

The Players Street Theatre for the 'Good Friday' 'Walk of Witness' in Charlton Kings



The Charlton Kings Community Players have been taking part in the Charlton Kings Churches Together 'Walk of Witness' since 1992. This is some twenty-seven years of providing dramatic presentations at one of the stopping points of the Walk. The Walks are led by members of the participating Churches, and the cross and banner are carried between the stopping points by representatives of those Churches. In the year 2000 the Players participated in the 'Good Friday' Cheltenham Passion Play organised by Churches Together in Cheltenham.

The dramatic presentations given over the years have mostly been written by members of the community, and have involved people of all ages in various interpretations of the Easter biblical story from what occurred on 'Good Friday' to what happened just before or afterwards. Some presentations have been monologues of the reflections of individual biblical characters, or a contemporary conversation between people on what happened some two millennia ago. The presentations are normally performed in Charlton Kings Library Precinct, with the occasional one in the Baptists Church, and recently in The King's Hall, if the weather is unsuitable.

In 2012 the presentation was an extract (the Trial Scene) as a preview of a major production (a modern Passion Play) performed in 2013 by the Players called '*A Man for this Season*'. This was done in Sacred Hearts Hall in Holy Week. The presentation in the Charlton Kings Precinct in 2012, called '*Josh on Trial*', particularly involved the crowd and proved a powerful experience for those present (Youtube videos currently available).

In 2002 the 'Walk of Witness' and the Street Theatre featured in the Gloucestershire Echo, in a colour centre-spread. This covered the Witness Walks taking place throughout Cheltenham. The Players performance piece was '*Veronica's Veil*' about the legend of the woman who wiped Christ's face on the way to Calvary.

A publication has been put together which includes some of the dramatic pieces written by local people and performed for the 'Good Friday' Street Theatre.

CKCP Publications: The 'Performance Record' (production detail, programmes, photographs)
<http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Charlton-Kings-Community-Players-Performances-issue-8.pdf>

Available on Youtube - '*Josh on Trial*' in Charlton King Precinct outside The King's Hall.
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=TheCKCP

'New Slants on the Word' - A collection of dramatic materials for use in staged productions or in worship by Tony Jeans, Lynne Glover and Peter Grainger.
Second edition in electronic format, published 2016
<http://www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com/>