

Charlton Kings Community Players
& Charlton Kings Churches
present



'A Man For This Season'

A contemporary Passion Play
by Peter Grainger

at
Sacred Hearts Hall
Charlton Kings

Tuesday 26th March
Wednesday 27th March
and Thursday 28th March
2013

PROGRAMME

A Man For This Season' - The Background

"Have you ever thought of writing a Passion Play?" It all started with a casual question from Tony Jeans..! After the success of *'Whose Birthday Did You Say?'* at Balcarras School in February 2000, perhaps it had vaguely occurred to me... But now the seed was planted, and at first it grew rapidly...

With the idea of linking the play with the annual Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' through Charlton Kings, the structure of the Passion Story soon matched the likely stops along the way. With the support of the five Churches of Charlton Kings at the time and ideas from five directors who would work with each Church in its location, we seemed to be well underway.

Perhaps with 'Godspell' in mind, I had envisaged the message of Jesus and the 'time for change' represented primarily by a young leader of a group of young 'followers'. We found our enthusiastic leader 'Josh' almost immediately, but we had no young people for him to lead...!

Two significant changes had taken place since the Millennium – exam timetables and – supposedly - the image of Christianity in our community. The young people we were seeking were totally absorbed in exams and could not be released for an extra-curricular production...and it was apparently too 'uncool' now to be seen acting in such a public venture.

In 2000 we had more than 50 young people in the cast; in 2013 we are delighted to have six. (One young actor at university had to drop out because her 'Easter' holidays did not *start* until *April*..!)

We therefore decided to cast some of the leads as adults, and move the production into the supportive Sacred Hearts Hall to maximise the dramatic impact of the script in a different way. We now have a cast of 26, ranging from 12 to over 70, from five different Christian denominations – all with significant connections to Charlton Kings



The challenge of the play has been to examine how far the last days of the Jesus Christ of history have a relevance to our community today. Could we re-stage each step of the biblical Passion story into today's environment, and make the result an entertaining and thought-provoking drama for a wide audience?

We were encouraged when two scenes of the drama, directed by Tony Jeans, were well received by a large audience in the Precinct last Good Friday.

We believe you will be struck by the relevance of the dialogue to today's difficult issues, and will be moved by the dramatic effects that our production team have made possible.

Peter Grainger



SYNOPSIS

SCENE 1: *'Gathering'*

SCENE 2 *'Outreach'*

SCENE3; *'Meal & Mission'*

SCENE 4: *'A Garden Arrest'*

SCENE 5: *'A Church's Response'*

INTERVAL

SCENE 6: *'Denial'*

SCENE 7: *'Trial & Error'*

SCENE 8: *'Rejection'*

SCENE 9: *'Rendition'*

SCENE 10: *'Resurrection'*



Compositions from 'Whose Birthday Did You Say? (2000)

He Said 'Follow Me'

(Malcolm Dunbar)

Love One Another

(Malcolm Dunbar)

Don't Let The Lights Go Out

(Sue Trickey)

The Good Samaritan (Geoff Ramshaw) Traditional Shaker Hymn – ***'Simple Gifts'***

(arranged& lyrics Geoff Ramshaw)

New composition & arrangements for 'A Man for This Season'

De Profundis Clamari

(Gilbert Biberian)

Orchestral Arrangements

(Keith Mead)

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours Anthem (based on words by St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), music composed by David Ogden 2002)

CAST

JOSH:	Kieron Davies
MARIE:	Helen Roberts
PETE:	Don Gool
JON:	Luke Drinkwater
JUDE:	Gianluca Di Pasqua
CHLOE:	Debbie Masling
PHILIPPA:	Jane Kane
BECKY:	Molly Powell
SOPHIE:	Sophie Gool
FIRST WITNESS:	Dilys Jones
SECOND WITNESS:	Joyce Parsons*
CHURCHMAN:	Derek Palmer*
CHURCHWOMAN:	Sylvia Fry*
RESIDENT:	Sue Drinkwater*
JOSEPH:	Tony Jeans
ARCHDEACON:	Geoff Ramshaw*
MARSHALL:	Martyn Fry*
GIRL IN CROWD:	Sarah Tibbles*
1 st WOMAN IN CROWD:	Brenda Simpson*
2 nd WOMAN IN CROWD:	Vivienne Garland*
MAN IN CROWD:	Peter Simpson*
CROWD VOICES:	Yvonne Brawn* & Margaret Walker*
GUARDS:	Darryl Drinkwater & Tim Masling



4

PHOTOGRAPHER:	George Cross*
READER & REPORTER:	Alison Thornton
GUITARIST:	Gilbert Biberian
* = CHORUS	

PRODUCTION

Director:	Peter Grainger
Production Manager:	Tony Jeans
Assistant Producer:	Jane Jones
Lighting and Sound:	Peter Ryan & Luke Drinkwater
Musical Arranger & Coach:	Keith Mead
Visuals & Projection:	Martin Grinter & David Brawn
Costumes:	Debbie Masling & Andy Culley
Prompter:	June Pearce
Stagecraft & Crew:	Ray Talbot, David Brawn & Kayleigh Sutherland
Production Administrator:	Tricia Ratcliffe
Front of House:	Lynne Glover & Richard Elgood, assisted by Ann Cross, Michelle Grainger, Anne Grinter, Sandra Jeans, Veronika Jordan, Jill Muir, Louise Palmer & Mary Smith
Publicity & Ticket Sales:	Joyce Parsons
Posters & Programme:	Peter Grainger with Andrew Laver
Photography:	Caroline Sparkes & Peter Grainger
Car Parking:	Chris Flippance & Nigel Jones



5



IN REHEARSAL



6

Thank you...

