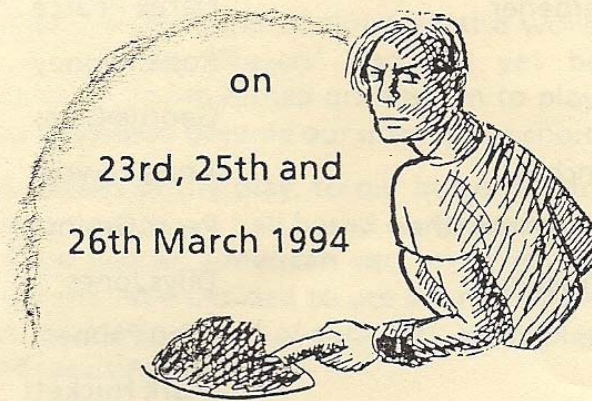


Charlton Kings Community Players
present

The Vigil

by Ladislav Fodor



on
23rd, 25th and
26th March 1994

at Sacred Hearts Hall, Charlton Kings

PROGRAMME

*Donations from the proceeds of
the production will be made to
the Young Homeless Project and the
Gloucester Children's Holiday Scheme*

20p

ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION...

The inspiration for this production was the production in Gloucester Cathedral, in which Martyn Fry took the part he is playing tonight. I recall coming out of the cathedral thinking what a wonderful play to produce locally – and the 'Players' had not yet been set up! Encouraged by Martyn's undiminished enthusiasm to play the Defence Counsel again, *The Vigil* soon became our unanimous choice.

When we sent for copies of the play, to our horror we found that the 'cathedral' version on which we had based our selection was no longer available; instead we had an American version which in many places was markedly different. We decided to use what we considered to be the best – the most dramatic – parts of each text, and we are certain you will approve of the resulting drama.

In translating the action into a UK court it soon became apparent that barristers in this country do not after all move around the courtroom like Perry Mason, but to anchor them to their desks would severely limit the dramatic impact. We would therefore ask lawyers present to forgive the liberties we may have taken with the legal niceties – it's all in the cause of art!

Fodor's opening scene is set in the southern states of the USA, but was anglicised in the Gloucester version. We have added a short new scene at the start to establish the context of the relationship between the Defence and Prosecution counsels, a relationship which provides one of the key dynamics of the play.

Finally, I have been concerned that our audience should feel more involved with the activities and characters than is often the case in courtroom dramas. Every witness is therefore a character from *our* times, and their testimony as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago.

Peter Grainger

The production in Gloucester Cathedral referenced above was directed by John Nash and performed by the Cathedral Players. That group also performed a set of mystery plays and three members of the Charlton Kings Community Players were involved being Martyn Fry, Lynne Glover and Anne Lawrie.

Ladislav Fodor (1898-1978) was a Hungarian novelist, playwright and screenwriter. 'The Vigil' was written in 1947.



