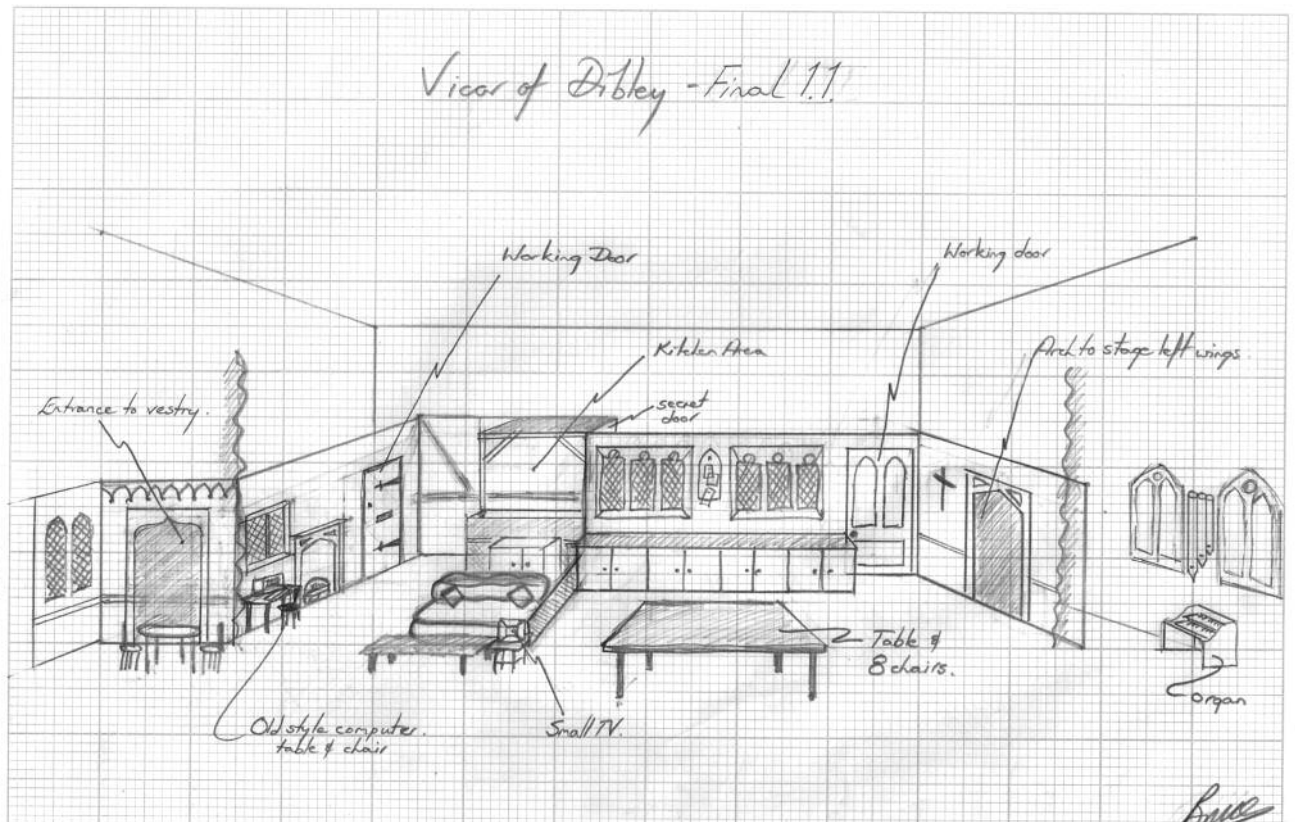


The Vicar of Dibley

A stage play by Ian Gower and Paul Carpenter
adapted from the original TV series
by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer.
With kind permission of Tiger Aspect Productions



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First presented by Tring Festival Company at The Court Theatre, Tring
Hertfordshire, on 8th March 2011 with the following cast and creative team:

Cast of Characters

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| David Horton | Dave Barratt |
| Geraldine Granger | Grace Bishop |
| Hugo Horton | Andy Faber |
| Alice Tinker | Maxine Reece |
| Letitia Cropley | Lyndsay Smith |
| Jim Trott | Lee Marsh |
| Frank Pickle | Dave Reece |
| Owen Newitt | Dennis Fugard |
| Woman | Regina Dobbs |
| Children: | |
| Lizzie | Lizzie De Luisgnan |
| Katie | Kate De Luisgnan |
| Archie | Archie Brooks |
| Cameron | Cameron Wilson |
| Luke | Luke Sherring-Lucas |

Creative and Production Team

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Adaptors | Ian Gower and Paul Carpenter |
| Director | Ian Gower |
| Producers | Ian and Cheryl Muirhead |
| Set Design | Bruce Sherring-Lucas |
| Lighting Design | Mike Sherring-Lucas |
| Sound | Jack Cotterill |
| Stage Manager | Geraldine Smallwood |
| Costume Supervisor | Deborah Gardiner |
| Props Supervisor | Sarah Amsden |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Terry Richardson |
| Hair and Make Up | Jayne Tardieu, Angie Parsons, Claire Ashwell |
| Set Construction | Paul Stratford, David Everton, Colin Winter, George Gardiner |
| Technician | Simon Ruck, |
| Music Advisor | Rob Alderton |
| Stage Crew | Chris Dearden, Carolyn Amer, Mark Richardson |

The production of
The Vicar Of Dibley
at The Court Theatre, Tring is
in loving memory and honour
of our wonderful friends

Ginny Faber

who tragically died a few weeks
before the curtain went up.

She was to have played Geraldine Granger.

and

Maxine Reece

who passed away a year later
and played Alice so wonderfully.

We love and miss you both.

Production Note:

This stage adaptation of The Vicar Of Dibley takes its source primarily from the first two series of the show aired between 1994 and 1998. Series one consisted of 6 episodes and series two only 4 episodes. Although some of the later episodes and specials have been referenced.

As such weekly episodes were based on monthly/weekly Parish Council Meetings so it is important in its production to accent time lines with the use of costumes and other suitable devices to denote the passing of a period of time.

A directors note explaining this and a synopsis of scenes would be advisable in the programme to give the audience every opportunity to understand the time lines involved.

It would of course be simpler to keep all characters in the same costume but this would not do the original series the justice it deserves.

Although as much time as possible has been allowed for costume changes in general there are some that will have to be undertaken with planning, speed and efficiency.

Synopsis of Scenes:

Act One

Opening Sequence

Scene One - The Parish Hall - Arrival

Scene Two - The Vicarage - A Little Later

Scene Three - The Parish Hall - The Following Evening

Scene Four - The Vestry - The Next Sunday evening

Scene Five - The Church Hall - A Few Weeks Later - Shrove Tuesday

Scene Six - The Vicarage - The Following Morning

Scene Seven - The Parish Hall - A Week Later - The Weekly Meeting

Scene Eight - The Vicarage - The Next Morning

Scene Nine - The Parish Hall - Just After Easter

Scene Ten - The Vicarage - The Following Morning

Act Two

Scene One - The Vicarage

Scene Two - The Parish Hall - Later That Day

Scene Three - The Parish Hall - A Little Later

Scene Four - The Vicarage - Later The Same Day

Scene Five - The Parish Hall - That Evening

Scene Six - The Parish Hall - A Week Later - The Weekly Meeting

Scene Seven - The Vicarage - A Few Weeks Later

Scene Eight - The Parish Hall - That Evening

Scene Nine - The Vicarage - The Morning Of The Wedding

Scene Ten - The Parish Hall - Just Before The Wedding

Scene Eleven - St. Barnabus Church - The Ceremony

Scene Twelve - The Parish Hall - The Reception

The Epilogue - The Vestry - That Evening

Act One - Opening Sequence

<House music fades out>

<House lights fade>

<Music up>

<Tabs open as music reaches its conclusion>

(Dibley Parish Hall. Sat round a large wooden table are David Horton, Frank Pickle, Jim Trott and Letitia Cropley. A meeting is about to start.)

Act One Scene One - The Parish Hall - Arrival

<Lights up on Hall>

DAVID Are we all here?

FRANK Yes, perfectly.

DAVID Not *can* we all hear - are we all here?

(Hugo enters and sits at his usual place.)

FRANK I'm sorry. Yes, all except Owen.

DAVID Well, let's get on shall we? Owen's always late and we've got a lot of business. Right, I call this meeting of the Dibley Parish Council to order. David Horton in the chair, Frank Pickle taking minutes.

FRANK Shall I minute that sir?

DAVID What?

FRANK About my taking the minutes.

DAVID Do you normally minute it?

FRANK Well, yes I do.

DAVID Then do it again.

FRANK Oh, thank you.

DAVID The agenda this week starts with the tragic news of the death of Reverend Pottle two weeks ago.

(They all murmur agreement.)

He had been a great servant of the village ever since his arrival here as a young-ish man in 1927.

JIM Happy days.

DAVID And while we are looking forward to welcoming our new vicar this evening I am sure we will all remember Reverend Pottle with great fondness. Particularly for his Christmas sermon which I think we all know by heart. He shall be greatly missed.

HUGO Hear, Hear.

DAVID Anyone want to add anything to that?

JIM Ah, no, no, no, no, no, no, yes. Just one thing. If that's all right.

DAVID Yes fire away.

JIM No, no, no, no, no, but I thought maybe we should mention the marrow.

DAVID And what marrow's that?

JIM Ah - he, he, he came second in the marrow-growing contest in 1956.

HUGO Oh, bravo.

DAVID Well, excellent - yes, we'll include that. Anything else?

JIM No, no, no, no, no.

(David stares at him in irritation.)

DAVID That's 'no' is it?

JIM No, no, no, no, no, yes.

(Owen enters.)

DAVID Right. Moving on.

OWEN Sorry, I'm late.

DAVID That's all right, Owen, we've only just begun.

OWEN My bladder's been playing up again. I've spent so much time in the bloody stables toilet I'm thinking of sending out change of address cards.

DAVID Yes thank you, Owen. Moving on, last week was the Village Of The Year Competition and I've written to Buckingham Palace thanking them so much for Prince Edward's visit.

MRS CROPLEY Hear, hear.

OWEN Shame.

DAVID I beg your pardon.

OWEN I've nothing against Prince Edward, though I don't usually trust bald blokes.

(David reacts)

I'm just surprised we don't start with the Reverend's death.

DAVID We dealt with that before you arrived, Owen.

OWEN Oh.

DAVID Now moving on.

FRANK Perhaps you'd like me to read the minutes back to you, Owen, so you can catch up.

DAVID I don't think that will be necessary. We don't need to waste our whole evening because of Owen's dodgy waterworks.

FRANK Shall I minute that?

DAVID (Firmly.) No, Thank you . Right...

FRANK Shall I leave a gap then?

DAVID Whatever you think, Frank.

FRANK Well, it's not going to flow very well.

DAVID (Now annoyed) Oh, for goodness sake, Frank - you are the Parish Clerk, not Alfred Lord Tennyson. Right - I'm sorry everyone for that rather annoying interlude, but if we *can* move on to the question of the successor to Reverend Pottle.

FRANK Are you sure about that?

DAVID What, Frank? - What?

FRANK Well, you just described Prince Edward's visit as a rather annoying interlude.

DAVID I certainly did not.

FRANK Well, I'm afraid you did - I cut that jolly interesting bit about Owen's bladder, so now it reads, 'So much for Prince Edward's visit. And if we can move on from that rather annoying interlude'.

DAVID Oh God.

OWEN Look, could we get on? I've got a worrying feeling in my colon.

MRS CROPLEY Errm...

DAVID Yes.

MRS CROPLEY Nothing.

FRANK Do you want that minuted, Mrs Cropley?

MRS CROPLEY Oh, yes, I suppose so.

FRANK Excellent. (Writing.) 'Then Mrs Cropley said nothing'.

DAVID Now, moving on. I did of course ask the Bishop for someone a little younger than the Reverend Pottle.

MRS CROPLEY Yes, please.

DAVID But then I think it would be hard to find anyone older ... without actually recruiting a member of the Rolling Stones.

(He finds this hilariously funny but no one else does and they all look at him with derision.)

Right. Now before the new vicar arrives if we can quickly go through the planning applications which I think you'll find on pink 7a
(They all shuffle through their papers.)

The Herberts want a new Barn. Rejected. The Franklins want a new kitchen. Rejected. And, my son Hugo here is putting up a conservatory for his South American flower collection which I think should be fine.

HUGO Excellent news. Somewhere for the pool table at last.

DAVID Right, any other business?

OWEN Definitely not. (He rushes off to the toilet.)

DAVID Thank you all very much. Have you got all that Frank?

FRANK Yes, ' .. without actually recruiting a member of the Rolling Stones.' What comes next?

(David looks at him in doomed exasperation.)

DAVID (Looking at his watch) Meeting closed at ... 8.15.

FRANK (Writing.) 8.....15....

DAVID Now, come on everybody the new vicar will be here any moment now (he shuffles his papers and rises as does Hugo) and we'll finally be able to get this village going again. Do you remember at last year's fete Potty Pottle, God rest his soul, awarded the prize for best carrot to a cucumber!

JIM No, no, no, no, no, Yes he did.

(David and Hugo move down stage away from the others)

HUGO He was losing it a bit towards the end. Though I did agree the Bishop of Oxford deserved first prize in the fancy dress competition.

DAVID For being dressed as a Bishop.

HUGO That's right. Brilliant.

DAVID Well those days are gone. Apparently this new chap is superb. Personally recommended by the Bishop of Wyckham. It's about time we had someone with half a brain on the Parish Council.

(Hugo coughs.)

Oh yes, well apart from your good self. At least we can give that frightful verger Alice the heave-ho.

HUGO (Who is fond of Alice.) I don't think she'll be very happy about that.

DAVID Tough luck. She's an imbecile.