The production contains the generous gift of a specially-written composition by the international - but local - teacher, composer and friend, Gilbert Biberian, and will be played by him at each performance. We will also be including some memorable musical moments from *'Whose Birthday?'* in 2000 by Sue Trickey and Malcolm Dunbar. A special 'thank you' to Gilbert and our continued appreciation for Sue and Malcolm's lovely music.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell has kindly given us permission to use an extract from the opening chapter of his *'The Things He Said - the Story of The First Easter Day'* and we are very grateful for his support. The 'retrospective' images were taken at the open air production of *'The Life of Christ'* at Wintershall in 2009.

Without C K Junior School and St Mary's Church there would not be the extent of staging that we have here, and we thank them very much for their loans. A big 'thank you' goes to St Edward's Senior and Junior Schools for the generous use of their halls for rehearsals and to C K Baptist Church for the use of their Lounge, Hall and projector.

We are very grateful to Sacred Hearts Church for the use of their fine hall during rehearsals in March, the three public performances and for all their help with the arrangements. We must also add our appreciation to all those who have been unable to use the hall because of our presence here this week...

We very much appreciate the on-going help we receive from the 'Blend' Coffee Shop, Charlton Kings Pharmacy, 'Second Wind' with publicity and the selling of our tickets, and the new 'Kings Coffee House' for its great display site! Last but not least, our thanks to St Mary's Church for all their help in the preparation and printing of this programme.

In our twenty years of existence the Charlton Kings Community Players have raised over £24,000 for local charities.

Any profits from this production will be donated to **CHARLTON KINGS JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB** to enable them to buy activity equipment, for example to develop 'Circus Skills' - not too far removed from our activities...!

The Club meets 4.30-6.30pm on Tuesdays at the Youth & Community Centre in the Precinct.

7











Cast and production team © Peter Grainger photos & montages

2012 – The Charlton Kings Churches' 'Walk of Witness' in Charlton Kings on Good Friday.

The street theatre was a piece called '*Josh on Trial*' from the main production '*A Man For This Season*' put on in 2013.



Thoughts of Passion – ‘*A Man For This Season*’

When Andy first asked me to write down my thoughts about ‘*A Man For This Season*’ after nine months I thought ‘*How long have I got?*’! It’s now four years since it all started and it’s turned out to have been a strange sequence of peaks and troughs of emotion, from the impact of ‘*Josh on Trial*’ to Pete’s (Don’s) burst appendix two weeks before the opening night!

And yet, looking back now, each crisis created a completely new and exciting development. From a Catholic’s concern that we should not be recognising the ‘Resurrection’ in Holy Week came Bishop Stephen’s beautiful script, Gilbert’s sublime composition and playing, and Helen’s solo evocation of Mary Magdalene’s grief. We thought we had ‘no youngsters’ but by the end the majority of the ‘Followers’ were actually under 21 – if we include the Crowd Girl’s ‘conversion’ at the end!

But the key memory that stayed with me from the beginning was the ease with which the play materialised, both in terms of the script, the contemporary parallels and the staging in the hall. As a result it seemed that the whole project was ‘meant’ to happen; surely nothing would stand in its way! When we finally found a way of creating a contemporary ‘Crucifixion’, thanks to Martin and David’s amazing creativity, we had a complete contemporary version

...

Clearly my chief memories focus on the performers, and I think I can only highlight them as a sort of kaleidoscope of achievement and thanks. First must be Kieron as ‘Josh’, not only all those lines (by an amateur writer) to learn, but total dedication and such a moving and convincing performance which held everything together. The patience of all the ‘Followers’ with an unknown and unstable script, the enthusiasm (and bravery?) of the young people, the resilience and warmth of Don and Helen – wonderful! Then there were the team of ‘nasties’ and the crowd who kept the play so alive later on, that lovely reading and all that technical talent, projecting upstage at ridiculous angles. And then there was Tony, who asked me that first ‘commissioning’ question and stuck with it all until finally persuaded to perform – memorably! I could of course go on but the main thing is to say ‘thank you’ to you all for all your commitment and talent.

The results of all those efforts were almost overwhelming, not only from the audience’s reaction over the three performances, but from the kind and moving comments you all made in the card you gave me. It is because of all these reactions that my one regret is the lack of coverage in the local Press and the omission of our video from the Cathedral Service last month. But at least we are on the Gloucester Diocesan website... It would be wonderful if all your efforts could bring about a follow-up production next Easter in a community not too far away!

Peter Grainger

December 2013 Charlton Kings Community Players newsletter