



a RESURRECTION FOR YORK

Presented at
Resident's Garden . Dean's Park . York
3 & 4 July 2021

A community production
directed by Philip Parr

York
Mystery
Plays
supporters trust



**A message from the
Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of York,
Reverend Councillor Chris Cullwick**



Along with the other members of the Civic Party I attended the first performance of ‘A Resurrection for York’ and also had the opportunity to speak with several members of the cast afterwards. We were so pleased to have been invited to do so.

Having taken part in several productions of the waggon plays myself, I have some idea how much work is involved to make such a performance possible. To produce this collection from the cycle of plays at any time would be a challenge, but to produce it in the current circumstances and restrictions is even more of an achievement. I congratulate all involved in this timely and creative project.

We have learnt many things over the last 16 months and, in particular, we have learnt how important it is that we work together to achieve common goals. This performance was only possible through the cooperation of several different bodies, which came together for this purpose, and perhaps this is a pointer for securing the future of performances of the York Mystery Plays in the city.

I really appreciate the timeliness of this production, as together we come through the darkness of these last months, towards what we all hope will be a brighter tomorrow; a resurrection for York.

the plan

The original plan was for the play to take place at the most appropriate time - Easter. However, everyone is aware of what has happened to 'original plans' over the last 18 months.

We moved the performance to Corpus Christi, but continuing national problems prevented that, so the first weekend in July became our target date - and we made it, despite the best efforts of our English weather!

the funds

Given the national circumstances at the time, the production was planned to incur the minimum of expenditure with costs held back until there was a degree of certainty that performances could take place. This included costing the production on the assumption that an audience might not be able to attend.

Applications for funding were made to the Passion Trust who awarded the production with £2000 to cover the costs of filming by Vidaveo.com. This facilitated a live-streaming of the event (hampered in the end by torrential rain) and the creation of a [film version available via YouTube](#) on a free to view basis in perpetuity and which would also be sent to the city archive of the Mystery Plays at the National Centre for Early Music.

The Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation awarded £1000 as did the Lord Mayor's Two Rivers Fund. The Lord Mayor of York at the time, Councillor Janet Looker, was pleased to support the continuation of the Mystery Play tradition in York with this award.

There were 50 tickets for each of the six performances, all of which sold out in advance with some returns being sold on the day at the gate.

the play

Earlier this year we announced the appointment of our director, Philip Parr, who directed our 'Nativity for York' in December 2019. We knew that we could expect a stirring piece of theatre from Philip which would resonate with the current times. Tom Straszewski, of the Festival Trust, worked with Philip to create a script which would surround the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ.

The next step was auditions, all carried out remotely, followed by the appointment of our cast. On-going restrictions prevented face-to-face rehearsals until the very last minute, so it was a huge achievement on everyone's part that we could bring the whole performance together so effectively on the day.

Social distancing required all actors to maintain an appropriate distance from each other, so there was no physical representation of the crucifixion of Christ.

the crew



The arrival of the wagons was an uplifting moment. Our thanks and admiration go to Dave Clapham, Mark Morton and Adam Robinson for their skill in manoeuvring the trailer and wagons through Dean's Park. It was a tight squeeze through the gates, but our three-man team did a great job



Front of House Team



Pictured above back row left to right:

**Gary Bateson (Front of House Manager)
Joan Pritchard, Chris Jackson, Judy Reed,
Janet Sharpe, Jenny Kilmartin, Anna
Briggs, Gordon Smith, Sue Harris**

Front row:

**Linda Terry (Chair YMPST), Karen Hill and
Margaret O'Donnell**



the cast

Pilgrim 1: Wilma Edwards

Pilgrim 2: Michael Maybridge

Pilgrim 3: Victoria Rooke

Pilgrim 4: Mary Callan

Pilgrim 5: Nick Jones, Narrator

Pilgrim 6: Sally Maybridge Narrator, Peter

Pilgrim 7: Chris Pomfrett, John

Pilgrim 9: Julie Speedie

Pilgrim 10: Judith Ireland Mary,
Mother of Christ

Pilgrim 11: Jodie Fletcher, Mary Cleophas

Pilgrim 12: Tony Froud, Joseph of
Arimathea

Pilgrim 13: Sonia di Lorenzo, Nicodemus

Pilgrim 14: Emily Hansen, Mary Magdalene

Pilgrim 15: Raqhael Harte, Thomas

Pilgrim 16: Samuel Valentine, Centurion

Pilgrim 17: David Harrison, Soldier 1

Pilgrim 18: Harold Mozley, Soldier 2

Pilgrim 19: Janice Newton, Soldier 3

Pilgrim 20: Colin Lea, Soldier 4

A visitor: David Denbigh







the team

Director:

Philip Parr

Associate Director:

Terry Ram

Producer:

Simon Tompsett

Front of House Manager:

Gary Bateson

Script:

Adapted from the York Mystery Plays by Tom Straszewski with Philip Parr

Publicity:

Stewart Hildred (YMPST) and Tom Outing (York Minster)

Photography:

John Saunders for the cast and rehearsal photographs

Grateful thanks go to our sponsors:

The Passion Trust
Lord Mayor's Two Rivers Fund

Thanks to:

The Butchers Guild and Company of Merchant Taylors for the loan of the wagons
Holy Trinity Goodramgate and Southlands Chapel for their co-operation in providing rehearsal space
Pat Dunlop and the Minster Police for their advice and support
Joy Warner and Jenna Drury for their enthusiasm and commitment and who couldn't in the end take part

Planning Committee:

York Festival Trust: Roger Lee, Dave Clapham and Tom Straszewski
York Minster: Danny Knight and Canon Michael Smith
YMPST: Linda Terry, Gary Bateson and Simon Tompsett

In the summer of 2022 the [Mystery Plays](#) will once again be performed as the wagons return to the streets of York.