HUGO But she's awfully keen.

DAVID Yes - Eddie the Eagle was very keen. But the kind thing to do would still have been to shoot him between the eyes the first time he put on a pair of skis. No I think the new chap will see sense. Sack Alice and sack Mrs Cropley - I've seen better flower arrangements on a compost heap.

(Alice enters.)

HUGO Shhh. Father, she'll hear you.

DAVID I don't give a damn if she hears me or not.

(Alice bounds up to Hugo.)

ALICE Hello everyone sorry I'm late. Is he here yet? The new vicar? Oh. Hello Hugo.

HUGO Hello Alice.

(Alice and Hugo have a moment.)

DAVID Right...

(There is a knock at the door.)

Ah that must be him now.

GERALDINE (Off, calling.) Hello.

DAVID Perhaps not.

GERALDINE (Off.) Hello... anyone there?

(She enters wearing a long coat done up to the collar and carrying two suitcases.)

GERALDINE Hello I'm looking for David Honiton? Err.. Hawtree.

DAVID (Goes to Geraldine.) Horton.

GERALDINE Horton that's the chap. Could you just take these While I ...

(She hands cases to David and exits and returns with two more. She puts them down as does David and they shake hands.)

Hello I'm Geraldine. I believe you're expecting me
(Geraldine moves up stage towards a coat hook and starts to undo her coat away from the audience.)

DAVID No, I'm expecting our new vicar. Unless, of course, you are the new vicar and they've landed us with a woman. (he laughs) as some sort of insane joke.

(Geraldine has undone her coat and turns to reveal she is wearing a dog collar and cross.)

GERALDINE Oh dear.

(David is absolutely stunned by this and the others look on in disbelief.)

DAVID Oh my God.

GERALDINE You were expecting a bloke: beard, Bible, bad breath...

DAVID Yes, that sort of thing.

GERALDINE And instead you've got a babe with a bob cut and a magnificent bosom.

DAVID So I see.

GERALDINE Hello, everyone I'm Geraldine. Call me Gerry. (pause) Boo.

HUGO (Still slightly stunned.) Delighted to meet you. I'm Hugo. Call me... Hugo.

GERALDINE Right (She pokes Hugo's chest.) Do you mind if I say that that is a devastatingly smart tie, Hugo.

HUGO Is it?

GERALDINE Yes, it is.

FRANK How do you do - I'm Frank Pickle. I take the minutes on the Council.

GERALDINE Splendid. Very important job. Do forgive me if I instantly forget your name, won't you? I'm absolutely dreadful with names. Ask me to name the virgin Mary's eldest son, and ... nope - mind's gone blank.

(She laughs absurdly.)

FRANK Jesus.

GERALDINE That's it! Yes.

(Geraldine moves to Mrs Cropley.)

Hello, Geraldine. Gerry.

MRS CROPLEY Letitia...er, Letty. Er, Cropley. I play the organ and do the flowers in the church.

GERALDINE Oh splendid. And what flowers have we got in this week?

MRS CROPLEY Well, we're in mourning for Reverend Pottle.

GERALDINE Of course. Lovely Carnations?

MRS CROPLEY That's right. And I thought I'd put in a pineapple as well.

GERALDINE Mmmm. Unusual.

(She moves towards Jim.)

And you are?

JIM No, no, no, no, Jim.

GERALDINE Jim?

JIM No, no, no, no ...

GERALDINE Not Jim.

JIM No, no, no - yes, Jim.

GERALDINE Good, good (She walks to Alice.) And finally...

(They shake hands and Alice curtsies.)

ALICE Delighted to meet you.

DAVID This is Miss Tinker, she *was* the verger under Reverend Pottle.

GERALDINE Oh, splendid. Do you want to go on with the job?

ALICE (Curtseying again.) Oh, yes please, Ma'am. I'd like that.

(David turns away in shock.)

GERALDINE Good, good. Don't call me Ma'am. Sounds like the Queen. Lovely lady - but very odd taste in hats. Don't you think - Miss Tinker?

ALICE (Laughing.) Yes, yes I do! Oh, you can call me Alice.

GERALDINE Right.

ALICE Because it's my name.

GERALDINE Right.

(Mrs Cropley offers Geraldine a sandwich.)

Thank you. (She takes a small bite.) Very unusual sandwiches. What's this with the ham?

MRS CROPLEY Lemon curd.

GERALDINE Good lord. Mind if I just pop it down there? (Puts sandwich back on plate.) Just for a moment.

(Owen enters.)

OWEN Sorry about that. I wouldn't go in the khazi for a while.

DAVID Stomach still bad?

OWEN To be frank, it's like the Battle of the bleedin' Somme down there.

DAVID Ah, Owen. This is Geraldine - she's the new vicar.

GERALDINE Hello.

OWEN (Ignoring Geraldine.) No, she isn't.

GERALDINE Why not?

OWEN She's a woman.

GERALDINE Ah, you noticed. (She points to her breasts.) These are such a give away aren't they?

(There is an awkward silence as they all stare at Geraldine.)

ALICE (Breaking the silence.) Shall I show you to the vicarage?

GERALDINE Yes lovely, vicarage Right... Lead on.

(Alice picks up two cases and Geraldine the other two and they exit. The others all continue their silent stare, their eyes follow her to the exit. This is held for some time.)

OWEN Well, it can't be right can it, really?

JIM What's that?

OWEN Having a woman vicar. I mean Jesus didn't have any women disciples did he?

MRS CROPLEY No, but things have to change, don't they?

JIM That's right. I mean, look at traffic lights. Well, if they didn't change there'd be terrible congestion wouldn't there?

OWEN On the other hand, there's gravity.

JIM What about it?

OWEN If gravity changed we'd all go floating into space.

MRS CROPLEY (Cackles with laughter at the thought.)

OWEN And no one wants that.

JIM So, there's good change and bad change?

MRS CROPLEY That's right. I mean, there's the Changing of the Guard, isn't there?

JIM Oh, wonderful.

OWEN And then there's prawn-flavoured crisps.

JIM Disaster.

<Black out>

<Music fades in>

Act One Scene Two - The Vicarage - A little later

<Lights up in vicarage>

(Alice and Geraldine enter through front door)

<Music fades out>

GERALDINE Well, here we are, number 2 - base camp. From here we launch our great mission. With, of course the proper rations.

(She pulls handfuls of chocolate bars from her pockets and stashes them away.)

You're going to have to take me through a few things.

ALICE Yeah.

GERALDINE What kind of crowd are we pulling to the Sunday gigs here?

ALICE Oh, er, about ... four.

GERALDINE A Crowd of four?

ALICE Yes, on a good day.

GERALDINE Well, four's not bad is it? I mean, there were four Gospels, four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Four Rocky movies. Until they made Rocky 5, and 6!. Very bad move I thought.

ALICE Well it may go up to five if Mr Newitt's bowels settle down.

GERALDINE Let me get this straight. We've got Mr Trott, Mr Pickle, Mr Horton ...

ALICE (Excitedly.) Oh! And sometimes Hugo comes ... but not very often.

(She has a huge crush on him.)

GERALDINE Is there something I should know about you and Hugo? Might it be my first Dibley wedding?

ALICE Shhh. Someone might hear you?

GERALDINE (Looks around.) Who Alice? Who?

ALICE Someone, that's all.

GERALDINE Ok, ok back to the congregation, who's the fourth one?

ALICE Mr Newitt, I mentioned, with the bowels.

GERALDINE No, no, no. He was the fifth one, wasn't he?

ALICE Was he? Oh yes. Well ... (She thinks hard and counts on her fingers. Then it hits her) Oh - me! Thickness! (She points her fingers at her head like a gun.) Pow!

GERALDINE Well what about Christmas?

ALICE Oh, Christmas! Well, that's special.

GERALDINE (Hopefully) Good. How many?

ALICE Three - Mr Trott always goes to visit his sister.

GERALDINE Oh God! Alice do you think we're going to be all right?

ALICE Of course - I'm going to support you all the way.

GERALDINE Well then we can't fail, can we? Right let's go and rally the troops or enter the lions' den.

ALICE Right. (They exit through front door.)

<Lights fade down>
<Music up>

Act One Scene Three - The Parish Hall - The Following Evening

<Lights fade up on hall>
<Music fades out>

(David, Hugo - who has changed his tie -, Jim, Frank, Owen, Mrs Cropley are at the table.)

DAVID I have called this extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council as I have drafted a letter which asks that she should be removed from her new position. If you have any objections - if you want our village to become a laughing stock do speak up now.

GERALDINE (Enters wearing a large knitted cardigan.) Terribly sorry I'm late. Visiting my new parishioners. Honestly I think they'd have been less surprised if the new vicar had been Mr Blobby. La-de-da. Anyway, Challenges, challenges. Miss anything important?

DAVID Ahm, well - there is one thing. We've drafted a letter to the Bishop.

GERALDINE Oh, great - Bertie says all he ever gets are dull circulars, asking whether or not we should own up to the fact that most priests are as gay as Larry Hagman - do I mean Larry Hagman?

DAVID Shall we get on?

GERALDINE Grayson, that's it, Grayson. (Does an impression.) 'Shut that door', hilarious wasn't it?

DAVID Ahm, Frank, as secretary to the council, I think perhaps you should read it. (He hands letter towards Frank.)

FRANK I'd rather not, thank you, Mr Horton.

DAVID Jim? (He hands letter towards Jim.)

FRANK (Snatching the letter.) Oh, all right - I'll read it. 'From the Dibley Parish Council.' (He awkwardly clears his throat and adjusts his tie. Reading.) 'My Lord. We are very sorry to take up your valuable time - but a very important issue has arisen.'

GERALDINE Yes, sorry, it's just a suggestion, but, maybe you could mention his trip to Africa. Something like "Welcome back from your triumphant conference'. Put it like that and he'll be putty in your hands.

FRANK Thank you very much.

GERALDINE (To Hugo.) Another stunning tie; the girls just aren't safe are they?

FRANK Yes. Ahem. 'Welcome back from your triumphant conference ...'

GERALDINE Excellent. Whatever it is he'll never turn you down now.

FRANK 'We are very sorry to take up your valuable time'.

GERALDINE Good, good.

FRANK 'But, a very important subject has arisen. As you are aware, your new choice of vicar has now arrived. And we must say that we are deeply unhappy about her. We firmly believe she will not fit into our community at all.'

(Hugo is squirming with embarrassment, Geraldine can't believe what she is hearing. The atmosphere is tense.)

'We are profoundly angry that we should be used as an experiment ground for the more frivolous excesses of the modern church, and would ask you immediately, and urgently, to reconsider this disastrous appointment. And it is signed the Dibley Parish Council.

(There is a long pause.)

GERALDINE Wow. You certainly know how to wind a girl. That's all of you is it?

DAVID Yes, it is.

OWEN Except me actually. As far as I'm concerned Potty Pottle was a regular old woman and if we have to have a lass, I'd much prefer if it was a young one. Particularly, If I may say so, one with such an interesting taste in jumpers.

GERALDINE Thank you. My grandmother knitted this. She's blind.

MRS CROPLEY Did we actually vote on it?

JIM No, no, no, no, no ... I don't know.

DAVID Of course we did.

FRANK I'll just check that.

DAVID (Is annoyed.)

FRANK No, in fact, we seem to have forgotten to vote.

MRS CROPLEY Oh excellent that is good news.

DAVID Yes, but we all had agreed.

OWEN I hadn't. Let's have the vote. I propose we give the Reverend a chance, at least see how she does this Sunday.

FRANK Right. All those in favour of Owen's excellent proposition.

(They all vote yes except David.)

FRANK All those against.

(They all look at David.)

DAVID Oh, this is ridiculous. All I can say is, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. I think you will find our little community does not react well to the indignity of a vicar in high heels and rallies

behind me in the desire to keep up the traditions that have made this village what it is today. (He goes to leave.)

FRANK I take it that's a 'no'.

DAVID Yes. (He leaves.)

GERALDINE (To Hugo.) God, your father's handsome when he's angry isn't he?

<Black out>

<Music fades up a rowising chorus of 'Bread of Heaven'>

Act One Scene Four - The Vestry - The Next Sunday evening

<Lights up on Vestry>

<Music fades down>

(Geraldine and Alice Enter with mugs of coffee. Geraldine is in her dog collar and Alice is dressed as the verger. As they enter they sit.)

GERALDINE Marks out of ten Alice?

ALICE Seventeen!

GERALDINE Thanks Alice. Now do you want to hear a joke?

ALICE Oh yes I love jokes.

GERALDINE So there's this nun, and she's having a bath - and a knock comes on the door.

ALICE Oh dear.

GERALDINE And she says, 'Who is it?' And the reply comes, 'It's the blind man - can I come in?' And she thinks for a moment, and says, 'Yes come on in.' And the chap comes in and says, 'Nice tits - Where do you want me to hang the blind?'

(There is a pause. It sinks in and Alice roars with shocked laughter.)

<Black out>

<Music fades up>

Act One Scene Five - The Parish Hall - Few weeks later - Shrove Tuesday

<Music fades down>

<Lights up>

(Around the table are Owen, Hugo, David, Frank, Jim and Mrs Cropley who is knitting)

MRS CROPLEY ... I'm not asking for the moon. I think it's a brilliant plan, and if the council would only just back us to get us started, I'm sure they wouldn't regret it.

HUGO Bravo - excellent idea.

DAVID And what exactly is the size of the grant you need?

MRS CROPLEY Seventy Million pounds

DAVID And what if Dibley is NOT successful in its bid for the Olympics

HUGO Ah, well, with the ski-slope, we can also host the Winter Olympics instead.

DAVID Yes, well, thank you, Letitia, and supporters, we will of course give your proposal due consideration. (Pause) It's excrement.

MRS CROPLEY Oh. How disappointing.