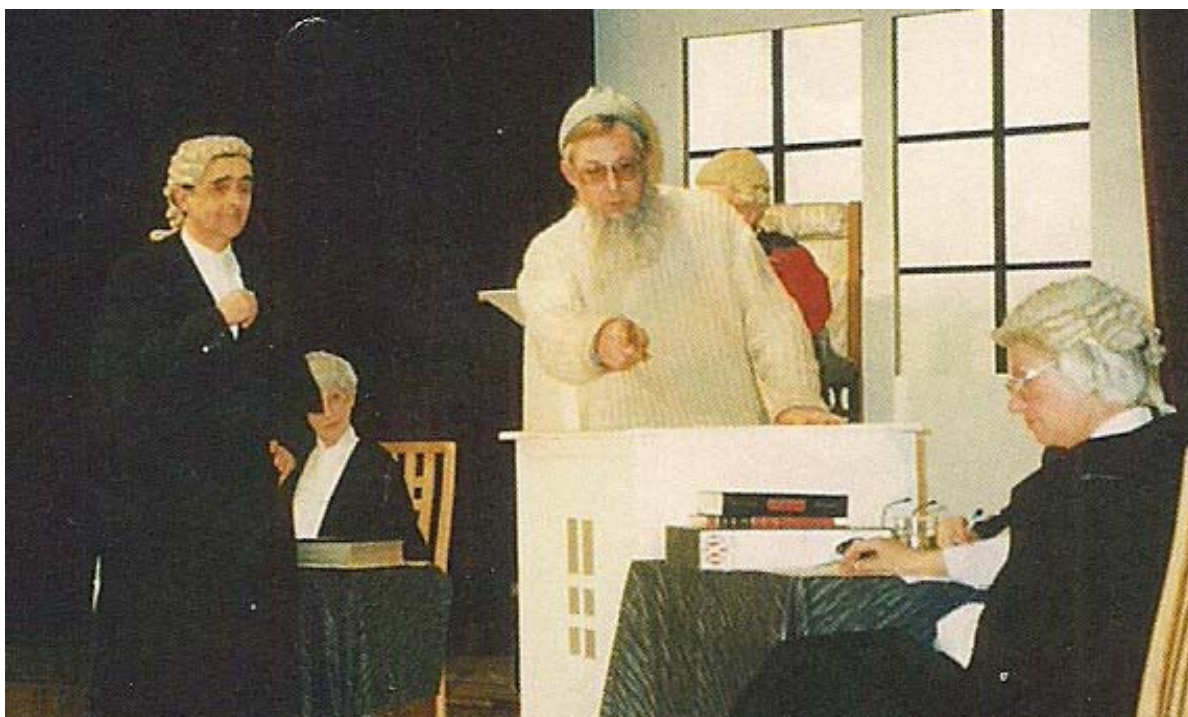
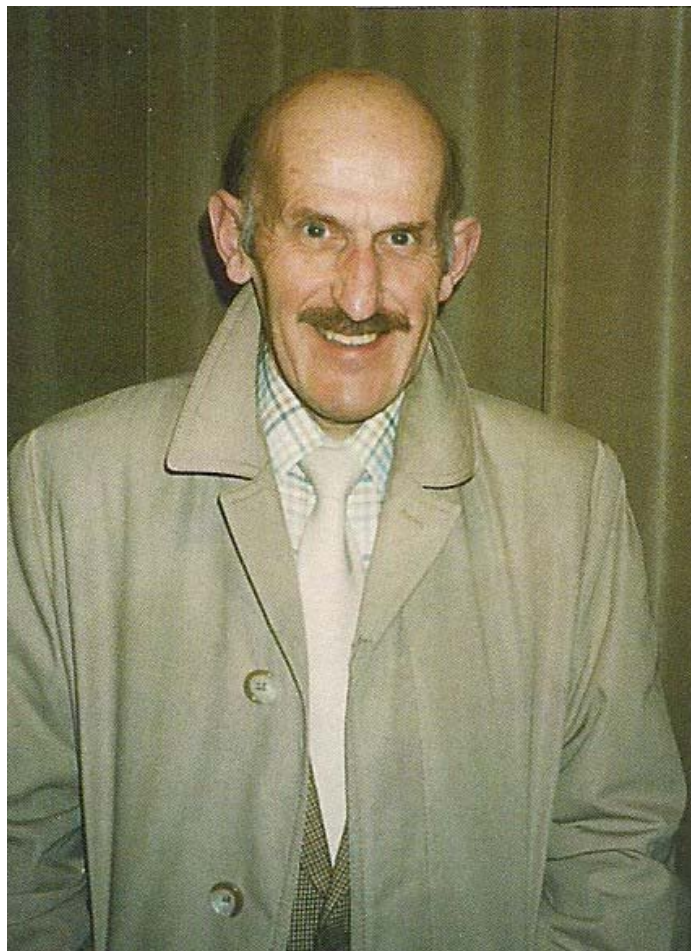


