
Ten ways to use drama in church

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1. Suggest better shape/ precision/new meaning to the liturgy

In some places, this may be seen as strictly the vicar/minister's business, but you can make suggestions! (eg, over where certain things take place and why . . .)

2. Improve the quality of presenting Biblical readings

Are the readings in your church rehearsed? Are readings done by those who are most audible? Have you considered sometimes using ***The Dramatised Bible***?

3. Use short drama interludes in non-liturgical services

There are many short sketches/dialogues available or these may be home-grown. See, for example, the ***Jesus and Peter*** dialogues from

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the Iona Community. It might also be possible for some of the congregation to develop and improvise role-plays (eg, of an ethical dilemma, or of a particular social issue).

4. Use poetry/dramatised literature in services or for study courses

eg, Clive Sansom's *The Witnesses* - a set of poems written for performance by individual Biblical characters. Use anthologies of material from particular poets.

5. Use plays or extracts from plays to sometimes replace sermons

eg, an extract from Shakespeare, *Waiting for Godot*, Victoria Wood, Alan Bennett, etc. Material can be presented in the form of staged readings or script-assisted performance, and 'outsiders' or people on the fringe of your congregation can be asked in to contribute.

6. Construct 'special' liturgies involving poetry and drama

There are several published books available, but much satisfaction (and more relevance) to be gained from inventing your own.

7. Use full-scale dramatic performances on particular occasions

Start from the list recently published in *Radius Performing* of '100 Best Plays'. You might be able to get a local drama group to present a particular play in which you are interested. There are several professional touring companies and individual performers who can be booked either for church or church-hall performance.

8. Develop a seasonal outside-the-church event

eg, a son-et-lumiere to dramatisé the past history of the church, drama in the church grounds, dramatisation of the stories of people buried in the churchyard.

9. Visit the local theatre and afterwards discuss what you have seen

A play or musical currently running may raise key religious questions in irreligious garb. Discussion can be informal (coffee together afterwards?) or formal (a session after church?).

10. Develop multi-occasion drama events

eg, organising dramatic (comparative?) readings of the Four Gospels over a period of time, or presenting some or all of D L Sayers's 12 *The Man Born To Be King* plays.