OWEN Bloody Olympics. (To Mrs Cropley) You're a tit short of an udder, you are.

JIM No, no, no, no, no, yes, he's right. We should go for the Commonwealth Games first and build up to the Olympics.

DAVID Moving on. Any other requests for funding?

MRS CROPLEY Yes - I think we should put in a bid for the Olympics.

DAVID We've just done that, Mrs Cropley.

MRS CROPLEY Oh, have we? Sorry - I've got a memory like an elephant that's lost its memory.

GERALDINE (Enters) Sorry I'm late.

DAVID Ah. Good evening vicar we were just finishing up. Do you have any other business?

GERALDINE Yes. Thank you, David. As you know Lent starts tomorrow ...

MRS CROPLEY Ooh, that reminds me!

(She picks up two dishes from the table behind her.)

As it's Shrove Tuesday I've made these pancakes from all my leftovers.

HUGO Hot diggedy dog, Mrs C!

MRS CROPLEY Now, these ones are lard and fishpaste, and these are the plain ones

(They all dive for the plain ones and stuff them in their mouths.)

With just a hint of liver. Would you like one Mr Chairman?

DAVID I'd rather eat my own scrotum, thank you, dear. Now vicar.

GERALDINE (choking) Yes, as I was saying, since it's Ash Wednesday tomorrow I thought, why don't we all try giving some thing up for Lent?

MRS CROPLEY Like bondage, you mean?

GERALDINE Possibly, yes, and then everytime we fail, we have to put a pound in this box.

(She produces/points at small box on table)

Like you for instance, Owen. You could try to give up swearing couldn't you?

OWEN I don't swear

JIM No, no, no, no, yes you do.

OWEN I bloody do not.

ALL Pound in the box.

OWEN What? 'Bloody' isn't swearing.

HUGO I'm afraid it is.

OWEN 'Bloody' bloody isn't. 'Bollocks' - now that's swearing - and 'arse' - but 'bloody' is just bloody - it's a useful adjective, with biblical overtones.

(They all look at him. Owen gives up and puts five pounds in the box.)

(Pointing at Mrs Cropley.) She can give up cooking garbage then. I've eaten tastier slurry than this.

GERALDINE And Jim. You could give up dithering. How about it, Jim?

JIM No, no, no, no, no, yes, well, I'm not too sure.

OWEN (Slaps down the box in front of Jim who puts in a pound.) Ha bloody ha! Oh bugger, I mean sod it. I mean damn. Doh - arse, arse, arse!

(Jim passes box back and Owen puts in another Fiver.)

DAVID Right. And might I venture that Frank can give up being such a pedantic old fart with the minutes.

FRANK Ah. Good suggestion. Should I actually put 'fart' - or 'f', asterix, asterix, 't'?

(They all point to Frank and pass him the box. He puts in a pound coin.)

GERALDINE What about you David? Perhaps you could be a little more friendly to everyone.

HUGO (Very buoyant) Yes, Father. Everyones fed up to the back teeth with you shouting at them all the time, like some great big bald shouty type person.

(David's face shows his disdain at this suggestion and Hugo notices)

Except me, of course. I don't think ...

FRANK He's got a point, sir.

DAVID Very well. Easy peasy. Although, I'd quite like to know where all this money is actually going to.

GERALDINE Well, I thought we could start a neighbourhood video club, you know on Friday night, here in the hall.

JIM I've got a video - but it doesn't work. I've plugged it in and switched it on - and nothing.

FRANK I didn't know you had a TV?

JIM No, no, no, no, I haven't. But I plugged the video into the radio instead.

DAVID Right, fair enough. It's not a bad idea. And pray tell, what is St Geraldine giving up?

GERALDINE (Still nibbling on chocolate bar.) Well, I thought I might give up bubble bath because I absolutely love the stuff - you know, all that wubbly bubbly bubbly - up your nosie, in your toesies, that sort of thing.

DAVID Or, you could give up chocolate?

(Geraldine looks at the chocolate bar she is nibbling.)

GERALDINE No, I don't think so. Because, you see, I don't eat enough chocolate for that to really hurt me.

(David reaches over and opens her folder to reveal a huge bar of chocolate.)

DAVID Chocolate.

GERALDINE Oh, come on! You don't think I'm going to eat all this on my own, do you? This... this... is for the all the tiny little orphan children of the parish.

(Hugo fidgets with Geraldine's hymn book.)

Poor little mites. They're starved of love and tenderness ..

(Hugo opens hymn book to reveal a recess with a bar of chocolate in.)

HUGO Oh!

DAVID Chocolate.

GERALDINE Okay, chocolate, yeah, okay.

DAVID Now we'll see who's got self control. Meeting closed. Let's go Hugo.

(Hugo stands and turns to reveal his jumper has unravelled to his shoulder blades. Mrs Cropley has been knitting with wool from his jumper)

<Lights slow fade>

(As lights fade they all begin to exit.)

<Music up>

(Geraldine goes to Living room, taking swear box.)

Act One Scene Six - The Vicarage - The Following Morning

<Lights up in living room>

<Music fades down>

(Geraldine busies herself then goes over to the sofa, lifts up a cushion to reveal a chocolate bar hidden there. She looks at it lovingly.)

(Alice is in the kitchen not seen.)

GERALDINE I love you. You know that, don't you? You're lovely. My little friend.

(She unwraps it and takes a deep sniff. But resists the temptation and puts it back under the cushion.)

No, stop - distraction - that's the answer.

(She switches on the TV - only to see a flake advert.)

<SFX Sound from TV with Flake Advert>

(To the TV.) You bitch!

(She switches off TV and door bell rings. She goes to door muttering ...) Lord, give me a break. In fact, give me a Kit-Kat.

(She opens door. It's Hugo. He is wearing a high jumper concealing shirt and horrid tie underneath.)

GERALDINE Hugo, lovely to see you. Come on in.

(They go to living room as Alice enters from the kitchen.)

HUGO Oh. Hello, Alice.

ALICE Hello, Hugo.

(They have a tongue tied moment. Geraldine looks on.)

You all right?

HUGO Yes thanks. Er, hello.

ALICE Hiya.

GERALDINE It's gripping stuff isn't it? I've often wondered what it would be like if you got Oscar Wilde and Janet Street-Porter together in the same room - and I think I'm getting a flavour of it here. Why don't you just stop yakking on, Miss Tinker. Now get back out there and finish making the tea.

ALICE (Still in the moment.) Right. Yeah.

GERALDINE Now Alice. (Alice leaves.) So, Hugo, what did you want to talk to me about?

HUGO Oh, it's this Lent thingy. At the meeting last night you all had something to give up, and the thing is ... nobody asked me. And I think perhaps because everyone thinks I am such a bore that I couldn't possibly have anything interesting to give up. As if I didn't have any personality at all.

GERALDINE You're not a bore at all, Hugo. You're a *riveting* human being. I'm sure you've got lots of vices you could give up. Like gambling for instance. I bet you like a little flutter every now and again.

(Hugo's blank expression says not.)

No. Smoking? (She looks at him.) I know, wearing a shirt without a tie.

(Hugo pulls down his jumper to reveal a shirt and tie.)

GERALDINE Ah.

HUGO Does drinking coffee count as a vice?

GERALDINE It does indeed. Coffee - the broth of Satan. It's a drug Hugo, give it up now.

HUGO No, no, I don't drink it, but I thought I could start, and then I'd have something to give up next year.

GERALDINE Right, brilliant. Yeah, good.

HUGO The only other thing is, I do think about 'It' quite a bit. You know, 'It'.

GERALDINE No, not with you.

HUGO You know 'It'. With people like Mariella Frostrup and Sharon Stone. Edwina Currie. Naked.

GERALDINE Aah. 'It'. Well, there you go then. Not that it's exactly an arrestable offence - although the Edwina Currie thing could land you in an institution. No, good, right, well you stop thinking about 'It', and every time you do, put a pound in that box.

HUGO Great. Old sinner me!

 (Alice enters with tray tea pot, cups, saucers, some doughnuts and biscuits on.)

GERALDINE Yeah! tea. Very good timing. Hugo and I were just finished weren't we Hugo?

 (She turns to see Hugo staring at Alice. He fishes in his pockets and puts a pound in the box.)

ALICE (Pouring the tea.) I know how you like it Hugo. Hot and strong.

 (Hugo gets another pound out and puts it in the box)

ALICE Nice and wet.

 (Another pound goes in.)

GERALDINE On the other hand, I think it's best if Hugo goes now before he drifts into insolvency.

 (She ushers him out but Alice stands in his way, not wanting him to go.)

ALICE But I've got a lovely doughnut for you, Hugo.

HUGO No thanks.

ALICE Some chocolate fingers?

HUGO Oh well, perhaps I ...

 (He reaches for a chocolate finger without looking at Alice.)

ALICE They're so much fun, aren't they? I love just sticking them in my mouth, and sucking till all the chocolate comes right off ...

 (She sticks a chocolate finger in her mouth and sucks on it. Very quickly Hugo cannot stand this lustful torture and has to leave.)

HUGO (To Geraldine.) I'm a bit strapped for cash - I'll pay you later.
(He exits rapidly hands in pockets!)

ALICE That's funny.

GERALDINE What is?

ALICE Hugo rushing off like that?

GERALDINE Well he's probably got a lot on his mind at the moment. So my little lustful lady what are you going to give up for Lent?

ALICE Butter!

GERALDINE Right, butter. Just butter?

ALICE Yes just butter. Except?

GERALDINE Yes?

ALICE Well, you know that stuff they're selling now at the local shop?

GERALDINE Which Stuff?

ALICE 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butter'.

GERALDINE I see. So, you're going to give up butter but not give up 'I Can't Believe it's Not Butter'.

ALICE That's right, and do you know - I can't believe it's not butter

GERALDINE No, well, that's the idea, yeah.

ALICE Then yesterday I went to Crookenden and bought this other stuff, like a sort of home-brand, you know?

GERALDINE Ye-es.

ALICE And you know, I can't believe it's not 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butter'.

GERALDINE Mmmm. I'm losing you now.

ALICE Well, you know 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butter'?

GERALDINE Yeah, yeah,yeah. You think it is butter.

ALICE No, no - I mean, you know the stuff that I can't believe it's not butter is called 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butter'.

GERALDINE Probably yeah.

ALICE Well, I can't believe the stuff that is not 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butter' is not 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butter' and I can't *believe* that both 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butter' and the stuff I can't believe is not 'I Can't Believe It's Not Butter' are both in fact, not butter. And I *believe* they both might be butter. In a cunning disguise. And in fact there's a lot more butter around than we all thought there was.

GERALDINE Yes. (Pause.) I don't know what you're talking about.

<Phone rings>

Haleluliah!

(Alice rushes to answer the phone.)

ALICE Hello?

GERALDINE Alice.

ALICE One second please, caller. Yeah?

GERALDINE Could you please let me answer my own phone?

ALICE Oh sorry. Sorry.

(She slams phone down)

GERALDINE I didn't mean hang up.

ALICE Oh sorry. (She picks up the phone again) Oh sorry. Oh no, they've gone.

GERALDINE Well, of course they've gone, because you hung up.

<Phone rings again>

(Alice goes to pick up the phone again.)

GERALDINE (Sternly) Leave it! (She answers the phone in a very polite voice.) Hello, Geraldine Grainger, here. Vicar of Dibley. Right. (She grumpily hands phone to Alice.) It's for you.

<Black out>
<Music up>

Act One Scene Seven - The Parish Hall - A Week Later - The Weekly Meeting

<Lights up>
<Music down>

(We find Geraldine, David, Frank, Mrs Cropley and Jim in their usual places.)

DAVID (Very relaxed and amenable.) Right. Well, I'll give them another minute or two.

HUGO (Bounds in.) Sorry I'm late, mes enfants. (He drops several pounds in the box.)

(To Geraldine) Ann Robinson was on the telly.

GERALDINE Ann Robinson?

DAVID Are yes, how's your little collection going, Vicar? had to put many pounds in yourself?

GERALDINE None at all, David, thank you very much for asking. Hoping to collect a few tonight though. Jim, I expect you'll be contributing a few quid won't you?

JIM (Very definitely.) Nope.

GERALDINE Nope? as in 'Nope nope, nope, nope, nope, yes'?

JIM On the contrary. Nope as in 'nope'.

GERALDINE (Amazed.) Right. Funky.

(Owen enters.)

OWEN Sorry I'm late. All my cows escaped.

GERALDINE (Encouraging him to swear) Bloody cows. They're a bloody, bloody nuisance aren't they?

OWEN They can be a bit of a bore, yes.

DAVID Right, we'll start. I declare this meeting of the Parish Council open.

(David notices that Frank has his arms folded and is not writing.)

Frank - are you getting this down?

FRANK Don't worry - I'll just knock something off at the end. No one reads the minutes anyway.

(Everyone is taken aback.)

DAVID Item one ...

MRS CROPLEY Ooh, Mr Chairman, if I could just butt in here.

DAVID Of course, Letitia you butt in to your heart's content, my little beauty.

(He beams at her and smiles smugly at Geraldine.)

MRS CROPLEY Thank you. Now then, I just wondered if anyone would care to try my home-made orange juice.

(She produces glasses of orange juice on a tray.)

GERALDINE (Clapping as she can see a fine on the way.) Aha ha ha! And what's in it, Mrs C?

MRS CROPLEY Orange juice.

GERALDINE Yes, but anything else? No yeast, no balsamic vinegar, no urine?

MRS CROPLEY No.

(Geraldine is very disappointed.)

DAVID Right, let's begin. Item one. The new video club. How's it coming on, Vicar?

GERALDINE Yes, well, I've had some thoughts about the kind of film...

(She stops as David unwraps a large chocolate bar.)

