the first manned spacecraft to land on the moon (for anyone under 60; yes it did really happen!).

25. Name the silent movie legend who passed away Christmas Day 1977?

**A: Charlie Chaplin**

26. On Christmas Day in which year, was William I (aka William the Conqueror) crowned King of England?

**A: 1066** (bit of a double bluff question!)

### **General Christmas-themed knowledge**

27. What, statistically, are the average chances of a White Christmas occurring in the UK each year? Is it: a) one in ten, b) one in fifteen, or c) one in twenty?

**A: a) one in ten.** It doesn't seem to be that often, but bear in mind that (in meteorological terms) only a very small amount of snow within the designated area constitutes a White Christmas. Bing Crosby is optional.

28. Which country famously donates a Christmas tree to Trafalgar Square every year?

**A: Norway**

29. What fruit might you traditionally find inside a Christmas stocking?

**A: Tangerine** (you can accept clementine or similar orangey citrus fruits)

30. 'Marley was dead, to begin with' is the opening line of which salutary festive tale?

**A: A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens

31. Silver Fulminate plays what part in a traditional Christmas lunch?

**A: It is used in Christmas crackers** and makes them go bang.

Sample Christmas cracker joke: Q. Why did the turkey join the rock group? A. He was the only one with drumsticks!

32. The poinsettia plant, commonly associated with Christmas, is considered to have originated from which Central American country?

**A: Mexico**

33. Santa enjoys his own personal postcode HOH OHO in which country?

**A: Canada.** The country alleges its outlying regions are as close as anywhere to the North Pole.

### **How will 2023 be remembered then?**

These questions commemorate a few famous (and infamous) events, as well as some well-known people who sadly 'shuffled off this mortal coil' (to again borrow a Shakespeare quote) in the last 12 months.

34. Who in March caused a considerable furore when controversially comparing the UK Government's immigration policy to 1930s Germany?

**A: Gary Lineker.** As the highest paid BBC presenter (although not apparently an employee, if you have been keeping up with IR35 tax case law!) the BBC itself felt his comments contravened their mandate for political neutrality.

35. England cricketer Johnny Bairstow's was controversially dismissed at a crucial point of the second innings of the second Ashes test at Lords. How was he given out: a) bowled, b) caught, c) stumped or d) run out?

**A: c) stumped.** The dubious decision helped Australis to win the test and ultimately, to draw the series thereby retaining the Ashes. In truth there was no doubt the stumping was perfectly legal, but some England fans, and even the Prime Minister, felt it against the spirit of the game (needless to say, Aussie commentators disagreed).

36. Charles III was formally crowned King on 6 May 2023. How many years old was the King at the date of his *coronation*?

**A: 74.** DOB 14 November 1948 – since the coronation he has celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was the oldest king to originally accede to the throne (on the death of his mother, at age 73 on 8 September 2022) by 9 years. William IV at age 64 and Edward VII aged 59 were the next oldest to accede.

37. Which saucy but warm-hearted 1997 film starring Robert Carlyle was rehashed as an 8-part TV mini-series in 2023?

**A: The Full Monty**

38. 2023 TV cold war drama 'A Spy among friends' told the story of whose defection to the USSR in the 1960s?

**A: Kim Philby.** This followed on from earlier defections of Guy Burgess and Don Maclean (no relation to his *American Pie* namesake), with a fourth Soviet spy Anthony Blunt neither having to defect or face justice (apparently, after turning Queen's evidence).

39. One of many actors to attain wider international recognition following the Harry Potter films, Sir Michael Gambon (who died in September) had already enjoyed a stellar TV and theatre career from the 1960s onwards. What was the name of the 1986 TV serial, written by Denis Potter, which provided Michael with a stand-out BAFTA-winning leading role as 'Philip Marlow'?

**A: The Singing Detective.** The challenging multi layered and darkly comic fantasy plots, penned by Potter, didn't find favour with the 'clean up TV' brigade, but certainly elevated Michael's career from that point onwards.

40. Former Pogues front man Shane MacGowan was often alluded to ironically as a 'drinker with a writing problem', before his very recent demise. Which famous British 20<sup>th</sup> century politician is accredited with saying that the Royal Navy's best traditions are 'rum, sodomy and the lash'; a phrase which was used by the Pogues as the title of their 1985 second album?

