

THE

MILLENNIUM

MASQUE



INTRODUCTION.

*How many miles to Babylon?
Three score miles and ten.
Can we get there by candle light?
Yes and back again.*

Many miles and two thousand years separate Downham and the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. But here, as in so much of the rest of the world, history and Christianity are one. The church is still the centre of both the village and the parish. Its story is still the story of the people who have lived, worked and died here.

Consider then that our Masque is played before you on that long road that starts with baptism at the font, marriage at the chancel step, the young brought back for baptism and the old carried to rest before the altar on their way to the great divide between the graveyard and the eternal dawn beyond the Cross. The road taken for many centuries by each of Downham's sons and daughters.

Freak climates robbed us of the iron age - too wet to kindle the fires needed for smelting - and we were wild when the first Romans came to bring us order. Two of them lie by our churchyard path. We have records of the history of our people and the footsteps of those that came this way are marked for ever. Names that have appeared on gravestones for generations still appear on the Electoral Roll - Asshetons, Whipps, Bulcocks, Smithies, Robinsons and the rest - and much of what you will hear tonight are the very words once spoken by those long-gone people



Pudsey the rogue, Nicholas Assheton the sporting diarist, Sir Ralph devout and generous - composing his will when Cranmer's Prayer Book was newly published - you will meet them all as they take the long road through Downham church. William Assheton's initials are on the houses that he built for all to see and the Romans found by his workmen lie safely now beneath our turf.

You will hear the speech made at Victoria's Jubilee luncheon and the guns that fired the salute to Her Majesty on the Barley Field that day. The church described before it's last rebuilding is that complained of, word for word, by a lady of that time and Tommy Higson's grave is marked by a fine memorial provided by his colleagues and admirers in the village of his day.



Real people, real lives, men and women of Downham all. The toll taken by the first World War is there on the west wall by the belfry door. Nearby is the list of those who fought in the second. Still in the village are some who served, pitchforks in hand, in 'Dad's Army' and others who vividly recall the boasting of "Haw Haw" on the bombing of Chatburn.

Perhaps it is in the last fifty years that most has happened to change the attitudes but not the characters of the people of Downham. The family car, the television set, cheap travel by air and the surge of spending power have all played a part in changing the lives we lead. We have lost our school but gained a garden club, we have lost many independent farmers but have gained in "set aside", new woods are planted (one called 'Tumbledown' to mark its birthdate), we have a forge again, unwanted buildings are put to useful tasks and, unaware, we are all as much threads in the age old fabric as were those others, dead and gone.

*The moving finger writes
and having writ
moves on.*



SCENE ONE

BRONZE AGE MAN

CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Storyteller	Bill Walker	
Bronze Age couple		Jon Whitsey Jo Eastwood
'Creatures'	Amy Creighton, April Creighton, Laura Marlow Sarah Marlow, Christa McFall, Lucy Whitsey Adam Chadwick, Andrew Hayton, Luke Hayton Harry McFall, Andrew Colton	

SCENE TWO

THE ROMANS

CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Storyteller	Bill Walker	
Soldier I	John Whittaker	Gerry Purchase
Soldier II	Bill Hemmingway	Adam Chadwick
Soldier III	Bob Cleeve	Robert Moyle
Soldier IV	Eddie Bootle	
Centurion	Gerry Hood	Ralph Assheton
Girls		Elizabeth Wrigley Leslie Knight Christa McFall Kirsteen Walmsley
Angle	Martin Chadwick	