DAVID Don't mind me. Didn't have any supper. (He takes a big bite.) Mmmmm.

GERALDINE (Completely distracted.) Yes. Yes, as I was saying...

DAVID Sorry, forgetting my manners. Anybody else like a bar?

(He produces a huge bag full of chocolate bars and hands them out to all, except Geraldine. She can't take her eyes off the chocolate bar Owen starts to eat.)

GERALDINE Yeah, um. Right, as I was saying ... Sorry, I'm feeling a bit faint actually. Owen, I think you had something to say, didn't you?

OWEN Yes, well now, a few of us have been thinking about how we might kick off the video club...

GERALDINE Oh that's it, that's it. Since we're a country parish, I thought we might like to start with an animal film - maybe *Black Beauty*, something like that.

FRANK We chose an animal film, too.

JIM *The Silence of the Lambs*

OWEN In a double-bill with *Reservoir Dogs*.

GERALDINE Right, maybe we could follow that with a romance? (she looks at Hugo pointedly.)

HUGO (Hugo fidgets then puts another pound in the box.)

FRANK Our thinking again.

GERALDINE Good. *Sleepless in Seattle*?

FRANK *Last Tango in Paris*.

GERALDINE Right. And I thought we could have something with a religious bent - you know, *Jesus Christ Superstar* or *Godspell*.

MRS CROPLEY *The Exorcist*.

GERALDINE David, I'm afraid I'm going to have to have that Mars Bar.

 (She reaches over to grab it from him.)

DAVID Ah, ah, ah. Vicar. Oh, and I've got a small box of chocolates here to share round to celebrate my half birthday. (It is a very large box of chocolates)

 (He produces a huge box of chocolates and everyone helps themselves.)

OWEN Lovely one, Mr Horton. Thank you very much.

 (Geraldine is not amused.)

<Black out>
<Music up>

Act One Scene Eight - The Vicarage - The Next Morning.

<Lights up>

<Music down>

(Geraldine is looking at three chocolate bars laid out on the coffee table. Alice Arrives.)

ALICE (Enters speaking outside.) No, no you wait here for a moment. Good morning, Vicar. I've got a surprise for you.

GERALDINE I've been cryogenically frozen and it is in fact now Easter and I can tuck into this lovely chocolate?

ALICE Ummmm, No.

GERALDINE Thought not. Alice, can I just share a private thought with you?

ALICE Oh, certainly, vicar - as long as it isn't about tampons, 'cos I don't understand them at all.

GERALDINE No, no it isn't. I'd just like to share with you the fact that, well, I hate the people of this village.

ALICE Oh dear.

GERALDINE Yeah. Every single one of them. Self righteous, small-minded, senile, chocolate scoffing gits and that's true.

ALICE Well it's lucky I've brought something to cheer you up.

GERALDINE If it is not Mel Gibson I may be mightily disappointed.

ALICE Better than that. (She goes to the front door.) Come on in come on in she won't bite.

GERALDINE Not unless you're made of chocolate

(Alice ushers in five children from the school.)

ALICE Here we are then.

GERALDINE Oh, hello, come in, sit down. so to what do I owe this pleasure.

ALICE Well, it's break time so we thought we'd come round and take your mind off Lent.

GERALDINE Oh thank you Alice. Very thoughtful.

ALICE This is Archie.

GERALDINE Hello Archie.

ARCHIE Hello Miss.

ALICE Katie.

GERALDINE Hello Katie.

KATIE (Curtseys) Hello your highness.

ALICE Cameron.

GERALDINE Cameron.

CAMERON Miss.

ALICE Lizzie and Luke

GERALDINE Hello Luke, Hello Lizzie.

LIZZIE & LUKE Hello.

GERALDINE So Luke one of the fab four, tell me then what is the most important time of the year.

LUKE Ummmm? Christmas Miss?

GERALDINE That's right and who started Christmas?

CAMERON Noel Edmunds Miss.

GERALDINE No. Any other guesses?

LIZZIE Baby Jesus.

GERALDINE That's right Lizzie, and what is so special about Jesus?

ARCHIE His name is a swear word miss.

GERALDINE I was thinking rather more that he was the son of God. And where was he born.

LUKE (Puts his hand up.)

GERALDINE Luke?

LUKE In Dunstable.

GERALDINE In Dunstable?

CHILDREN Yeah, that's right.

GERALDINE Who told you that?

(They all look at Alice)

ALICE Well, I always thought it was a bit odd. But that's what my mum told me. Jesus was born in Dunstable.

GERALDINE In a *stable*.

ALICE Oh In a stable. Remember that children.

GERALDINE So who knows any bible stories.

KATIE Noah's Ark Miss.

GERALDINE Good Katie. A lovely story. So if you were Noah and building the Ark. What animals would you like to have on board?

(Archie hesitates. Cameron puts his hand up)

GERALDINE Cameron?

CAMERON A velociraptor, Miss.

GERALDINE A velociraptor - that's from Jurassic Park.

CAMERON Yes, Miss.

GERALDINE Yes, I'm not sure about that. Any others?

(Hands shoot up. She picks Lizzie.)

GERALDINE Yes?

LIZZIE A tyrannosaurus rex, miss.

GERALDINE Right. hands up for any animals *not* featured in Jurassic park? Like a Lion, for instance.

KATIE A football hooligan, miss.

GERALDINE Sorry?

KATIE My dad says football hooligans are all animals.

GERALDINE Birds, any birds?

LIZZIE Samantha Fox, Miss - my dad says she's the sexiest bird in the whole world and he'd like to give her one, Miss.

LUKE So would my dad, miss.

CAMERON And mine.

ARCHIE My dad would like to give *you* one, Miss.
(Geraldine is shocked.)

GERALDINE Archie! Shush!
(She pauses for a moment.)

GERALDINE Who is your dad?

ALICE (Looks at her watch.) Right come along you lot time to go now.

CHILDREN Ohhh!

GERALDINE Lovely to see you all.

ALICE Off we go.
(They all stand and Alice ushers them out.)

<Lights fade>
<Music up>

Act One Scene Nine - The Parish Hall - Just After Easter.

<Lights up>
<Music down>

(A council meeting in full flow with all around the table in usual positions.)

DAVID So tell me Vicar - what's the final total of the video fund?

GERALDINE Well we raised the princely sum of twenty-six pounds.

DAVID Oh dear me.

GERALDINE No, let me finish. That was just before we finished Lent. Then it suddenly shot up to seventy- four pounds because ITV showed the uncut version of Basic Instinct. Thanks very much Hugo.

(Hugo shuffles embarrassingly.)

MRS CROPLEY And to celebrate the end of Lent I've made us all a nice cake.

(They all look a little concerned.)

MRS CROPLEY There we are everybody.

(They all take a slice and tentatively eat.)

HUGO What is that.?

FRANK There's definitely coconut.

HUGO Er, there's something else in there.

(There is a pause as the realization hits. Mrs Cropley is grinning from ear to ear.)

All (As one.) Anchovy!

MRS CROPLEY (Goading.) Do you like it Owen?

OWEN Lent's definitely over now, isn't it, Vicar?

GERALDINE Yes, Owen. Definitely.

OWEN No I don't bloody, bollocking, bloody like it you silly old arse of a cook.

DAVID I agree Letitia it is absolutley ghastly.

(Mrs Cropley is still grinning contently.)

GERALDINE Right. Everything back to normal then? Good.

DAVID Any other business?

GERALDINE Yes, I thought one of the highlights over Easter was the village play. Did everybody enjoy it?

OWEN Don't make me laugh. I've seen amputations with more all round entertainment value. Hamlet's supposed to be a dashing student.

FRANK (Beat) I'm not as sprightly as I used to be.

OWEN Sprightly? You spent the second half in a wheel chair.

FRANK I pulled a thigh muscle.

GERALDINE I thought you manouvered yourself beautifully, Frank. A momentary blip when you reversed into the grave, but then who'd have thought it would only take you fifteen minutes to climb out?

HUGO Best bit of the evening. Hilarious stuff.

GERALDINE I'm only sorry more people didn't come to see it.

JIM Yes the night I went I was the only one there

HUGO That must have been disappointing for the cast.

JIM No, they weren't there either. I went on the wrong night.

MRS CROPLEY I loved it.

GERALDINE You did, well that's wonderful isn't it Frank.
(Frank nods.)

MRS CROPLEY Not enough marmalade for my liking.

GERALDINE I beg your pardon.

MRS CROPLEY I like marmalade! In my Ham Omelette.

GERALDINE Hamlet, Hamlet! Not ham omelette. (she looks up.) Lord preserve us.

FRANK Did you enjoy it, sir?

DAVID Hmmm. About as much as having my nipples pierced.

FRANK Did you like my big speech? 'To be or not to be'.

DAVID Very good. I was rooting for you 'Not to be'. As soon as possible.

GERALDINE Well, I think Frank deserves our congratulations. So, well done, Frank! Bravo, bravo. Encore, encore.
(She claps, no one else joins in so she stops embarrassed.)

DAVID So is that everything?

GERALDINE I'm still looking for items for the Parish newsletter, or rather the Parish 'There's Sod All News' letter, to be more precise. At the moment, the only thing we've got is a piece from David about his missing watch, (she holds a piece of paper.) which actually is quite a mystery.

JIM (Produces watch from pocket.) Err ... is that it?

DAVID (Taking watch.) Oh yes, thanks.

(Geraldine screws up the piece of paper in disgust.)

GERALDINE Oh, well. Right. About to go to print and my only headline is 'Hen lays quite large egg'. So please could everyone contribute just one piece?

OWEN I could do a review of Frank's play if you like.

GERALDINE Oh, that would be lovely, yes.

OWEN As long as I can use the word 'dickhead' in the headline.

GERALDINE Maybe you're not the man for the job.

MRS CROPLEY How about one of my recipes?

ALL No! (Firmly)

<Black out>

<Music up>

Act One Scene Ten - The Vicarage - The Following Morning

<Music down>

<Lights up>

(We find the vicar sat at her desk reading an item for the news letter.)

GERALDINE 'New members urgently sought for the Dibley Bondage Club. If interested, please ring Frank Pickle.' At last, a juicy item!

(She starts to type excitedly, then looks at piece again.)

Oh, Dibley Bridge Club. Oh ... pity.

(She carries on typing. Disappointed as Alice comes in.)

ALICE Hi, you.

GERALDINE Hello, Alice, come in and shut up. I'm having a serious crisis with the newsletter. You haven't got anything for Gossip's Corner, have you?

ALICE Oh yes, well I have actually!

(Geraldine swivels round to face Alice)

GERALDINE Do you? Go on then.

ALICE I heard the other day, and don't tell anyone...

GERALDINE (Crosses her heart.) Of course not! Yes?

(She holds note pad and licks pencil poised to write.)

ALICE That Mr Garrett was seen in the street kissing someone that wasn't his wife.

GERALDINE (Gasps in horror.) Who was it?

ALICE His mother.

GERALDINE So sod all gossip if we're honest.

(Flings note pad down at lack of scandal.)

ALICE The recipe page is always my favourite. I mean surely you've got something there?

GERALDINE Well, funny you should say that, as I was thinking of new ideas for the newsletter, you know something a little different. (Holding up another piece of paper.) This was stuffed through my letter box.

ALICE Ooh ... How exciting.

GERALDINE An anonymous person has donated their recipe for chocolate pudding.

ALICE Anonymous ... What, they didn't give their name?

GERALDINE No, no.

ALICE So it could be anyone?

GERALDINE No. I should have guessed who it was from when it said 'with chocolate pudding you can never have enough haddock'.

(Geraldine and Alice look at each other and say together.)

TOGETHER Mrs Cropley! (They laugh.)

ALICE Well, I'll let you get on.

GERALDINE I doubt that very much.

ALICE Actually ...

GERALDINE There we go.

ALICE There is just one tiny thing.

GERALDINE (Resigned, turns back to desk.) Is there.

ALICE Do you think that I'm unattractive, and will never be kissed by any man, and die without ever knowing the joy of true love?

GERALDINE (Showing sympathy.) Oh no. Don't tell me that Hugo hasn't kissed you yet?

ALICE (Starts crying.) I just don't think he loves me.

GERALDINE Oh that's nonsense. It's just you've got to give these things time, that's all. How long have you know him?

ALICE Um ... Twenty-six years.

GERALDINE Right. Well, the fact is, *he does love you*, so maybe you've just got to tell him exactly how you feel.

ALICE Oh, I feel like I, like I want to marry him and have fifteen children in a fortnight!

GERALDINE Right. Well, maybe not *exactly* how you feel then.

ALICE It's just so hard. I mean, how did you tell your boyfriends that you loved them?

GERALDINE Well, I usually stuck their hands down my blouse. But I don't think that's going to work for you and Hugo. No, you need a cupid that's not stupid and that cupid is me. Right plan of action. You, virgin, go home and come back here after lunch looking really nice, Okay?

ALICE Why?

GERALDINE No, no questions. One little hint though, no garlic for lunch. And perhaps you can remove those little bits of biscuit in the corner of your mouth. Go on, shoo.

(She looks at picture of Jesus on the wall.) And a little help from you wouldn't go amiss.

ALICE This is great! I haven't been so excited since I got the card saying I'd won that beauty contest, do you remember?

GERALDINE We were playing Monopoly at the time, weren't we?

ALICE That's right I was so proud.

GERALDINE Ye-es. Off you go then, sad little lunatic.

(To picture of Jesus.) I'm relying on you.

(Door bell rings.)

(Geraldine looks back at picture inquisitively.)

(To Alice.) Well open the door.

HUGO (Enters) Oh... Hello Alice.

ALICE Oh... Hello Hugo.

GERALDINE (Looks up and mouths.) Thank you. Hugo come in lovely to see you. Isn't it Alice? Another lovely tie.