**A: Winston Churchill.** NB: the 'drinker with a writing problem' quote was in recognition of one of Shane's heroes, Irish writer Brendan Behan, who also inspired admiration and concern in equal measures.

41. It would be easier to list the famous people Michael Parkinson (who died in August) *didn't* interview, than those he did. Complete this quote from Michael, thinking back on one infamous chat show meeting: 'All the wonderful interviews in my show - yet I'll probably be remembered for that bloody.....'?

**A: ...bird** (referring of course to his being hilariously upstaged by Emu, with Rod Hull, in 1976). Talking about his original start as a BBC chat show host, Michael said he only got the gig initially in 1971 because it was considered 'cheap, cheerful and expendable'.

42. Actor Matthew Perry 'ceased to be' at a young age, having died suddenly in October aged only 54. After *Friends*, between 2015 and 2017 Matthew starred in a remake of another (originally early 1970s) sitcom, about two middle-aged men thrown together uncomfortably after their individual marriage break ups. What was the name of the remade sitcom?

**A: The Odd Couple.** Matthew played Oscar, and Thomas Lennon played Felix, in the 2015

remake, the same characters being played earlier by Jack Klugman and Tony Randall. The 1970s TV series was itself a spin off from a 1968 film version, starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau (written by Neil Simon).

43. At the other end of the age spectrum, crooner Tony Bennett enjoyed rather a good innings, passing away in July aged 97. Which of these other famous locations is NOT mentioned in the lyrics of *I left my heart in San Francisco*, the song which became his signature tune: a) Manhattan, b) London, c) Paris, or d) Rome?  
**A: b) London.** All the other locations are mentioned in the first verse of the song.
44. Musician Anna Mae Bullock, who passed away in May aged 83, found international fame under what stage name?  
**A: Tina Turner.** Interesting random fact: the only big hit song Tina was credited with writing personally, whilst she was with ex-husband Ike, was the semi-autobiographical *Nutbush City Limits* (if you're only gonna write one big hit, best make it a great one!). In another surprising fact, the 1966 classic *River Deep Mountain High* only reached 88 on the US charts, prompting such disenchantment from producer Phil Spector that he withdrew from public life for a couple of years (the song incidentally reached a more respectable No 3 in the UK).
45. Jerry Springer, who died in April aged 79, held the dubious distinction of creating (or significantly enhancing) so called *Trash TV*, by directly encouraging conflict between rival chat show guests (the show started in the early 1990s, and the style is still copied today). Complete the title of the musical theatre version of the show (very loosely based on it) which opened in 2003? Jerry Springer: .....?  
**A: .....the opera.** The stage show's black humour was controversial, as it intentionally poked fun at various religions, and the script was alleged to have included '8,000 profanities' (though take that statistic with a large pinch of salt - we're not sure anyone could really be bothered to count them all!).
46. US actress Raquel Welch sadly passed away in February. Name the 1966 Hammer film from which a famous poster of Raquel, in a fur/leather bikini, turned her into an international sex symbol?  
**A: One Million Years B.C.** The film did contain one or two 'anachronistic' features, including the suggestion that humans and dinosaurs lived in the same time period, and with Raquel screaming out loud to reveal her (evidently 20<sup>th</sup> century) tooth fillings. But, who knows, maybe the punters were looking elsewhere?
47. Legendary songwriter Burt Bacharach passed away in February. Which of these easy listening standards was NOT jointly composed by Burt together with his main songwriting partner Hal David: a) Magic moments, b) Raindrops keep falling on my head, c) That's amore, d) I'll never fall in love again, e) Anyone who had a heart, or, f) (They long to be) Close to you?  
**A: c) That's amore,** which was written by Harry Warren & Jack Brooks.
48. 'Flies are in your pea soup baby, they're waving at me' are some of the lyrics of a famous party standard song. Name the song, and its singer who died in January (a point for each)?  
**A: Hi ho silver lining, by Jeff Beck.** It is bizarre that a guitar virtuoso like Beck should be best remembered by the general public for a mere catchy pop tune (produced by Mickie Most incidentally). Random further (alleged) fact: when (their main songwriter) Syd Barratt left Pink Floyd in the late-1960s, the band wanted Jeff Beck to replace him, but (according to their drummer Nick Mason) 'none of us had the nerve to ask him'.
49. Sir Les Patterson was one of the alter-egos of which comedian who passed away in April?  
**A: Barry Humphries.** Sample Barry/Dame Edna quip: 'I was born with a priceless gift: the ability to laugh at the misfortunes of *others*'.
50. Terry Venables who died in November, or 'El Tel' as he was dubbed, after trying football management in Spain, had a number of business interests outside football. What was the name of the 1970s private detective TV series starring Nicholas Ball, which he co-created with author Gordon Williams?

