

# SACRED SPACES

A year in the life of a church community: nine short dramas to be performed separately or as a single one-act play

by

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*Sacred Spaces* is a volume of nine short dramas each of which stands on its own, but performed together they add up to a one-act play which provides a sequence of snapshots in the life of a church community during the course of a year.

Six core characters can be played by men or women: the number of players required for the plays varies between one and six. Easy to stage, each short play is suitable for a particular season in the Church's year. They last between three and fifteen minutes and the whole sequence lasts around an hour. A brief description of each play follows:

**BIRTHDAY** by James Lark

Pentecost: an unwelcome guest disrupts preparations for a party to celebrate a Church's Centenary and raises questions as to whom should be welcomed. Cast: 6 of either sex. Duration: 10minutes

**WAITING ROOM** by Les Ellison

Advent: During discussions about a proposed new Church building it becomes apparent that there are different ways of waiting to know God's will. Cast: 2 of either sex. Duration: 3 minutes

**CHRISTMAS SPIRIT** by Les Ellison

Diverse opinions are expressed as how best to get over the message of Christmas at the Carol Service. Cast: 4 of either sex. Duration: 4 minutes

**PROMISE** by Nick Warburton

A number of work-related problems are brought to the Leader of the Church who realises that there are no easy answers. Cast: 2 of either sex. Duration: 3 minutes

**CAKE THURSDAY** by James Lark

Lent: A bizarre conversation leaves the Leader confused as to the general perception of how Lent should be observed. Cast: 2 of either sex. Duration: 4 minutes

**MOTHERING SUNDAY** by Les Ellison

Three generations, Grandmother, Mother and daughter come to understand and accept each other and also to welcome others into their extended family. Cast: 3 women and 2 men. Duration: 15 minutes

**EASTER HYMN** by James Lark

An unconventional take on the preparations for Easter Day as parishioners voice their opinions on what kind of music should be used. Cast: 5 of either sex. Duration: 7 minutes

**A MATTER OF BALANCE** by Nick Warburton

Harvest: Two members of a Church are at odds over what constitutes a proper offering at Harvest. Cast 2 of either sex. Duration: 4 minutes

**MEMORIAL** by Nick Warburton

Remembrance: Discussions are under way about the cleaning and restoration of the war memorial and whether names of deserters should be removed. One member of the committee is strangely silent until, at last, he speaks out. Cast: 1 man, 3 of either sex. Duration: 5 minutes.