HUGO Thank you.

GERALDINE And that's an interesting motif, isn't it Alice? What's that?

HUGO Taramasalata.

(Alice has gone all shy as has Hugo - they are having another moment.)

GERALDINE Alice, tea.

ALICE (Still in moment)

GERALDINE (Forcefully.) Kitchen!

(Alice goes into kitchen.)

GERALDINE (Taking Hugo to one side) Right, well, it's good you're here. Now, I'm going to come straight to the point. (small pause.) Hugo, do you love Alice?

HUGO (Completely flustered.) Oh, um, well, I never really...

GERALDINE (Firmly.) The answer is 'yes', Hugo.

HUGO That's right. I absolutely adore her.

GERALDINE And you're going to lose that girl if you don't kiss her soon. And that would be a tragedy, wouldn't it?

HUGO Yes because I love her like Romeo loved Juliet.

GERALDINE Good.

HUGO Like Richard loves Judy.

GERALDINE That's less good. Right when Alice comes back in I want you to promise me you'll give her a great big kiss?

HUGO Ok. I promise.

GERALDINE Good. (shouts.) Alice.

ALICE (Enters with tea tray.)

GERALDINE Put the tray down Alice

(Alice panics and doesn't know where to put it.)

GERALDINE (Pointedly.) On the coffee table.

(Alice does.)

(Geraldine turns leaving them in the middle of the room looking at each other in embarrassed expectation and returns to her work facing away from them. Very pleased with herself.)

GERALDINE Oh this is easy. I should take this up for a living. All you have to do is create the right social situation (Looks at picture of Jesus.) Thank you. And love will flower like a flower in the right social situation. Two lovely young people, their tender lips meeting for the first time. In a whirlwind of passion that is, in fact, true love.

(She turns expecting to see them kissing.)

(Raising her voice.) Oh for heaven's sakes just kiss you morons! I'm sorry. Did I say that out loud? What I actually meant to say was '*Please*' don't worry, it's perfectly simple and you're going to enjoy it'. All you have to do is close your eyes and go forward.

(Alice and Hugo close their eyes and stumble towards each other. Not quite on target.)

Then open your eyes again, look where you're going, that's right, and go forward. (She guides them towards each other.) Docking procedure almost complete. And then ...

HUGO Can't we just shake hands?

ALICE Yeah, yeah, I love shaking hands. It's an excellent way of communicating affection ... without getting wet.

GERALDINE (Shouting in desperation.) Just do it!

HUGO Right, right. Good luck, Alice.

ALICE Good luck, Hugo.

(Their lips meet and they kiss. And don't stop...)

GERALDINE Yes! Houston, we have kiss-off. Oh lovely, oh well done, you two that's excellent. Actually you can stop now, Hugo, if you want. Hey, why should you stop? Nothing like a nice long kiss is there? Other than an even longer kiss obviously. Alice, you can sort of stop. No, look, okay, here's what's going to happen. Er, you carry on kissing, okay? I'm just going to get on with my work. Don't mind me at all. I'll just sit here, no look.....

(Door bell. She looks to the heavens.)

Thank you it must be my day today!

(She opens door.)

OWEN Here's your shopping Vicar.

GERALDINE Oh, Owen, thank you could you just bung it in the kitchen for me?

OWEN Right-oh

(He does. Literally throwing the bags into the kitchen.)

So, I picked up your shopping. Now what's in it for me?

GERALDINE Um' eternal salvation?

OWEN Anything more, you know un-nebulous.

GERALDINE Chocolate Hob-Nob?

OWEN Now you're talking.

GERALDINE Right, take a seat, I'll get the chocolate Hob-Nobs

OWEN (Takes a seat oblivious to Hugo and Alice and picks up a newspaper from coffee table and begins to read)

GERALDINE (Returns with chocolate Hob-Nobs.) Right here we are. (She sits.) shall I be mother?

OWEN Thank you Vicar.

(Geraldine is amazed that Owen has yet to notice Hugo and Alice or indeed say something - she pours the tea.)

GERALDINE So noticed anything different around here?

OWEN Nope, well yes.

GERALDINE Thank goodness.

OWEN (Points at newspaper.) Bloody price of petrol has gone up again.

GERALDINE Owen! (She nudges him so he looks up.)

OWEN (Looks up.) Good lord! I think I'm going to need the khazi!

(They both stare at Hugo and Alice, who continue their kiss.)

<Black out>

<Tabs>

<Music up>

END OF ACT ONE

<Into house music>

INTERVAL

Act Two Scene One - The Vicarage Living Room - Later

<House music fades>

<Theme tune starts>

<House lights fade>

<Tabs open in black out>

<Lights fade up>

(Hugo and Alice are revealed still kissing as before with Geraldine and Owen still looking on. Some more things on the table to suggest longer passage of time.)

<Theme tune fades out>

GERALDINE Oh, well, the joy of those first kisses, eh, Owen?

OWEN Well, I wouldn't know, I've never had a proper kiss.

GERALDINE Oh, haven't you?

OWEN Except for Daisy and she was a cow, so that doesn't really count does it?

GERALDINE What, You *kissed* one of your cows?

OWEN No, the gamekeeper's daughter. Right cow she was. She said if I gave her all my pocket money she'd let me feel inside her bra.

GERALDINE What, and she didn't let you?

OWEN No she did. Problem was she wasn't wearing it at the time.

GERALDINE Oh dear.

OWEN Some folks' lives - they're full of love and softness. Other folks never get to know the sweet tenderness of human contact. "The sun is out, the sky is blue, there's not a cloud to spoil the view, but it's raining, it's raining in my heart".

GERALDINE Oh, go on then you great big loser, give us a quick kiss.

OWEN Really?

GERALDINE Yes, but no burping though.

OWEN Okay. Here goes.

(They lean in and kiss, it lasts a lot longer than it should.)

Geraldine bangs on Owens back and he releases her. He is very satisfied.)

Aah! Sizzle my sausage! Can I have another?

(He moves towards her again.)

GERALDINE No! No! No! Oh god what's this?

(She picks something from her mouth.)

OWEN Oh great! I got that bit of pork stuck in my tooth last week. I'd never thought I'd get it out. Thanks for that! I'll see myself out.

(Owen exits.)

GERALDINE (Continues to pick at her mouth.) Oh no, he's got one of my fillings.

(Hugo and Alice suddenly break apart.)

GERALDINE Oh right, they're back! Welcome home! How was it then?

(Their lips have gone all numb with kissing and speak with difficulty.)

ALICE (Slurring.) Fantastic

GERALDINE In English, Hugo?

HUGO (Unintelligible, but enthusiastic.) It was really ...

GERALDINE Right, they're speaking in tongues. Cup of tea?

ALICE Oh no thank you, Vicar. I used to love having tea with you, but now I've realized in comparison to some things it's a total and utter yawn-making bore of bores. Come on big boy.

(Alice drags Hugo off by his tie. She obviously wants things to continue and is now confident.)

<Black out>

<Music up>

Act Two Scene Two - The Parish Hall - Later That Day

<Lights fade up>

<Music down>

(We find David sat in his place on his own making notes.)

(Hugo enters arranging his tie.)

HUGO Ah, Father. I hoped I might find you here.

DAVID Just going through some important business Hugo. So what have you been up to?

HUGO Oh ... er nothing. You wouldn't be interested.

DAVID No, you're probably right. You've never done anything interesting up till now.

HUGO Actually, I have been up to something. There's something I have to tell you father.

DAVID Mmmm?

HUGO I've fallen in love, with the most beautiful and wonderful woman in the world.

DAVID Felicity Kendall.

HUGO No, Father. Even more beautiful than the wonderful Felicity Kendall.

DAVID Well done you. Anything to get away from that ridiculous Alice creature. She was ghastly wasn't she? Less a human being than a genetically modified stick insect with the brain removed. So, what's the new bird called?

HUGO (Crushed.) I don't know.

DAVID Don't even know her name? Well you rogue! Good on you son.

HUGO Actually, actually I do know her name, Father.

DAVID Well splendid. Spit it out then.

HUGO Her name is, well, the thing is her name is, Alice.

DAVID You're joking?

HUGO No, my girlfriend's name is Alice.

DAVID What an incredible coincidence. Pestered for a decade by a cabbage-patch doll named Alice Brain Bypass and when you finally do find yourself a girlfriend she's also called Alice. What's her surname?

HUGO Actually, Father, can we start the conversation again? Just, just ask me a simple question and I'll give you a simple answer. Just ask me who my girlfriend is.

DAVID Very well, Hugo. Who is your girlfriend?

HUGO Er, well....

DAVID My daughter-in-law. The mother of my grandchildren. The mistress of a great house. The co-inheritor of every penny I've earned in my long and unhappy life. The woman who will cherish me in my old age, and tend to me in my waning years. The female vessel into which all my hopes and dreams are to be poured.

HUGO Alice, Father. Alice Tinker.

DAVID (Boils and bellows) Whattttttt.....

 <SFX Music cuts in really loud>

 (Loud music to cover a mimed shouting at by David. With lots of pointing and turning back and another thing etc he finally storms out.)

 <SFX Heavy Guitar - descending octave as peeling bells>

DAVID (Mimes.) What the *uck do you think you are playing at. I don't give a flying *uck if you *ucking love Alice *ucking Tinker and if you kiss her again, I'll make sure you're well and truly *ucked.

 (David exits in and Hugo is in shock and sits at the table with his head in his hands.)

 <SFX Loud music segues into theme tune played on musical box - slowly with feeling>

<Lights fade out>
<Music fades up>

Act Two Scene Three - The Parish Hall - A Little Later

<Music fades down>

<Lights fade up>

(We find Hugo with his head in his hands in some distress.)

GERALDINE (Off.) Hugo, Hugo. (Enters.) Are you in here? Ah there you are. So what did he say.

HUGO (Looks up at Geraldine with sad eyes.)

GERALDINE Ah ... I see ... Not good then? Sooo, what did he say?

HUGO Well, I can't tell you what he *actually* said because you're the vicar. Well, let's say a certain word is represented by another word that, sounds a little like that word, like um, 'duck' for instance. He asked me what the duck I was playing at. He said he didn't give a flying duck if I ducking loved Alice ducking Tinker and if I ducking kissed her again, he'd make sure I was well and truly ducked.

GERALDINE Oh - duck me.

HUGO I don't know what to do. I love Alice with all my heart, but I also love my dad.

GERALDINE Of course.

ALICE (Enters.) Oh, Hugo. There you are.

HUGO Oh dollocks.

ALICE I've been looking for you everywhere. Come here Mr Moist.

(Hugo ignores her.)

HUGO Well, I'd better be going. (He exits rapidly.)

ALICE (Is in shock.) Oh my God, I knew this would happen. He doesn't love me any more! He's sucked out all of my juice and discarded me like an empty carton of Ribena.

GERALDINE No, poppet, it's not like that at all. (Thinking quickly.) The truth is that he's ... he's sprained his tongue and ... he's got to give it a complete rest for a few days. You see?

ALICE Oh, that's all right then.

GERALDINE Yes! So you keep away from him Miss Lusty Lips.

ALICE I'll try.

GERALDINE Come on lets go and have some tea.

(They exit and head back stage round to door of the vicarage.)

<Music up>

<Lights fade down on hall as they leave>

<A slow cross fade to bring up Vicarage living room lights>

<Music fades down>

Act Two Scene Four - The Vicarage - Later The Same Day.

(Lights are up as they enter through the door and they start the scene as they do.)

GERALDINE Right here we are then. You get the kettle on little miss.

(Alice goes into kitchen. Geraldine goes to her desk.)

<Door bell rings>

ALICE (From kitchen.) Shall I get that Vicar.

GERALDINE You just carry on with the tea I'll get it.

<Door bell rings again>

GERALDINE All right, all right I'm coming no rest for the w ... righteous.

(She opens door. It's Owen holding a filling.)

Owen, come on in. How are you?

OWEN (Shows her filling.) I think this is your filling.

GERALDINE Oh, thank you.

OWEN I would have brought it sooner but I've only just passed it.

GERALDINE (Absolutely horrified.) I, err ... I won't be putting in right now then. Is that all?

OWEN No! It's that kiss! Since that kiss I've been feeling all churned up.

GERALDINE Yeah my tummy's been feeling a bit dodgy too.

OWEN And I decided I need a woman. Only I don't want to pay for it. And I reckon the only way to get a woman is to marry one. So I was wondering, How about it?

(Geraldine laughs hysterically for a few seconds then stops abruptly.)

GERALDINE Oh, sorry Owen. Sorry, for one insane moment there I thought you were proposing to me.

(She chuckles again. Owen drops to one knee.)

OWEN I am.

GERALDINE (Suddenly serious.) Right, yes, I see.

OWEN I know I'm not much of a catch, but then you're not getting any younger yourself.

GERALDINE Thank you.

OWEN And although I'm not rich I have got a bit of money. And I wouldn't expect you to do a lot around the farm. Except, of course, when the cows get the squits. In which case they produce it quicker than I can clear it, and it's all hands to the mops.

GERALDINE That's a lovely image.

OWEN And I'm pretty confident I could satisfy you in the bedroom department because, quite frankly, I'm so desperate for it that I could keep going for months on end.

GERALDINE Yep. This is romantic stuff.

OWEN I don't expect you to give me an answer now. I know you women like to think about things when it comes to romance. You're different from us men, you've got smaller brains.

GERALDINE Well, now I feel *very* special.

OWEN So I'll come back shortly and you can say 'yes' then and make me the happiest man in the world. See you later then. Mrs Newitt, my little love bucket.

(He exits as Alice comes in from the kitchen with two mugs.)

ALICE So what did Mr Newitt want?

GERALDINE (In a complete state of shock.) He's asked me to be his wife.

