



Catholic Association of Performing Arts

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2017

Molly Steele – Hon. Secretary - [e-mail:secretary@caapa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@caapa.org.uk)

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

A few weeks ago I went to Ypres, this year being the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele. On Remembrance Sunday we tend to think about the men (and women) who lost their lives in both world wars. But what about the Chaplains? I cannot remember anyone asking us to remember THEM in our prayers. I visited two churches – one in Ypres and one in Passchendaele and to my surprise found that both of them had quite a lot of information about the Chaplains who had been there for and comforted these young men as they lay injured or dying in Flanders Fields. I think it tends to be forgotten that many of these Chaplains also lost their lives in both wars. CaAPA too has had a Chaplain, probably from the time when the then Catholic Stage Guild was formed in 1911. Some of you will remember **Fr Columba Ryan, Mgr George Leonard, Fr Henry Dodd, Canon John McDonald, Fr Chris Vipers and our present Chaplain, Fr Alan Robinson.** To our Chaplains we owe a debt of gratitude for being there for CaAPA and its members. **So our thanks and gratitude to Fr Chris, our past National Chaplain, and Fr Alan, our current National Chaplain.** And, on Remembrance Sunday, please say a prayer, not just for those who fought in battle, but for the Chaplains who were there with them. And, if you haven't been to Ypres, then do try to go. It is a painful and sad experience, but also uplifting because of one little town who still remembers, and will never forget, all those who lost their lives - Ypres.

LISA DORAN

Please remember Lisa's sister, Isobel, who sadly died on 23 October. Lisa, very bravely, came to the Annual General Meeting on 25 October.. May Isobel rest in peace and may Lisa be assured of CaAPA's support for her at this sad time.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to new member, **Penelope Dudley**, who has recently joined CaAPA.

PAST EVENTS

Women in the Church – 4 October

This event was a great success and was very much enjoyed by the audience. CaAPA actors taking part were **Kenneth Michaels, Prue Gillett, Peter Le Breuilly, Dympna Messenger, Catherine Dunne, Mary Drake, Ingrid Evans, Terry Jermyn, Lisa Doran, Jonathan Coote, Veronica Hempsey**. Also taking part were **Mary Piercy, Kate Glover and Joanna Hickman**. The playwrights were **Robin Marchal (The Venial Virgin), Penny Culliford (Saviour), Michael Harrington (Maddie's Story), Peter Haycroft (Church Cleaners), Jeremy Rowe (Couple), Kate Glover (Priestess)**. **Veronica Hempsey** wrote and performed the monologue "A Mother's Love". **Prue Gillett** performed the monologue "Anything Boys Can Do" which was written by her great friend, **Mary Bryden**, who sadly died some months ago.

The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, Sisters Margaret Mary and Sister Moira, both talked about their work in the United Kingdom for which there was a collection at the end of the evening. Both Sister Margaret and Sister Moira were both grateful and delighted to receive this.

ANNUAL MASS

The Annual Mass took place at Corpus Christi Church on 29 October and was celebrated by **Fr Alan**. It was a lovely service and the singing was superb. It was fortunate that our Annual Mass is now a part of the Parish Mass as only 8 members of CaAPA were present. This is a once a year event and it is a great pity that, as last year, so few CaAPA members attended. Six of us went for coffee after the Mass and mulled over why our Annual Mass attracts so few members, particularly as, at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 25 February 2015, some members requested that the Annual Mass be held on a Sunday and we went out for lunch afterwards. Well, it is definitely now a Sunday but coffee has replaced lunch!! None of us knew the answer, so if you have any ideas do please do let me know.

“DROP IN” AT GERRY’S CLUB – 14 NOVEMBER

The next “drop in” is on Tuesday, 14 November from 7 p.m. onwards. Gerry’s Club is located at 52 Dean Street and is open from 7 p.m. until 3 a.m. From the Palace Theatre you will see the Curzon Cinema on your right (Frith Street) - Dean Street is the next street on the right. Number 52 Dean Street is next door to Co Co Asian Food Store which has an orange sign lighting up the doorway. You will find a buzzer on the right-hand side of Gerry’s Club – press this for entry. Friends are also welcome.

WARNING: There is a staircase leading down to the Club which might be a problem for some members. Also please do NOT arrive before 7 p.m. as you won’t be able to get in!!

EVENT AT THE CAA ON THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER – STARTING at 7.45 p.m.

Siobhan Murphy is putting on her own production – **A Miscellany**, which includes songs from the musical theatre, popular Shakespeare theatre verse, a short talk about Professor Rona Laurie (her Drama Coach) remembering the late Sir Peter Hall, and ending with a short story. Please do come along and support Siobhan. Family and friends are welcome.

LAST REMINDER

This is the last reminder for **Michael Harrington’s** play, **Locks and Stocks**, which is being performed at Holy Apostles Church Hall, Pimlico (Cumberland Road entrance) on **Thursday, 23 November commencing at 7.30 p.m.** There will be a £5 entry donation which will go towards Holy Apostles night shelter project. The play stars the inimitable **Robin Marchal** as H, our own **Jane Garioni** as Reagan and **Alasdair Melrose**, a recent Central graduate, as Ben. **Kenneth Michaels** continues to bring his directing skills to bear and sound is by **Terry Perkins**. If you didn’t see the play at the CAA – and even if you did – this is not one to be missed, so stick it in your diary and hope to see you there. **All of the above is from the playwright himself. Thanks Michael!!**

This is a very worthwhile fund raiser for those homeless people who have nowhere to go at night. Imagine how awful it must be, especially as the weather is now turning much colder, to have nowhere to go to sleep at night. Most parishes are now involved in the night shelter project – please do support this very worthwhile cause – even if you HAVE already seen the play. Thank you.

ANNUAL DINNER – LAST REMINDER

The Annual Dinner is at Allen Hall on 8 December. All details and an application form were in the October newsletter. The closing date for applications is **Thursday, 30 November. I regret that any applications received after that date CANNOT be accepted.**

CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service takes place at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane, on Friday, 15 December commencing at 6.30 p.m. Family and friends are very welcome. Wine and mince pies will be available after the service.

HAVE A HAPPY NOVEMBER