

Audition notice

The Vicar of Dibley

Wigan Autistic Theatre Company is proud to announce our Spring 2025 production of The Vicar of Dibley

that is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year 2024

We are delighted to invite you to our open audition for both on and off-stage roles. For information of each role, please see below. Wigan Autistic Theatre is proud to be an inclusive community theatre group and accepting applications of all skill and abilities. For information regarding accessibility please contact wiganatc@outlook.com.

Playwright: A stage adaptation by Ian Gower and Paul Carpenter

Based on the original TV series Written by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer. Produced by Tiger Aspect Productions

Director:

Martin Spencer

Assistant director:

TBA

Audition:

Monday 18th November The Old Courts Crawford Street Wigan

WN1 1NA

Entrance 6

Start Time:

Auditions start at 6pm prompt please register your interest on our website and arrive 10-15 mins before the start of the audition to get checked in. Doors open at 5.30pm

First rehearsal:

Monday 25th November 2024 6.00pm -9.00pm

And then every Monday until 7th April 2025

Production dates including Tech and Dress Rehearsal :

7th April 2025-Saturday 12th April 2025

Show dates:

Thursday 10TH, Friday 11TH, Saturday 12TH April 2025

Production venue:

St Micheals church hall Shaw Street wigan

Synopsis of play

At first the village community are horrified at having received a female Vicar from the head church, however eventually they learn to accept her as she learns (and challenges) the steadfast ways of the village. She manoeuvres her way into the hearts of the parishioners and the community in which she lives.

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. In this script adaption created by Ian Gower, it is primarily about the reception a female vicar receives upon being assigned to a small farming village called Dibley.

Director's Note

The vicar of Dibley is an iconic tv show from the 90s and if you look back to all the characters, they have their own quirks and uniqueness with the characters. What I am looking for is not a carbon copy of that character but the chance for actors to make it their own and bring a hint and charm of the character they are playing but bring out the mannerism in that character what makes the audience laugh and have a good time.

In some ways they are caricatures of stereo-typical small village non-urban middle England. But they have some depth and warmth. Our job is to get that across.

The play has two acts. Act one has ten scenes and Act two has effectively thirteen scenes. This means quite a bit of scene shifting and very quick costume changes. Most of the changes are just a jumper, jacket or tie but need to be practiced so we will be looking to have some of the costumes well before the dress rehearsal.

AUDITION PROCESS

We will make parts of the script available If you want to try for more than one part that would be great, we will audition everyone and let you know if you have or you haven't got the role. You may be asked to come and do a second audition if we feel it is necessary.

CHARACTERS

- **David Horton** - Arrogant, bombastic and a bully. The local country big wig who is used to getting his own way in all matters. He is a big fish in a very small pond. Looks down on everyone especially Alice, who he thinks is subhuman. Possibly a bit of a misogynist. Playing age 55+ as he has a 30-year-old son. Starts the show and must command attention. Big part that appears in many scenes. A few longish bits of dialogue but most is snappy one-liners. Must be able to hold a posh accent.
- **Geraldine Granger** - Forget the TV show – this is not about being Dawn French. It is about getting the character of a warm hearted, ballsy, intelligent, free thinking female vicar coming from a cosmopolitan background to a deep in the country village that is mentally stuck in the attitudes of the 1950's. Black bob wig will be provided. All other physical attributes are your own. Appears in virtually every scene. So, lots to learn. Some fast costume changes. An understanding of sarcasm would be useful. Playing age 35+
- **Hugo Horton** - The not too bright son of David Horton. Madley in love with Alice Tinker. Tries to follow his father's ideals but does not have the same self-serving personality. A bit shy and unsure of himself. A thoroughly good chap who just wants people to get on and be happy. Playing age 30+ ish. Quite a big part.
- **Alice Tinker** - Young unmarried and very much in love with Hugo. Lives in a sort of parallel universe where Teletubbies are real. Acting challenge is to appear thick but have impeccable timing and deadpan delivery. Playing Age 25 – 35

- **Letitia Copley** - Mad as a hatter – or is she? Famous for weird cakes with bacon in them. Playing age well over 60 but less than 95. Not a massive part but lots to do on stage reacting to what is going on around you. It would help if you could knit especially with big needles.
- **Jim Trott** - Most of his lines revolve around “No No No No No Yes”. Son of the soil widowed with a cheeky grin. Oh, and he very much likes women. Playing age 60+ These three are significant parts that tend to come as a trio giving the one liners to set up and make the jokes.
- **Frank Pickle** - Town Council Secretary. Diffident, neat, precise in every way and shy, especially around women. Catch phrase – “shall I minute that?” Playing Age 60+ They are on stage quite a bit but do not have millions of lines. Timing is essential and lots of scope for physical acting especially facial expressions reacting to others on stage.
- **Owen Newitt** - Tall and gangly. Rough sheep farmer who may be a bit too familiar with one of his sheep. Has terrible bowels and virtually no manners but somewhere there is a heart of gold. Playing Age 45+
- **Woman** - Upper class accent and ability to shout loudly but so we can easily understand the words. Playing age 30+ Incredibly small part (just three lines) but very important when she interrupts the wedding to say she is already married to Hugo

- **Girl 1 & 2/Boys 1,2,3-**(we will be using puppets for this as we are age 18+ group these roles will be perfect for anyone who would like a small role and up for a challenge to work with puppets) - Scene Eight towards the end of the first act is four pages long. Alice introduces the children (to Geraldine who asks them some questions. The answers are very funny if done right. Lots of fun with several short but very funny lines for each of the cast. Timing and clear enunciation are important to get the jokes across Ideal playing age is 8 to 13. Scene Eleven of Act Two is the wedding. At least three of the cast playing the children **(the puppets)** will be the bridesmaids and pages wearing Teletubby costumes in the wedding scene. The cast can take it in turns for the wedding scene so that everyone gets a chance to take part. We will probably use your real first names to make it easier for you and the cast to know what is going on.

To obtain audition scripts please go to our website where you can you can download the audition pieces of our website at <https://wiganatc.co.uk/>

Please note: All actors offered a part in a WATC production must become an Active Member within 14 days of being cast. Membership is free to join and you will be given a membership form if cast