ALICE That's *brilliant!* I'm so happy for you! And you're the vicar! `you can do your own wedding service! 'Geraldine, do you take this man to be your lawful wedded husband?' 'I do'. 'Owen do you.....'.

GERALDINE Shut up! Shut up! Shut up! Alice I don't want to marry Owen.

ALICE Why? What's wrong with him.

GERALDINE How long have you got? His breath smells like nerve gas. That gel he puts on his hair, that is *actually lard!* If I was looking for charm and conversation I'd sooner marry a courgette! Other than that I'm sure he's gorgeous. It's just, I don't love him.

ALICE Oh poor you, you're going to marry somebody you don't love. That's terrible, Geraldine, don't do it, please don't do it!

GERALDINE No, no, no, no, no. I'm not going to do it. That's the point you see. Next time I see him I'm just going to have to be honest and say that I can't marry him.

<Doorbell rings>

ALICE (Jumping up dramatically.) Oh, God, that's him! That's him.

GERALDINE Goodness that was short. Right answer the door, Alice. It's just a question of being mature and grown up and adult and mature.

 (Alice opens door. It's not Owen it's Jim and Frank.)

ALICE Oh hello. Come in! the vicar's in the living room.

GERALDINE (Slightly relieved.) So Frank, Jim, how can I help you?

JIM We want to put a notice in the Parish Newsletter.

GERALDINE Oh thank goodness.

JIM See if you can spot my little joke. (He hands Geraldine the notice.)

GERALDINE Right. 'Want to have a go at bell ringing? Then come along to St. Barnabus and let us show you the ropes.

JIM 'Show you the ropes.' Get it? It's very funny because it's 'show you the ropes', as in the actual ropes that the bell rings...

GERALDINE I know, I know.

JIM And it is also, 'show you the ropes' as in teach you the ropes of bell ringing'. Show you the ropes.

GERALDINE Yes, I promise you I do understand.

ALICE I - I don't get it.

JIM Ah, well you see ...

GERALDINE (shouting) No, no, no! (She calms herself down) Actually, there is something you two can help me with, if you'd like to sit down. Now you're going to think this is crazy and totally ghastly, but Owen 'I've had my hand up more cows' botties than James Herriot' Newitt has asked *moi*, sophisticated, *glamorous* vicar of this parish to be his wife!

(She laughs at the ridiculous idea.)

FRANK Well *done* Vicar. Off the shelf at last!

GERALDINE No, no, you don't understand I'm going to turn him down.

FRANK (To Jim.) Did you hear that?

GERALDINE And you chaps know him much better than me, and I *don't* want to hurt his feelings. I need some reassurance that he won't be upset. Yes or no?

JIM No, no, no, no, no, no, no. No, no, no.

GERALDINE Good.

JIM You see he's known so much sorrow and tragedy, a bit more won't hurt him.

GERALDINE Sorrow and tragedy?

FRANK Yes, you know his brother drowned himself?

GERALDINE Oh no, I didn't know that.

JIM Yes, it was all over some nonsense with a girl. She wouldn't marry him, so he chucked himself in the river.

FRANK But Owen's quite different. Owen takes after his father. And he was a much more cheerful chap.

JIM Until he shot himself. But of course he had good reason to shoot himself because his wife had just left him. Yes, and he'd already lost both his parents because, you see, when his mother tried to leave, his father shot her.

GERALDINE Yes, well. Thanks very much guys.

FRANK Oh not at all, Vicar. Come along Jim.

JIM (Has another go at his joke) 'Show you the ropes!'
(They leave.)

GERALDINE I think I'll just top myself now and save Owen the bother. Oh, Alice, what am I going to do?

ALICE Well, I have got one thought. When my mum's got like a really difficult problem to deal with, like, um, oh I don't know, like choosing her lottery numbers, she always has a little drink before hand - you know just to calm her nerves.

GERALDINE Er, no I don't think so.

ALICE Oh.

GERALDINE Think I can deal with this problem without having to drink myself into a stupid Tinker stupor. Actually, being a priest does sort of equip you for dealing with this kind of complex human dilemma.

ALICE Oh good. Well, I'd better be off home because it's a Rollover and mum's probably unconscious by now. Bye.

(She leaves. Geraldine looks at bottle and deliberates whether to or not. Finally taking a huge swig)

GERALDINE Oh yes, now I'm thinking clearly. Um 'Owen, I would love to marry you but I'm already married. (Takes another swig) To Gordon Brown. No he'll never buy that. (Another swig) 'Owen, I would love to marry you, but I'm not the woman for you. In fact I'm not a woman at all. I'm one of the lobster people from planet Neptune.

<Door bell rings>

(Another swig for courage and she goes to open the door.)

GERALDINE Owen.

(He is dressed in his best ill fitting suit and hair slicked back.)

OWEN I've come for your answer.

GERALDINE Owen, I would love to marry you ...
(Owen is over joyed and grabs her and gives her a huge snog.)

OWEN Oh, thank you! I'll go and get the condom.

GERALDINE No, Owen, I haven't finished. Owen, I haven't got to the 'but' bit. Owen I would love to marry you BUT - I can't.

OWEN Oh why?

GERALDINE Because I don't love you. You're a good man Owen and I'm sure there's a very suitable woman out there somewhere for you. Somewhere, a nice insatiable woman with no sense of smell. But that woman isn't me. Promise me you're not too upset, eh?

OWEN Well, I don't know exactly how upset I am.

GERALDINE But not so upset that you'd go and commit suicide or anything like that?

OWEN Well, I haven't decided. But before I do, you've got to answer me one question.

GERALDINE Oh, anything.

OWEN Right. Have you been drinking?

GERALDINE Ahm ... Have had one little *dropsicule*, yes.

OWEN Because if there's one thing I can't stand it's a woman who drinks. So the answer to your question is 'no'. I'm not in the slightest bit upset at all. In fact, I'm very grateful to you for saving me from marriage to a disgusting old lush who smells of gin from dusk till dawn. Madam, I bid you farewell, you revolting old soak.
(He leaves.)

GERALDINE That is one helluva charming dude.

(David marches in as Owen leaves. He carries a Debretts, a written list and a will)

DAVID Ah Vicar.

GERALDINE Is there no rest? (She looks up.)

DAVID Vicar can you tell me is Kylie Minogue married?

GERALDINE What?

DAVID (Slowly.) Is Kylie Minogue married?

GERALDINE The beautiful little midget? Er, not yet I don't think. Why? Thinking she's the right woman for you, eh David?

DAVID No, not me. Hugo. You see I've drawn up a short list of all the women he fancies. One of them is bound to want him. According to Debrett's he's the 108th most eligible bachelor in this country. Look, there he is under Dale Winton.

GERALDINE Oh, an interesting place to be. Let's have a look at that list. Posh Spice, Move over David Beckham. Kate Moss, Anne Widdecombe ... Hugo fancies Anne Widdecombe?

DAVID Ever since she hosted 'Have I Got News For You'.

GERALDINE (Looks at list again) You've even got *me* on this list!

DAVID You think I'm being a bit silly about all this, don't you? I just can't *bear* the thought of that Alice thing in my family.

GERALDINE David, I *completely* understand. Alice does indeed have all the intellectual capacity and charisma of a cactus. Alice is Cactus Woman. But the trouble is - and it pains me to tell you this, David - you are the father of Cactus Man. And these simple succulents were made for each other. Actually, as cacti go, I think they're rather wonderful together.

DAVID Well then it will have to happen over my dead body. Look this is my new will, leaving Hugo nothing.

 (Hugo enters.)

HUGO Ah, Hugo! Just in time. I was just showing the vicar my new will. Oh come on, Papa, you're not that angry. It's just a great big bluff.

DAVID I can assure you it isn't.

HUGO It's like that time you tried to convince me you were Father Christmas. I saw through that and I can see through this too.

DAVID Then you see wrong! If you continue to consort with that Tinker twerp you will be no longer welcome in *my* house. You will no longer be *my* son and as this will attests, you will have *nothing*.

HUGO (Finally standing up for himself.) On the contrary, sir, I will have everything in the world that I desire.

(Hugo exits rapidly leaving the vicar and David looking at each other. Neither can quite believe what just happened.)

<Lights fade down>
<Music fades up>

Act Two Scene Five - The Parish Hall - That Evening

<Lights fade up>

(We discover Alice on her own waiting for Hugo.)

<Music fades down as hugo enters>

(Hugo enters.)

HUGO Hi.

ALICE Hi.

HUGO I'm sorry I'm late I had to sort something out with Father.

ALICE Oh. Plumbing?

HUGO No, no I was talking to him about you actually. And now that's sorted the time has come to er ...

(He offers Alice a chair then drops to his knees.)

ALICE Oh, you've dropped something, where is it?

HUGO No, no I have to be on my knees, that's all.

ALICE Oh, shall I come too? It looks fun down there.

HUGO No, you have to be sitting. Alice in the words of Sigourney Weaver in *Aliens*, I just want to say ...

ALICE 'Get away from her you bitch.'

HUGO No, no earlier, to the little girl.

ALICE Oh. 'You stay in the ventilation shaft and I'll check the corridor.'

HUGO Just let me finish.

ALICE Yes, sorry.

HUGO Alice, in the words of Sigourney Weaver in the film *Aliens*, I just want to say, 'I will never leave you, that's a promise.' I love you, Alice Tinker, and I have to know will you do me the greatest honour in the world and consent to be my wife?

ALICE No.

HUGO But I thought that you ...

ALICE No, I mean, let me finish. No ... question I've ever been asked has been easier to answer. Apart perhaps from when my mum asked me which of the Teletubbies I most liked. Because the answer was Tinky Winky, absolutely just like that, but even including that, to no question I've ever been asked has my answer been more certainly, and positively ...

HUGO 'Yes.'

ALICE That's right!

HUGO Crackerjack!

(Geraldine arrives at that moment - she is holding the front page of the news letter.)

GERALDINE Well, what have we here then?

HUGO (Stands.) She said 'yes'.

GERALDINE Oh that's a relief, other wise you'd have completely ruined my scoop.

(She shows Alice front page.)

ALICE Oh! 'Verger towed Hugo Horton.' Where to?

GERALDINE No, no. 'Verger to wed Hugo Horton.' To wed Hugo Horton, see?

ALICE Is that true, Hugo? Are you going to marry the verger?

(She starts to cry.)

GERALDINE But you *are* the verger, Alice.

(It dawns on her.)

ALICE Oh yes! Oh right. Oh yeah, nice.

GERALDINE (To Hugo.) Good Luck. Now to go to work on your father.

<Black out>

<Music up>

(Alice exits. Geraldine and Hugo sit down in there usual places)

Act Two Scene Six - The Parish Hall - A Week Later - The Weekly Meeting

(David, Frank, Jim, Owen, Mrs Cropley all enter as David says.)

DAVID Right come along.

(They all sit as soon as they can.)

DAVID Now. we've got a lot to get through as usual, so let's not waste anytime, eh? Item one, apologies for absence.

JIM No, no, no, no, yes I've got one.

DAVID Who from?

JIM Me.

DAVID But you're here.

JIM Yes I am now, but I'm not here at the next meeting.

DAVID You really don't need to apologize until the next meeting.

JIM Oh. But I'm not here at the next meeting.

DAVID Yes, I know. You send your apology before the next meeting.

JIM That's what I am doing.

GERALDINE Actually if that's the way we're doing it now, I'd better send my apologies for the meeting after that, because I won't be at that one.

HUGO Me too, I'll be missing one next April. There's a Captain Scarlet convention in Bristol.

DAVID Stop right there. This could go on for ever. I could apologize for missing a meeting in 2 years time, for goodness sake. Moving on.

FRANK Which meeting?

DAVID What?

FRANK Which meeting in two years time are you apologizing for?

DAVID I'm not apologizing.

FRANK Well, you should.

OWEN There's no point in holding the bloody meeting if the chairman's missing.

DAVID I'm not missing you raving lunatics.

OWEN I'm not a lunatic. I have the psychiatric reports to prove it. A slender majority of the panel decided in my favour.

DAVID All right, you're not a lunatic but you are a famous idiot.

OWEN Now wait a minute, Baldylocks.

GERALDINE Hey, hey, hey, guys calm down. You're acting like a couple of school kids.

OWEN Well, he started it.

DAVID I did not. He started it, Beardy Weirdy.

GERALDINE Now seriously, come on. You seem to be forgetting that we're partners here. If you ever needed me I'm there for you, aren't I?

DAVID Except of course you taking sides with Hugo and Alice over their engagement last week.

GERALDINE That is a tad different, David. And we've discussed it haven't we? In private. And I know you're happy for them now to go ahead.

DAVID As about as happy as I was last week.

HUGO You have agreed now though, father, Haven't you?

DAVID Hmmmm, well.

GERALDINE David?

DAVID Yes all right In the interests of village harmony of course.

MRS CROPLEY Oh Lovely.

HUGO Warp speed Mrs C

DAVID Beam me up, Scotty.

GERALDINE Good, well as I was saying. We're partners here. If you ever needed me I'm there for you. My house is your house and I like to believe if I ever needed you, you'd be there for me wouldn't you?

OWEN Ready and erect at your service

GERALDINE But, Owen you don't want an old soak do you?

OWEN Not for marriage but just for sex, yes.

GERALDINE Thank you, Owen. Always the charmer. Right. So no more bickering, okay? From now on Dibley Council stands for friends. Friends who are working together for the village with support and love.

MRS CROPLEY Especially Hugo and Alice.

HUGO Top drawer Mrs C.

DAVID Well the less said about that the better.

GERALDINE But you do agree don't you, David.

DAVID Yes, Vicar, I agree. Under a certain amount of duress.

GERALDINE So any dates been suggested.

DAVID April the first?

GERALDINE David!

