

EASTER DIARIES

By
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These monologues were first broadcast on BBC Radio 4 Extra during Easter 2012 with the following cast ...

- The Man in the Temple: Iain McKee
- John: Don Gilet
- Peter: Sam Dale
- Herod Antipas: Tim McInnery
- Mary: Lesley Sharp
- The Thief's Sister: Amaka Okafor
- Mary Magdalene: Tracey Wiles

They were produced by Paul Arnold

There are several ways of presenting the monologues. You can announce them before they're read, or allow people to find out who's speaking by listening to what they say. You can present each group as a single performance, or choose one to fit in with a particular service. (If you present all of them, they should be done in the order given.)

They can be performed on their own or they can be combined with music and/or silence. They can be done as straightforward readings, either learned or read, or they can be dramatised – by adding light, movement, costume, music and so on. If they're presented in a church, you can make use of different locations in the building and move the audience round. Alternatively, they can be done simply as voices, with the speakers remaining unseen.

The Man in the Temple

The Outer Courts of the Temple

MAN: A man should come to the Temple. Once in his lifetime, come to Jerusalem and stand in the courts of the Temple, at the heart of his nation. A man should stand there and contemplate God in his life.

We all came down from the north, travelling together. At first it was just Jesus and his followers, the ones he chose, the ones who'd been with him in Galilee, and we were all in good heart. Then, the further south we came, the more folk joined us. Walking along with us. And all in good heart.

When we came in at the city gates we were singing. Everyone was singing.

It's Passover so the city's crowded, the outer courts of the Temple thronged with people, but the mood's changed. Not singing now but argument, fierce argument, and the Temple officials watching it all, standing in the colonnades and watching.

Everything is volatile.

A leader, a true leader, could make something of that. A word can become a spark and a spark can fire an uprising.

I waited but no word came. There was nothing.

So I left him with his arguments and went further into the Temple. To the inner courts. And the further in you go the quieter it gets, and the closer to God you are. You're away from the thick of the crowd.

You don't go there to argue. You go to kneel and to think about where you're kneeling. You make offerings to God, in awe. You consider what God's done for you, and what he asks of you.

So I knelt, to pray, and when I stood up I knew what I had to do.

After dusk I went to find those watchers, the Temple Guards.

I said to them, "Listen to me. My name is Judas Iscariot; I can give the chief priests what they're looking for. You have to listen to me."