

The Parish of Greenford Magna
Celebrating Johnny's Special Occasion

Sunday 29th October, 2006



On 28th October 2006, Johnny reached a landmark birthday and on that day we gathered in Holy Cross Church as his family, friends and admirers to greet him and express our love and respect.

Johnny's qualities are well known and widely appreciated. Not only at Holy Cross Church, but in many arenas and among a variety of people, Johnny has made a significant contribution to the community through his commitment, his willingness to get involved and roll up his sleeves, and to remain constant.

We are very grateful that despite retiring as a Churchwarden of the parish of Greenford Magna in 2002, he still attends many meetings and undertakes a series of time consuming tasks without hesitation. In between his innumerable holidays that is!

Many happy returns of the day, Johnny, from everyone gathered here in Holy Cross Church and many more who send you greetings from all over the world.

Following is the script of two sketches performed after the Parish Mass to mark this special event oh, and a silly song too!

Celebrating Johnny's Special Event

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Music: Joseph Bodin de Boismortier Gaiement from Cinquieme Gentillesse op.45

The new Rector Radbert de Saleby, who is a Norman Frenchman, meets the Churchwardens, Jeanny and Raymond. Radbert is dressed with a French flamboyance and a nice ring of onions round his neck but Johnny and Ray enter skipping, dressed in English peasant costume.

Scene 1. The Past. Johnny (Jeanny) and Ray (Ram) greet their new Rector Radbert de Saleby, 1326-1330

Jeanny Good morning, Rector.
Ram Good morning, Rector.
Radbert Bon matin, mes eglise-wardens, Monsieur Jeanny et Monsieur Raymond.
Jeanny How are you today?
Radbert Je va tres bien, messieurs, merci beaucoup.
Ram We welcome you to Greenford Magna as our new Rector.
Radbert Bonne. Merci mille fois!
Jeanny Would you like some refreshments after your long journey?
Radbert Oui. Avez-vous les escargot?
Jeanny *(to Raymond)* Escargot? What's he on about?
Ram Escargot is French for snails, I think.
Jeanny Snails? Ugh!!!!
(to Radbert) Non, monsieur, we are just out of them.
Radbert Quelle horreur!!! 'Avez vous any good French restaurants in zis 'ere town?
Ram Well, we have some nice Pizza Take-aways in Greenford, Rector.
Radber Ah, merde. 'Ave you any frogs en Greenford Magna?
Jeanny *(aside)* We have now!
Radbert Bien, then I will eat some of zee frogs legs now and later you can find some escargot for me in zee river Brent.
Jeanny & Ram Ughhhhhh!!!!

Exit



Radbert de Saleby meets his eglise-wardens, 1326

Scene 2 **The future. The Wardens are about to greet their new Rector at some point following the retirement of Neil.**

Johnny and Ray enter

Johnny Well Ray, who do you think they have dreamed up to be our new rector this time?
Ray Well, Johnny, your guess is as good as mine. We could try and ask Our Lady for guidance?
Johnny Who do you mean? The Queen?
Ray No, silly. I meant .. her!
Johnny Her? Her indoors?
Ray No, you know. The one with a statue in the Old Church.
Johnny Oh. You mean... Bridget Coston?
Ray No silly, I mean...
Johnny Ah, you mean the Madonna...
Ray And child.
Johnny Of course..

They say *Hail Mary, full of grace...mumble mumble...*

As they mumble, Joan enters dressed as Madonna with a black child. Incense is wafted around her as she walks in. The Madonna track Vogue is heard. Ray and Johnny cling to each other in shock and amazement.

Johnny Who are you?
Madonna I am Madonna, your new Rector.
Ray And who is he?
Madonna Don't you read the newspapers? This is David.
Johnny But, I thought it was Madonna and child meaning Jesus?
Ray Where's Goliath?
Madonna Goliath?
Johnny Never mind all that. Are you really our new Rector?
Madonna Yes I am. And David is the new Curate.
Johnny (aside) Gawd help us!
Madonna Now, I plan to make some changes around here, you know.
Ray (aside) I'll bet you do! (To her) Yes Madonna, er Rector.
Johnny Changes? ... How do you mean?
Madonna Well, for a start, I want all the women in church to be more outstanding. (Gestures) They have all got to wear conical bras when they come to Church. I want everyone in vogue.
Johnny Comical bras? Is that meant to be funny?
Ray She said conical, not comical! I think you missed a point.
Johnny More like two! You're a bit of a change to Neil, aren't you!
Madonna Why do you say that?
Johnny Well, he was really, well, you know, old and ordinary!
Madonna The old order changes, Yielding place to new.
 Now I am your rector. You do as I do.
Johnny This is one milestone I won't forget in a hurry!

Madonna dances in a dominating style over Johnny and Ray joins in.



The new rector of Greenford?

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A silly song written specially for the special occasion

To the tune "What a friend".

Solo
(Johnny in 2002)

When my warden days are over,
Oh how happy I will be.
No more twiddling with the mic knobs,
I will hand back my church key!
No more church parades on Sunday,
No more putting in for leave,
No more Faculties to apply for-
Was it all just make-believe?

All

When his warden days are over,
He'll become Emeritus.
We will keep him on committees,
Give him jobs all tedious.
Make him photocopy Magna,
Stand and wait in church for hours,
We'll expect him to be willing
To arrange the altar flowers.

Solo
(Johnny in 2006)

Now I've reached my 80th birthday,
Do I not deserve a rest?
Is there no-one else around here
Who can take more interest?
Surely there among you people
Must be one who understands?
Can you now withdraw your finger?
Please, don't sit there on your hands!

All

Now you've reached your 80th birthday,
You will have a well-earned rest.
You have worked for many decades.
Now we want for you the best!
Thanks for everything you give us,
Fun and laughter, wisdom too.
But we cannot do without you,
Please, just keep your hand in, do!