HUGO We think we have a date, Vicar. Subject of course to you being available.

GERALDINE Hugo I wouldn't miss it for the world and will be delighted to wed yourself to the lovely Alice Tinker.

(David looks to the heavens.)

HUGO That's right. Dibley's answer to Michelle Pfeiffer - only much prettier.

(David looks at Hugo.)

GERALDINE Well, Quite. And I think this might be a good opportunity to offer Hugo a few words of encouragement.

DAVID Don't do it!

GERALDINE (Cutting across David quickly.) So, Anyone?

OWEN Oh, Well, certainly, yes. I've not known what it is to be married, Hugo. Nevertheless I still live in hope of planting my seed in a certain acreage of woman hood

(He makes a point of looking directly at Geraldine.)

But I reckon if you treat Alice like I treat my prize cow you won't go far wrong, apart from making her eat grass and getting her mounted by a bull. If you do that you'll get arrested like my father was.

HUGO Well - well, That's very helpful. Thank you, Owen.

GERALDINE Yes. Any words of wisdom from you Jim?

JIM No, no, no, no, yes. Well, I've been married for forty-three years and the secret of a successful marriage, Hugo, is sex and plenty of it.

HUGO Well, Hooray!

JIM With as many different women as possible.

GERALDINE Oh No!

JIM Especially Orientals, because they can go on for hours without ...

GERALDINE (Swiftly interrupting.) Well, thank you Jim. I think that's enough of that. What about you, Frank?

FRANK Well I've never had sex with an oriental.

GERALDINE No, no, no! I meant, have you got any words of advice for Hugo?

FRANK I could do no better than to read from this week's horoscope (Reading the paper.) 'Libra. Romance is in the air, and happiness shall be yours eternally'.

HUGO That's absolutely splendid.

GERALDINE Yes except you're Capricorn, aren't you Hugo

FRANK (Reading again.) Capricorn. 'Forget romance. You are heading for a total catastrophe.'

DAVID (Smiles smugly.)

GERALDINE (Throws him a look.)

<Black out>

<Music up>

Act Two Scene Seven - The Vicarage - A Few Weeks Later

<Music fades down>

<Lights fade up>

(We find Geraldine is on the phone. She is in mid conversation.)

GERALDINE Good lord well this is totally out of the blue, Your Grace. I don't know. I'm totally aware of the importance of inner-city work and I've always wanted to do genuinely missionary stuff. You know how fond I am of all things missionary. It's just that - oh dear - it really would be very hard indeed to leave Dibley. I've just started to get to grips with things here. Yes of course. I understand. I look forward to hearing from you soon then. Yes your grace. Thank you. And to you too. Good bye.

<Phone call ends>

(To herself) Leave Dibley? Goodness. (She looks at picture of Mel Gibson and Jesus) Any thoughts guys? Now's the time?

(Alice enters skipping with a scrap book)

ALICE Ding dong, Avon calling. Or rather ding dong, Verger calling I suppose.

GERALDINE So what can I do for you, quivering bride-to-be?

ALICE Well, as you know my mum is making my wedding dress, and I just wanted to run it by you before she actually starts knitting.

GERALDINE Knitting!

(Alice open scrap book to show her.)

ALICE As you can see we are going for traditional white.

GERALDINE Good idea.

ALICE With red and blue stripes just to give it that British look.

GERALDINE Right. Hence the Policeman's helmet also? Right. And the flopsy bunnies? Do you think they'll work?

ALICE Oh yeah, definitely. Well, they balance out Tarka the Otter. It would look very odd with just an otter.

GERALDINE Well, that I don't deny.

ALICE And then for my train she thought...

GERALDINE Thomas the Tank Engine?

ALICE Right, along with Percy and Gordon.

GERALDINE That's quite a lot to pull up the aisle don't you think?

ALICE No, they'll be very light. She's making them out of lino. What do you think?

GERALDINE Can I be brutally honest?

ALICE You can be as brutally honest as you want.

GERALDINE Good.

ALICE As long as you don't say anything nasty or critical in any way.

GERALDINE Right, well, working within those particular parameters then ... I love this dress!

ALICE Oh brillo pads!

<Door bell rings>

(Geraldine goes to answer it. It's David and Hugo.)

GERALDINE Excuse me.

ALICE (To herself.) Mrs Alice Horton.

GERALDINE David, Hugo, come on in.

(Hugo goes straight fo Alice.)

ALICE Hello, husband-to-be.

HUGO Hello, wife-to-be.

ALICE Hello, father-in-law to be.

DAVID (Sourly.) Hello, Miss Tinker.

GERALDINE (Indicating that Alice should leave the room.) Kitchen, Alice!

ALICE Okay. By bye. Daddyo!

(She pinches David's chin affectionately. He flinches. She leaves scrap book open on the sofa.)

DAVID It's like the Planet of the Clangers in here. I'll come straight to the point. I've invited a lot of family friends, so I want to make sure that this wedding's not a total bloody embarrassment.

GERALDINE Oh, fear not. Hugo and I have kept a very careful eye on things, haven't we Hugo?

HUGO Well, that's right.

GERALDINE All the catering for the reception's sorted.

DAVID Not that bloody Cropley woman? She'll poison all the guests.

GERALDINE David! As if, eh Hugo?

HUGO That's right. Good old Burger King.

GERALDINE Yes, you can't have too many gherkins at a wedding, I always say. And we've been tweaking your speech haven't we Hugo?

HUGO That's right. I knew I'd cracked it when I put in your joke about the Australian who gets stung by a snake on his todger.

(Hugo laughs David stays stony-faced.)

I'll just go and help Alice in the kitchen..

(Hugo and Alice entwine in the kitchen and kiss throughout next scene.)

GERALDINE (To David.) Would you like to come and sit down?

(David sees the scrap book open on the sofa.)

DAVID Oh my God! Please tell me she's not wearing this.

GERALDINE No, that's a piece of paper with a drawing on it. She'll be wearing the finished dress sculpted from only the finest wool and linoleum.

(David looks at the scrap book in utter disbelief.)

DAVID Is that an otter?

GERALDINE Yup. It's to balance out the bunnies.

DAVID And what's that?

GERALDINE That is Bobby Moore receiving the World Cup in 1966.

DAVID I tell you now. If she wears that dress I am not coming. This is just what I feared. Vicar. I am relying on you to make sure that changes are made. I'll see you at the meeting this evening.

(He goes to the door to leave and looks in the kitchen to see Alice and Hugo entwined.)

Hugo! (David exits.)

(Hugo and Alice make a fuss of their disentanglement.)

HUGO Bye, Alice. (Follows David out.)

(Alice wanders in to the living room dreamily.)

ALICE Oh, when he kisses me I go all goose pimply like a great big pimply goose! it's all going to be so perfect.

GERALDINE Yes. Although I have been having second thoughts about you wearing this dress.

ALICE Really? You think I should go nude?

GERALDINE No.

ALICE It's a thought.

GERALDINE No, no, no. I just think it should be simpler, that's all.

ALICE Oh, you mean like lots of hearts or something?

GERALDINE Yeah, it could be. Yeah!

ALICE With a different Doctor Who in each one?

GERALDINE (Firmly.) No.

<Door bell rings>

Now who can that be, another raving lunatic?

(Geraldine goes to door opens it and Jim is there.)

GERALDINE I was right! Hi, Jim, come on in. Alice was just leaving.

ALICE (Seriously.) I'm off to talk to my dress maker.

GERALDINE (Aside.) In your dreams.

(Alice exits as Jim enters and Geraldine closes the door.)

Now what can I do for you this merry day?

JIM There's something I'd like to try out on you!

GERALDINE Oi, oi!

JIM It's my best man's speech. Before this evening's meeting. (He goes to lean on mantelpiece.)

(As he looks away Geraldine groans, but then pretends to be delighted. She sits on sofa.)

GERALDINE Nothing I'd like better. Okay, right, well. 'Ladies and gentlemen pray silence for the best man'.

JIM I would like to begin with a quotation from that great song of Abba's. 'Know, know, know, know, knowing me, know, know, know, knowing you.

GERALDINE (Realising this could take some time she jumps up.) I'm just going to get some water to drink all right? I'll be in the kitchen - I'll still be listening.

JIM Right. 'Know, know, know, knowing me, know, know, know, knowing you. Aha. There is nothing we can do. We'll just have to face it this time we are through.

(Geraldine comes back from kitchen and sits on sofa.)

Now I hear you saying. 'Why has he chosen "Know, know, know, knowing me"?'

GERALDINE I'm just going to get a biscuit as well.

(She jumps up from sofa again.)

JIM 'Know, know, know, knowing you' - surely that song is about divorce?

GERALDINE (Reappearing.) Right.

JIM But that is my point. You see, know, know, know, knowing Hugo and know, know, know, knowing Alice I am sure, unlike Abba they will never divorce.

GERALDINE (Clapping.) Well, that's fantastic, Jim. It's gripping stuff. The only dodgy bit for me is the 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' stuff, but the rest was *perfection*.

JIM No, no, no, no, no, you're too kind.
(Geraldine gestures him towards the door.)

GERALDINE Right. So, if you'd just like to...

JIM I would now like to conclude...

GERALDINE Right, there's more. OK.

JIM With a quotation from my favourite musical, 'No, no, no, no, no...'

GERALDINE Ohh, look at the time. Best be going, I think.

JIM 'No, no, no, no, no, no... '
(Geraldine escorts him firmly to the door)

GERALDINE Very good speech.
(Jim is pleased but still wants to tell her the name of the musical.)

JIM Oh, no, no, 'No, no, no, no...'

GERALDINE Oh, well, time we got a move on.
(On the doorstep, Jim finally comes out with it.)

JIM 'No, No, Noah The Musical'.

GERALDINE Come on Jim we are going to be late for the meeting.

JIM No, no, no, no. You're right.
(They exit.)

<Lights fade down on Vicarage>
<Music up>

Act Two Scene Eight - The Parish Hall - That Evening

<Lights fade up in Church Hall>

<Music Down>

(Around the table are Owen, Hugo, David, Frank and Mrs Cropley.)

DAVID Right I think in the interest of getting on and Hugo's big day soon. We'll start without the vicar and Jim.

FRANK (Minutes.) Getting on we'll start without the vicar and Jim Trott.

DAVID Thank you Frank. Now item one. The naming of the new road. Any suggestions?

FRANK Yes. I think we should call it 'New Road'.

DAVID Brilliant. Not to be confused with the similarly named 'New Road' at the other end of the village?

FRANK Yes, but that's quite an old road now, sir. So I thought we could rename that one 'Quite Old Road'.

DAVID Not forgetting of course...

FRANK That we already have a 'Quite Old Road' - a-ha-ha! I'm ahead of you sir!

DAVID I feared you might be.

FRANK So I thought we could re name old 'Quite Old Road' 'Really Quite Old road Now' and, so as to leave a gap for any new roads, I thought that we could free up the name 'Old Road' by renaming 'Old Road' where I live 'Very Old Road'.

DAVID Or we could just go for 'Pratts Lane'. Hugo, do you have a suggestion?

(David stares leading Hugo, who looks completely blank and then remembers.)

HUGO Oh, yes, yes. I think we should name it after the Chairman of the council. David Horton Road.

(David pretends to be suprised and flattered.)

DAVID Good Lord, what a thought! Ah... shall we take a vote.

(Geraldine and Jim enter and head to their places.)

GERALDINE Sorry we're late just giving the best mans speech the once over., before the big day. Isn't that right Jim.

JIM No, no, no, no,.... Yes!

GERALDINE Soooo. Where are we?

HUGO Voting on a name for the new road.

GERALDINE Oh good!. So long as we don't name it after any of us. I hate all that puffy self-publicity stuff, don't you? So what's the suggestion?

HUGO David Horton Road.

GERALDINE Oh, please! In the name of all that's holy, no!

DAVID Actually, I agree with the vicar on this one. Very poor idea, Hugo. Personally I'd rather we named it in memory of someone who is no longer with us. Someone like, say, my predecessor as Chairman of the Parish Council?

(Everyone murmurs their approval.)

OWEN Very good idea.

DAVID Excellent.

GERALDINE Your predecessor being, let me just get this right, your father's cousin? Whose name was?

DAVID David Horton, that's right. All those in favour of naming it David Horton Road after my predecessor?

(All raise their hands except Geraldine.)

Carried now vicar you have something to say.

GERALDINE Food for the reception.

HUGO Burger King have let us down, I'm afraid.

MRS CROPLEY (Stepping up to the plate.) Ooooh! Maybe I could help you there.

DAVID (Panicing slightly, then Smugly.) But my dear Letitia. You have the flowers to do and what with playing the organ you won't have time to do the food as well.

OWEN Well that's a bloody relief.

MRS CROPLEY Oh don't you worry. I've been practising 'Two became one' and I've already sorted the flowers.

HUGO F A B Mrs C.

GERALDINE Good. So what do we have in the way of flowers?

MRS CROPLEY Lillies interspersed with traditional country foliage.

DAVID Oh God.

GERALDINE Traditional foliage?

MRS CROPLEY That's right us being a rural community and all.

GERALDINE What foliage exactly.

MRS CROPLEY Well I wanted it to be a surprise but as Alice isn't here. Broccoli, Carrots.

GERALDINE I see.

MRS CROPLEY Cod.

GERALDINE Cod?

MRS CROPLEY Well I suppose I could do Plaice.

GERALDINE Plaice?

MRS CROPLEY Haddock?

(David has his head in his hands.)

GERALDINE Riiight..... Let's run through the basics shall we? Jim have you got the ring?

JIM No, I haven't.

GERALDINE No, I know you haven't now, but you will have it on the day.

JIM That's right.

GERALDINE Right. So, have you got the ring?

JIM No, I'll have it on the day..

GERALDINE Owen? Ready with the video?