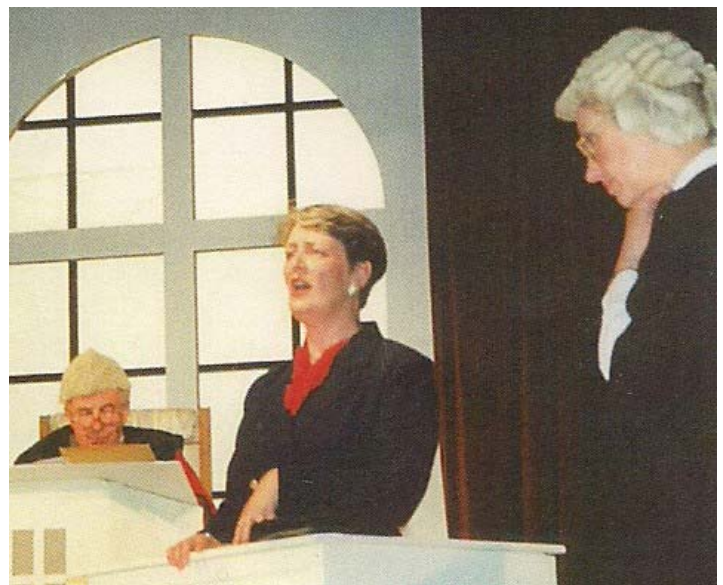
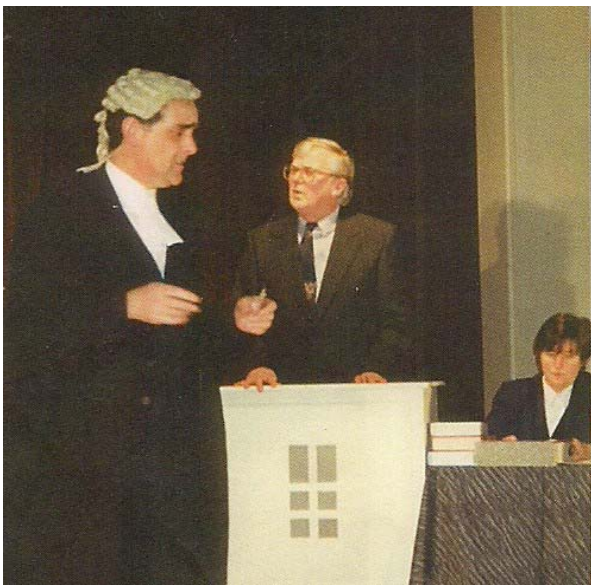
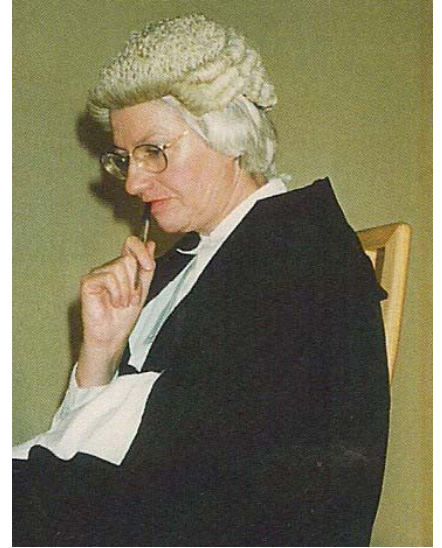
The gardener and the judge