- A: Hazell.** Some of El Tel's business interests were more successful than others, and at one point he was disqualified from being a company director for alleged mismanagement of funds.
51. Margaret Lake, who died in March, found prominence as a regular TV astrologist under what pseudonym?  
**A: Mystic Meg.** Another Christmas cracker joke: Q: What's the difference between astrology and astronomy? A: about 50 IQ points.
52. Oft maligned Everton FC chairman and theatre entrepreneur Bill Kenwright passed away in October. In which TV programme did he initially make his name, playing character Gordon Clegg from 1968 onwards (and intermittently, to 2012)?  
**A: Coronation Street.** Neutral observers may note that Bill had already sold much of his Everton shareholding (and ceded a lot of control) by the time the club started to rack up losses, which resulted in a recent 10 points deduction. Careful what you wish for!
53. 'And this is me' was the personal catchphrase of which impressionist who died in September, having made his name imitating the catchphrases and idiosyncrasies of other well-known faces?  
**A: Mike Yarwood.** Although perhaps difficult to reconcile nowadays, Mike's TV fame in the 1970s was spectacular - broadly equal to Morecambe and Wise and The Two Ronnies. His 1977 Christmas special is understood to have attracted 21.4m viewers.
54. David McCallum who died in September, was probably best known for playing the mysterious agent Illya Kuryakin in 1960s TV spy series *The Man from UNCLE*. Complete the title of the British science fiction series he later starred in alongside Joanna Lumley, between 1979 and 1982: *Sapphire and.....*?  
**A: Steel.** In case you needed to know, UNCLE was an acronym for United Network Command for Law and Enforcement. David of course had several other successful TV ventures including leading parts in *Colditz* and (much later) *NCIS*.

That's the end of the main quiz, but for anyone who (like *Oliver Twist*) still wants more, see if you can name these other well-known personalities who also sadly passed away in 2023:

- a) UK crooner famous for hits *Durham Town* and *The last farewell*. **Roger Whittaker**
- b) First footballer in the UK to be transferred for £1m. **Trevor Francis**
- c) Distinguished actor featured in (mostly supporting) roles including *Lethal Weapon* and *The Hunt for Red October*, also guest starred in Pet Shop Boys videos. **Joss Ackland**
- d) Double winner of best actress Oscars, later turned to politics. **Glenda Jackson**
- e) Chancellor of the Exchequer in the 1980s, has an equally famous daughter. **Nigel Lawson**
- f) Star of *Fiddler on the Roof*. **Topol**
- g) Veteran sports (mainly football) broadcaster, worked for the BBC between 1971 and 2008. **John Motson**
- h) Former ITV *World of Sport* anchorman between 1968 and 1985. **Dickie Davies**
- i) Veteran British actress, starred in 1958 war film classic *Ice cold in Alex*. **Sylvia Syms**
- j) Chic Italian actress often referred to informally as 'La Lollo'. **Gina Lollobrigida**
- k) Actress star of Channel 4's *Drop the dead donkey* and *The Windsors*. **Haydn Gwynne**
- l) Nothing compares to her. **Sinead O'Connor**
- m) BBC news presenter between 2007 and 2022. **George Alagiah**
- n) Former bassist of the Smiths. **Andy Rourke**
- o) Had the original Christmas hit with *Mary's Boy Child*. **Harry Belafonte**
- p) Former *Strictly* judge, liked to award 'seven' out of ten. **Len Goodman**
- q) *For the love of dogs* presenter and former cross-dressing comedian. **Paul O'Grady**