

The VICAR OF DIBLEY Comes to Wroughton in June

Amateur Drama group supports Comic Relief, in a year of multiple anniversaries.

A long-running and much-loved TV sitcom meets a long-running drama group this June, when Wroughton Amateur Dramatic and Music Society (WADAMS), in its 50th year, performs a stage adaptation of *The Vicar of Dibley*, which debuted on our TV screens twenty years ago. To add to the anniversaries, the performance venue, the Ellendune Centre in Wroughton, is 40 years this year.

In this adaptation, society member Rob Burbidge has taken three classic episodes – and material from other episodes – and created a theatrical version, with the full permission of authors Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer. For three nights, June 12-14, the curtain will rise at the Ellendune Centre in Wroughton as local actors take on the roles made famous by Dawn French, James Fleet, the late Roger Lloyd-Pack, and the rest of the ensemble.

‘We’re very grateful to the authors and their agents for being so flexible with us,’ said Rob, ‘and to add the icing to the cake, they have assigned their royalty payments to the charity Comic Relief, so we get to entertain and raise funds for a good cause at the same time. The dialogue and situations are so well written, it was a pleasure to adapt.’

Playgoers can expect, of course, to see the Geraldine, the vicar as played originally by Dawn French. Along with her will be David, the pompous chairman of the Parish Council; his idiot son, Hugo, and Alice Tinker, the verger with a tenuous grasp of reality. Supporting them will be Jim ‘no, no, no’ Trott, the gastronomically challenged Letitia Cropley, and Owen the plain-speaking farmer. In this version the parish clerk Frank has become Frances, in a change that allows more of WADAMS’ female performers onto the stage.

The group has performed TV adaptations before. In 2009, Rob played the hapless Basil Fawlty from *Fawlty Towers*, to full houses.

Tickets are on sale now, and early purchase is advised. Adults £8, Children £6. The box office line is 01793 825645. Electronic tickets are also available via the society’s website at www.wadamsdrama.org.uk, which also contains other society information.

Rob Burbidge

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OTHER NOTES:

- Promotional artwork for web and print sites is available on request (also see below)
- The Ellendune Centre is undergoing refurbishment this spring, but is fully open for business, including this production.
- Parental guidance is suggested for younger children.
- Cast members and production crew are available for interview or photo opportunities, with appropriate notice.
- WADAMS are also planning their annual pantomime, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' for performance in December and are always happy to take new members.