Mary Magdalene with Counsels for the Defence and the Prosecution

Witnesses and Counsels





Prosecuting Counsel addresses the Court

THE CAST

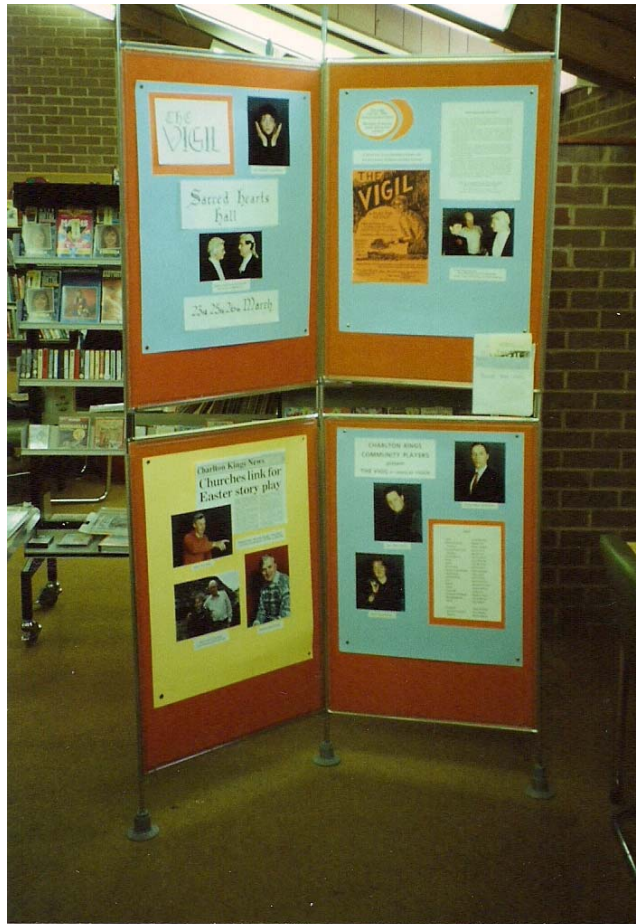
Judge	David Stanley
Defence Counsel	Martyn Fry
Assistant	Alison Talbot
Prosecuting Counsel	Alison Luna
Assistant	Doreen Fry
Clerk of the Court	June Pearce
The Gardener	Derek Pearce
Esther	Rosie Penney
Lucius	George Cross
Mrs Pinchas	Anne Lawrie
Joseph of Arimathea	Peter Grainger
Lady Procula	Dilys Jones
Pontius Pilate	John Palmer
Saul	Mark Hockett
Beulah	Genevieve Cross
Sadoc	Tony Farthing
Susannah	Jill Richell
Professor Thaddeus	Melanie Stern
Mary Magdalen	Lynne Glover
Simon	Ray Talbot
Producer	Peter Grainger
Assistant Producer	June Pearce
Lighting and Sound	Richard Mead, assisted by Tom Breeze
Set Construction	Ray Talbot and Alan Penney

Front of House	Yvonne Brawn and Margaret Walker
Publicity	Barbara Penney, June Pearce and Peter Grainger; poster design by Ian Alexander
Treasurer	Derek Pearce

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Acts I and II and a short pause between Acts II and III.

The play is a court-room drama in which a gardener is on trial accused of stealing the body of Jesus from the tomb on the first Easter morning. The Anglican, Baptist and Catholic churches are represented with an ecumenical cast of 17 characters.

Displays in Charlton Kings Library and the Opticians at Sixways



CHARLTON KINGS COMMUNITY PLAYERS

'The Players' were set up on a permanent basis in March 1992 by those who had enjoyed what they called 'the wonderful spiritual feel' of the two earlier 'Community Drama' productions, 'Rock Nativity' and 'From Pharaoh to Freedom'. The aim of the group is

*'to encourage faith, fun and fellowship
through ecumenical involvement in a variety
of drama and musical activities for all ages.'*

Since then we have performed 'Toad of Toad Hall' at St Edwards School in December 1992, and with local groups raised £1000 from a cabaret evening for 'Children in Need'.

Our singing group, with those not involved in major productions, entertain at appropriate village occasions, such as Harvest suppers and homes for the elderly. We would be pleased to hear of any event at which you might like us to provide a little light entertainment.

Members of the group are drawn from all the churches but anyone who lives or works in Charlton Kings is most welcome to join us in any of our activities. If you would like to know more, please contact our Chairman, June Pearce (516953), or Secretary, Ann Cross (239569), or come along to our forthcoming AGM on Monday 11th April at Charlton Kings Junior School.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank those responsible for Sacred Hearts Hall for the generous hire terms allowed for this production, and to Sheila Morgan for all her help. We are most grateful to Rev John Evans for his kind permission to use the Baptist church for two important rehearsals.

We much appreciate the ready willingness of 'Sounds Good' and 'The Vine' to sell tickets for us, and to Tony Farthing for combining the role of super salesman and ticket administrator. Finally our special thanks to old friends who always seem to help us out, Richard Elgood for two rostra from St Edwards, Joyce Brooks for two splendid display wigs created from nowhere, and to Barry Curl for his striking photographs taken in less than ideal circumstances!

A joyful Easter to you all!