Owen (Puts both his thumbs up)

GERALDINE Right. (She turns to Frank.) And Frank are you ready to give the lovely Miss Tinker away when I ask you 'who giveth the hand of this woman in marriage?'

FRANK Yes, well, look, I've been worried about that.

GERALDINE Ah.

FRANK You see, I've been thinking. People may think that I'm the actual father of the bride.

GERALDINE And that's a problem, is it?

FRANK Yes. I thought we might put this in the order of service.

(Frank hands Geraldine a note.)

GERALDINE (Reads.) 'Frank Pickle would like to point out that he is an old friend of the family and is definitely not Alice's father, as he has never had sexual relations with Mrs Tinker in any way.

FRANK Yes, well I thought it might help.

DAVID Right then if that's all I'll call the meeting to a close and bid you goodnight.

(He leaves as do all except Geraldine and Hugo.)

HUGO Thanks for all this Vicar. The wedding is going to be just fabuloso.

GERALDINE Yup. And er, the er, the wedding night, Hugo?

HUGO Oh absolutely. We're both packing hot-water bottles and I've got a brand new pair of Rupert bear pyjamas.

GERALDINE Right, right.

HUGO And of course, a copy of Basic Instinct.

GERALDINE And the Stag Night.

HUGO Oh the lads are coming round for a few drinks on Friday so nothing too wild. Big day on Saturday.

GERALDINE Of course. And Alice's hen party?

HUGO Hasn't she told you about that?

GERALDINE No Hugo. Not yet. I assumed it would be Friday as well but she hasn't said a word.

HUGO Saturday morning.

GERALDINE What?

HUGO Her Hen party is Saturday morning.

GERALDINE The morning of the wedding?

HUGO Yes she didn't want a late night. Just all her girlfriends at your place prior to the ceremony.

GERALDINE I see. And how many am I to expect? Ball park figure? Ten?

HUGO No.

GERALDINE Twenty, Forty?

HUGO (Points downwards.)

GERALDINE Oh, down. Twenty?

HUGO (Points down again.)

GERALDINE Ten?

HUGO (Points down once more.)

GERALDINE Less than ten? (The penny drops.) Ah!

HUGO Just Alice and her best friend ever.

GERALDINE No pressure then.

HUGO Have a nice time Vicar. Thanks again. See you Saturday.
(He skips out like an excited school boy.)

GERALDINE (Looks up.) Are you sure you know what you're doing.
(She exits.)

<Lights fade out in hall>
<Music fades up>

Act Two Scene Nine - The Vicarage - The Morning Of The Wedding

<Lights fade up in Vicarage>

<Music segues into 'I should be so lucky'>

(We find Alice dressed in her Hen party gear, singing and dancing along.)

(Geraldine enters from the kitchen sporting her Hen gear also.)

ALICE Oh vicar! This is the best party I have been to in my whole life.

GERALDINE Is it? Yeah, me too. It's wild isn't it?

ALICE Everybody's been so nice haven't they? I can't imagine a better best man than Jim.

GERALDINE No, I think his speech is going to be a real highlight.

ALICE And Mr Newitt's been ever so thorough with the wedding video. He's even letting us pay for him to come on honeymoon with us, just so he can take a few pictures!

GERALDINE He's all heart, isn't he?

ALICE I know. Oh, dear Frank agreeing to give me away. It would have been nice to have Mr Horton, being my actual biological father, but you know for obvious reasons that's not possible and Frank's lovely ...

GERALDINE Sorry, *sorry*. Just slipped into a strange parallel universe where absolutely nothing made sense there for a moment. You said Mr Horton was your father.

ALICE That's right. Oh, he didn't bring me up or anything. But Mum said that one night they had a stand together. And that makes him my biological father.

GERALDINE (Horrified.) Gateway to hell wide open now.

ALICE I suppose that's one of the reasons that Hugo and me get on so well, being related. (Looks at her watch.) Oh look at the time I'd better go and get ready. See you at the church.

(Alice exits happily, leaving door open.)

GERALDINE (Is in silent shock. Until, trying to convince herself.) Nobody would know. Nobody would know ... Until the day the first child was born. With eight legs, and webbed feet, and fur.

(She hums 'Duelling Banjos' and removes her hen gear.)

OWEN (Enters with video camera. Wearing dark glasses and a base ball cap on backwards) And there she is, our first glimpse of the vicar on this very special wedding day.

GERALDINE Owen, what are you doing?

OWEN You all right, vicar?

GERALDINE I'm just feeling a bit off colour. I think I've got a cold coming.

OWEN Would you like me to rub some Vick on your chest?

GERALDINE No, that won't be necessary, thank you Owen.

OWEN Shame.

GERALDINE Owen, I'm going to have to cancel the wedding.

OWEN Because of a sniffle?

GERALDINE No, because I've just found out that Alice's biological father is David Horton.

OWEN Yes, that's right. What's the problem.

GERALDINE Sorry? Sorry? Has the British legal and ethical system entirely by-passed Dibley? David Horton, you do know who I mean by David Horton?

OWEN Yes, cousin of our David Horton's father. His predecessor on the Council. The new David Horton Road, Dirty Dave Horton, the stud of Stadhampton.

GERALDINE Oh, Owen, I love you.

OWEN Shall we go to bed then?

GERALDINE No! now go go.

(She pushes Owen out of the door.)

<The phone rings>

GERALDINE (Answers it.) Geraldine Granger, Vicar of Dibley. Your Grace. Lovely to hear from you. No no not at all just getting ready for a wedding this afternoon. Right. OK. (Horried) Liverpool! I mean Liverpool, right. Yes well thank you your eminence. Yes I'll inform

them. Thank you again. (She put's the phone down.) Geraldine Granger, not the Vicar of Dibley for much longer. (pause.) Liverpool!

<Lights fade down in vicarage>

<Music fades up>

Act Two Scene Ten - The Parish Hall - Just before the wedding

<Lights fade up in hall>

<Music fades down>

(We find Hugo looking pensive in his morning suit as David also in morning suit enters.)

DAVID Hugo.

HUGO Father.

DAVID Last minute nerves?

HUGO In the words of Jim Trott, No, no, no, no. Most definitely. Yes.

DAVID You'll be fine.

HUGO Thanks father. I know you're not happy about Alice really.

DAVID That I cannot deny. But Hugo you are my only son and I really do want you to be happy. Even if it is with that loopy lunatic twit Tinker.

HUGO Really?

DAVID Really.

HUGO Thank you. That's wonderful. In fact can I kiss you?

DAVID I don't think that'll be necessary.

HUGO Just once. I won't tell anyone.

DAVID Okay, don't make a habit of it.

(Hugo kisses David on the cheek and gives him a sideways cuddle. David remains upright and unemotional. Until finally he gives in and puts his arm around Hugo's shoulder.)

DAVID Come on lets go son.

HUGO Yes Dad.

<Tabs>

(They walk forward front of tabs as they close.)

<lights down in hall>

<Peeling church bells fade up>

Act Two Scene Eleven - St. Barnabus Church - The Ceremony

<Lights up front of tabs>

(David and Hugo take their positions as do the congregation and Geraldine. All are now in their best clothes.)

(Mrs Cropley takes her place at the organ.)

(Jim is looking nervous. Owen is filming the whole thing Spielberg'esque. All now waiting for Alice to arrive.)

(Bells change to bride entrance music played by Mrs Cropley.)

(Alice enters on Frank's Arm. She is wearing a huge decorative tiara. Her dress is frothy, white and pink. A huge pink heart on the front saying 'I love Hugo'. She is radiantly happy and dances down aisle with Frank who is wearing a sign on his back reading 'Not Alice's Father'. Her bridesmaids and pages are dressed as Tellytubbies. and she takes her place beside Hugo.)

GERALDINE We come together to witness the marriage of Alice and Hugo.

<Music up and lights down to suggest passage of time - Mime here.>

... And if any person here knows of any cause or impediment why these two should not be joined together in holy matrimony, let them speak now or forever hold their peace...

(A woman bursts in.)

WOMAN Yes! I do.

(She walks up behind them.)

The groom is already married. He married me three years ago and don't let him deny it. I've got the marriage certificate to prove it.

(She waves the certificate in the air. Alice faints. Hugo turns and the woman just stares at him.)

Oh sorry, wrong church.

(She exits and Hugo helps Alice from the floor. The service continues.)

GERALDINE (To Jim.) Have you got the ring?

JIM Yes. (He searches his pockets.)

No. (he pulls a packet of Hula Hoops out of his pocket and places two onto the bible held by Geraldine.)

GERALDINE With this ring I thee wed.

HUGO With this ring I thee wed.

GERALDINE With my body I thee worship.

(Hugo laughs nervously.)

<Music up, lights down for a further passage of time>

GERALDINE (To Alice.) Repeat after me. I Alice Springs Tinker.

ALICE Take thee Hugo Horton.

GERALDINE (Confused.) Take thee Hugo Horton.

ALICE To be my lawful wedded husband.

GERALDINE To be my lawful wedded husband (She gets ahead now.) To have and to hold.

ALICE To have and to hold.

GERALDINE From this day forward.

ALICE For richer for poorer.

GERALDINE For better for worse. Till death us do part. Amen.

ALICE Amen. In sickness and in health.

GERALDINE Yes ... and that too.

<Music up, lights fade - another passage of time.>

GERALDINE I know true love when I see it. And I saw it in this pair from the moment I arrived in Dibley. I also know true insanity. I think I've had a little glimpse of that too.

And so by the power vested in me, I now pronounce you man and wife. You may kiss the bride.

(Jim steps forward, grabs and snogs Alice.)

No, no, Jim. You. (She glares as Hugo.) You kiss the bride.

(Hugo does.)

<Music as they congregate outside.>

HUGO (To Geraldine.) Splendid service, Vicar.

ALICE I'm going to throw my bouquet, are you ready.

(She turns her back to the audience and launches behind her into the audience.)

GERALDINE (Ad lib here as necessary until she retrieves bouquet)

<Music up>

<Tabs open>

<Lights up in hall>

Act Two Scene Twelve - The Parish Hall - The Reception

(A buffet is set on the table plus a banner for Hugo and Alice plus balloons etc etc for the reception. All grab glasses and snack as they enter the scene. Hugo and Alice exit to get changed.)

<Music fades out>

(Mrs Cropley has done the snacks. Characters react accordingly as they eat.)

GERALDINE So did you enjoy the service then, Jim?

JIM Oh, you bet I did. That Alice snogs like a nymphomaniac on death row.

GERALDINE Yes. And did you settle on a present?

FRANK Well, I noticed there was a dishwasher on the list.

GERALDINE Ah, lovely!

JIM So we clubbed together.

OWEN And bought them a bottle or Rinse-Aid for it.

GERALDINE Right. What are you guys like, eh? Spend, spend, spend.

OWEN Perhaps we could have got away with a sachet?

GERALDINE Right (She tings a glass with a spoon to get everyone's attention.)
Everybody? Everybody? I'd like to make a small announcement.

FRANK Oh, good old Vicar. Speech for every occasion, eh?

GERALDINE I'd just like to say that today was a very special wedding for me,
because I am in fact, going to be leaving Dibley. And so it was in
fact, my last marriage here.

(Everyone is in total shock.)

I'm going to miss you all to bits obviously. I have had a call from
the Bishop and we feel, spiritually, the real problems are in
the inner cities, so I'm going to a new parish in Liverpool. Thank
you.

FRANK Vicar, for the first time in my life I'm speechless. Well, not for the
first time. As a baby I was speechless and in 1972 I lost my voice
for a day, so in a sense I was speechless then ...

GERALDINE (Smothers him with a hug.) Oh, dear Frank.

OWEN I want you to know you'e the best vicar we've ever had.

GERALDINE Thank you Owen.

OWEN All the others were ugly bastards.

GERALDINE You're a very tender human being, Owen.

JIM You've been just wonderful. And after you we definitely want
another woman vicar ...

GERALDINE Hooray! Turned you into a feminist, Jim!

JIM ... with a lovely arse like yours.

GERALDINE Spoke too soon.

(Alice and Hugo enter the hall wearing wet suits, masks, snorkels
and flippers.)

HUGO We're off to Barbados!

(They exit.)

(Everyone goes to the door and waves them off.)

(All ad lib here until they come back to stage centre. David and Geraldine head for the Vestry.)

FRANK Quite amusing actually, I put a little firework in the exhaust pipe.

JIM No, no, no, no, so did I.

OWEN Oh dear, me too.

<SFX A car starts followed by a three loud bangs>

(Every one reacts.)

<Black out>

<Tabs close>

<Music fades up>

Act Two The Epilogue - The Vestry - That Evening

<Lights up in the Vestry>

<Music fades down>

(We find David with Geraldine having a late night cup of tea.)

GERALDINE So, the man from McDonald's goes to the Pope and he says, 'Holy Father, I have a proposition for you. I will give the church 10 million quid if every time you say the Lord's Prayer you say "Give us this day our daily hamburger." '

(David listens intently.)

Well, the Holy Father thinks about this and he says, 'My son, I cannot change the holy text.' So the man says, 'Okay, fifty million quid'. So the Pope thinks and says, 'Well, I'll put it to the Cardinals.' So he goes to his Cardinals and he says, 'Cardinals, I've got some good news and bad news. The good news is that I can get the church fifty million smackeronies. The bad news is we're going to have to lose the contract with Wonderloaf.'

(David laughs heartily.)

You see, they already had a deal going over ...

DAVID The daily bread. I know, I get it!

GERALDINE You get it?

DAVID Brilliant!

GERALDINE Oh you get it! What a relief.

(David stops laughing suddenly and looks at her intently.)

DAVID Stay!

<Black out>

<Music up>

THE END

<Tabs open>

<Music up>

THE WALK DOWN