



The Guild Players are part of Finchley Methodist Church but we also have many people connected with us from the surrounding community. New members are always welcome, whether you are interested in acting or backstage roles. If you would like further details of the Players, or would like to join, please contact our membership secretary Betty Robertson on 020 xxxx xxxx

For more information about us, including photos of past productions visit our extensive website at www.guildplayers.org.uk

To receive details of forthcoming Guild Players productions, please ask to be added to our audience mailing list.

Our next production . . .

TONS OF MONEY

**A FARCE BY EVANS & VALENTINE
ADAPTED BY ALAN AYCKBOURN**

Aubrey Henry Maitland Allington is an unsuccessful inventor with a list of debts longer than his name. When financial relief arrives in the form of a large inheritance, Aubrey's exuberance is quickly quashed when he realises that his creditors will certainly snatch up all of his newly acquired "tons of money" before he lays his hands on it. His wife, Louise, comes up with an ingenious scheme but complications force them to take drastic steps. Chaos and confusion ensue.

This 1920s Aldwych Farce was revised by Alan Ayckbourn in 1986 for a production at the National Theatre.

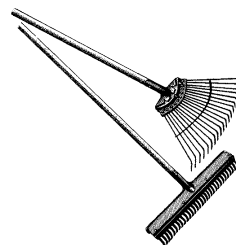
Thursday 17th May at 7.45 pm
Friday 18th May at 7.45 pm
Saturday 19th May at 7.45 pm

Finchley Methodist Church Hall
Ballards Lane, London N3

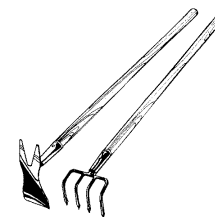
Box Office opens mid April
020 xxxx xxxx Tickets £7



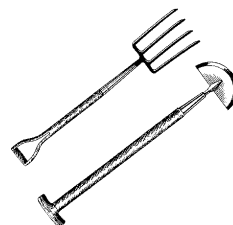
present . . .



The



Gardener's



Tale



a short modern 'mystery play' for Holy Week by Mike Sparks

Tuesday 3rd April 2007

7.00 pm Emmanuel Church, Lyncroft Gardens, West Hampstead NW2

Wednesday 4th April 2007

8.00 pm St John's URC, Mowbray Road, New Barnet EN5

Maundy Thursday 5th April 2007

8.45 pm Camden Road Baptist Church, Hilldrop Road, Holloway N7

Good Friday 6th April 2007

3.00 pm St Cuthbert's Church, Fordwych Road, West Hampstead NW2

8.00 pm Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, Finchley N3

Programme

The Gardener's Tale

Setting

A garden in Jerusalem

Cast

Gardener	Sue Efthimiou
Husband <i>of the gardener</i>	Ben Anderson
Woman	Emily Bridges
Sister <i>of the gardener</i>	Penni Nachir
Simon	Chris Thompson
Joseph of Arimathea	Stephen Sewell
Pilate	Paul Sparks

Production Team

Director	Helen Costin
Costume	The Cast
Set & Props	Teresa Solano Katherine Hayes
Lighting	Andy Higgins Martin Higgins
Sound	Helen Costin Mike Sparks

Mystery plays date back to medieval times, when groups of local people would perform sets of popular religious plays, telling key bible stories from creation, Jesus' life and death, to the last judgement.

From about the eleventh century, plays on biblical subjects were acted out in church by the clergy. These plays became very popular, and eventually moved out of the church into streets and marketplaces, to be performed in English, by lay people, on religious holidays.

The performers who took over from the clergymen were mostly members of craftsmens' guilds which were commonly known as 'mysteries', from the Latin 'mysterium', meaning 'handicraft' or 'office'. Thus, the plays they performed came to be known as 'mystery plays'.

The plays evolved to include topical social themes and comic scenes and jokes, with wildly extravagant costumes and special effects, although the emphasis remained on the message of God's relationship with man and on the promise of salvation through Christ.

The mystery plays would often be performed around the feast of Corpus Christi, which normally falls in mid-June, in an atmosphere of great festivity. The guilds performed on decorated carts called 'pageants', with each play being performed by a particular guild, on a separate cart. On the day of the festival the pageants travelled in procession through the town. Each pageant stopped at each street to perform its play, and then moved on, to be replaced by the next pageant, performing the next episode in the sacred drama. Although each play was fairly short, the complete cycle of plays took a very long time, sometimes more than three days!

A separate subgroup of plays telling the Easter Passion stories developed, and were often performed in Holy Week.

Alongside mystery plays, there is a tradition of country drama 'mummers' plays. These folk dramas also involve travelling bands of local performers, and the stories, although at first glance appearing to be more secular, share the themes of resurrection and the triumph of good over evil with the passion and mystery plays.

Mike Sparks' modern language piece draws on these traditions - a folk drama of the Easter story, acted by local people, travelling to different venues, and combining performance, celebration and worship.

Here in Holy Week we deal with one of the major planks of the Christian religion. The mystery play format enables us to look at what went on around the main events and how the ordinary people who had been involved, perhaps only on the fringes, might have viewed what was happening. How did it affect them, their lives, and the lives of those around them? Can we add to the understanding of events by looking at them through different people's eyes? *"The Gardener's Tale"* follows on from our previous productions, *"The Soldiers Tale"* and *"An Inn Keeper's Tale"*, in trying to do this in a straightforward and accessible way, without losing the impact of the story.