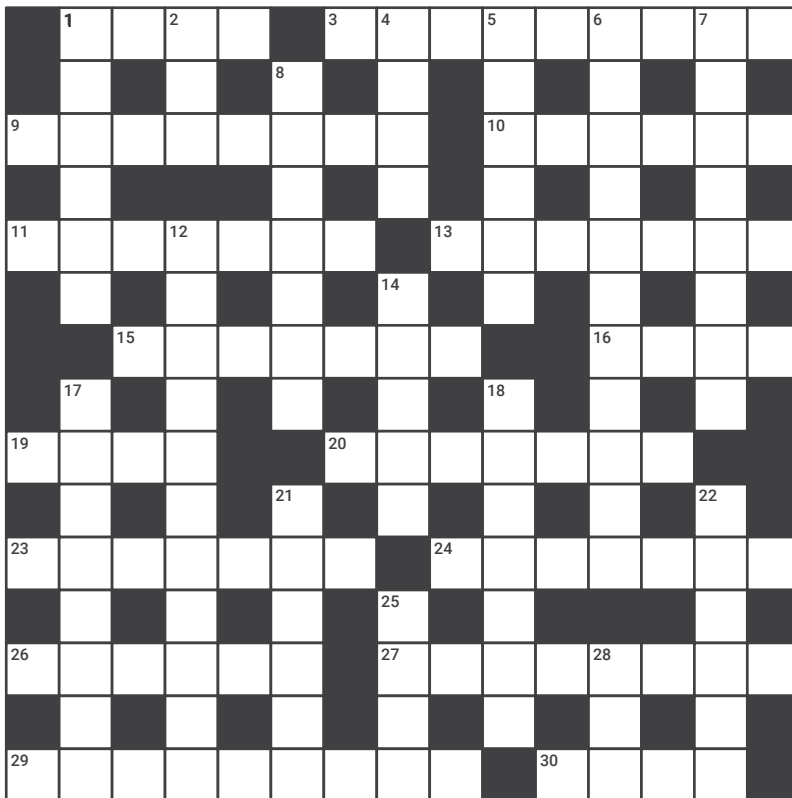# Charity Cryptic Christmas Crossword 2024
set by Chopin

Across

1 Nearly almost bedtime (4)

3 How Grandfather's hands are supposed to move (9)

9 Shy lady excitedly embraces love for festive occasions (4,4)

10 Before church, sister takes a hint (6)

11 Gonzo's role scripted at last - I see chickens? Not half! (7)

13 Cried as one in nativity's late, poorly in bed (7)

15 Wise men and women hold court indoors (7)

16 Looks at ingredients of turkey escalopes (4)

19 Deer hates appearing red-nosed at first, self-confident in the end (4)

20 Like loveless editor, drunk on a donkey, perhaps (7)

23 Festive celebration starts off nicely, especially when you are dancing (3,4)

24 Apart from one star, decorations embargoed - reluctantly to begin with (7)

26 Carol's night arranging tinsel (6)

27 No room here once, sadly how trouble begins for baby Jesus? (8)

29 Treat with endless food arranged for couple's date (3,3,3)

30 Start to mime Little Donkey for midnight service (4)

Down

1 Hideaway that is for hanky-panky (6)

2 Flamboyant granny empty inside - adopting a … (3)

4 … girl from Los Angeles with only two dollars (4)

5 Exotic dance left one aflame during carol service (6)

6 Singing 4d, 14d, 30a, 16a, 2d, 25d, 1a, 19a may cause someone to mistakenly exclaim this (11)

7 Caroller on vacation in Ely, perhaps, with cuddly toy stashed away (8)

8 Surprise police turning up for festive snack (7)

12 Shy folk went off to get sage advice (4,7)

14 Description of Wenceslas' snow - cold, right? Wispy, boundless? (5)

17 Find opportunity to capture Marceau's art for Spooner (4,4)

18 Trump maybe forfeits passport here (7)

21 Trees American ordered for festive period (6)

22 Sport ridiculous ties around November more than once (6)

25 Compete with attitude (4)

28 Tea dance's repetitive section dropped (3)

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