SCENE THREE

BOLAND IS WILD

CHARACTERS

VOICES

PLAYERS

Storyteller

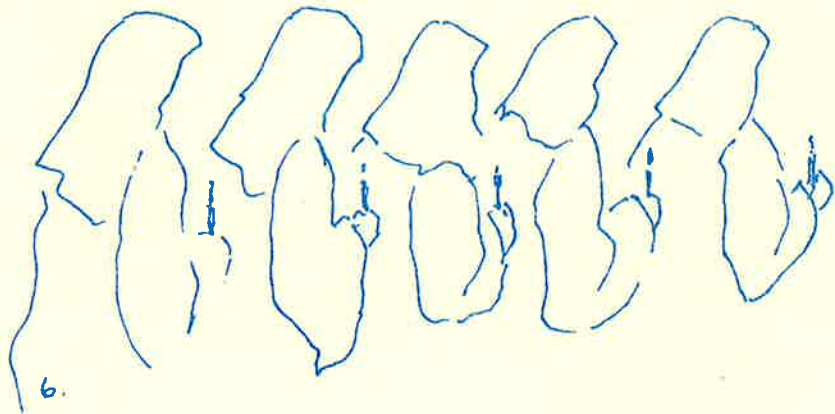
Bill Walker

Bishop

Alan Reid

Monks

The Company



SCENE FOUR

PUDSEY'S LEAP

CHARACTERS

VOICES

PLAYERS

Storyteller

Bill Walker

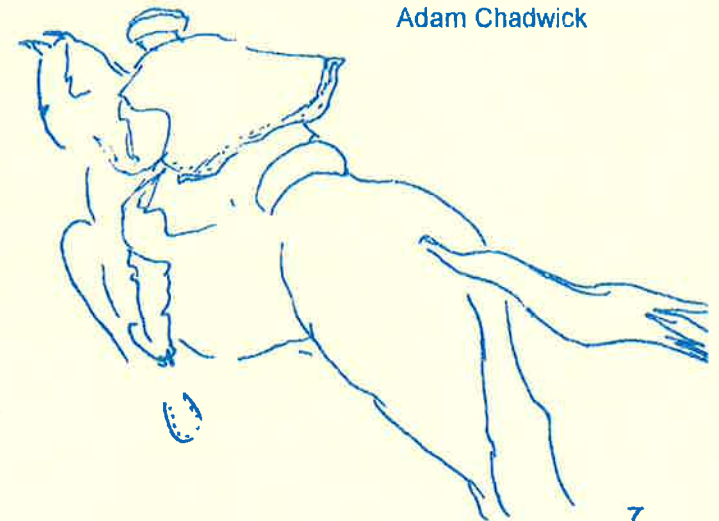
Pudsey

Colin Aspinall

King's men

Mel Scorer
Fran Osborne
Martin Cosgrif

Jon Whitsey
Robert Moyle
Alan Reid
Jean Holmes
Adam Chadwick

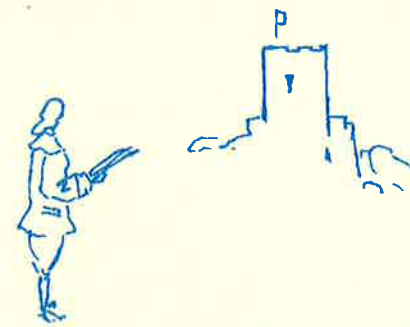




SCENE FIVE

THE WITCHES

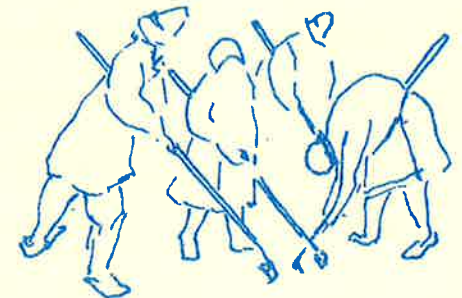
CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Storyteller	Bill Walker	
Chattox	Barbara Price	Molly Roskell
Mother Demdyke	Jean Holmes	Valerie Hall
Alizen Device	Leslie Knight	Lesley Knight
Alice Nutter	Dorothy Cushing	Susan Marlow
Anne Redfern	Barbara Taylor	Elizabeth Wrigley
Jennet	Pat Hargreaves	April Creighton
Disciples		Sarah Marlow

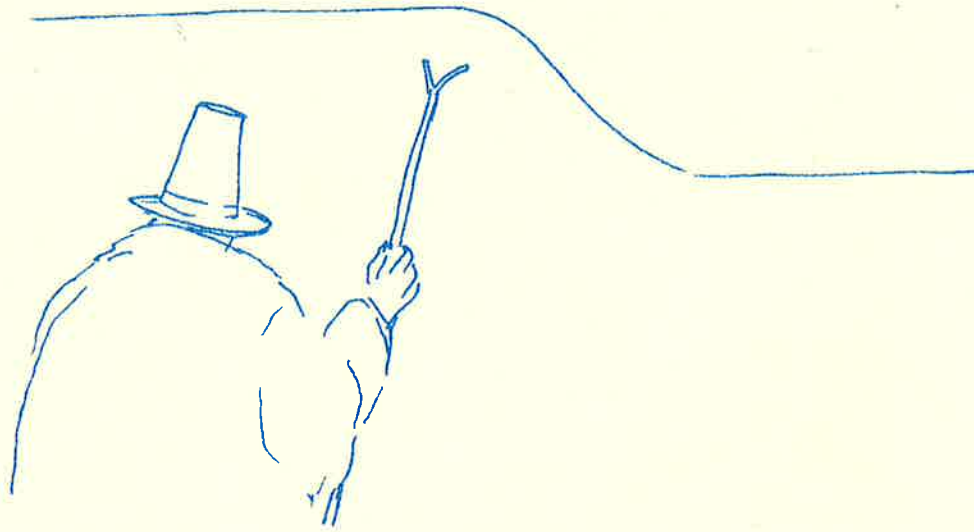


SCENE SIX

THE CIVIL WAR

CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Nicholas Assheton	Ralph Assheton	Ralph Assheton
Smithies	Mel Scolah	J Holmes
Bulcock	Martin Cosgrif	Jon Whitsey
Countrywoman	Barbara Price	Elizabeth Wrigley
Countrywoman	Fran Osborne	Molly Roskell
Sir Ralph Assheton	Lord Clitheroe	Alan Reid





SCENE SEVEN

FOX AND THE QUAKERS

CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Fox	Eddie Bootle	Michael McFall
1st Countrywoman	Pat Hargeaves	Molly Roskell
2nd Countrywoman	Fran Osborne	Sylvia Hopwood
Countryman	Bill Hemingway	Gerry Purchase
Bullcock	John Whittaker	Jon Whitsey
Scrivener	Martin Chadwick	James Aspinall
Storyteller	Bill Walker	



SCENE EIGHT

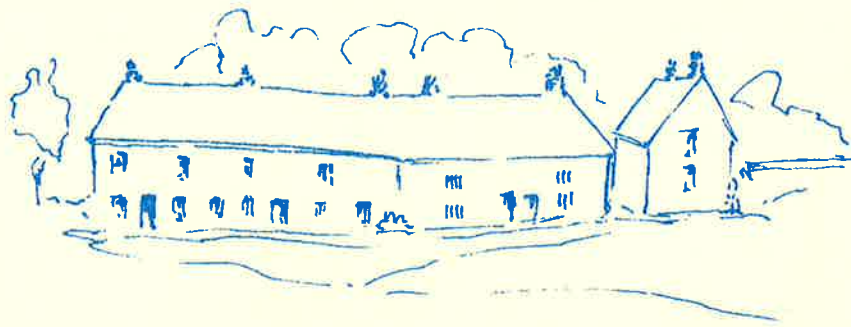
THE WESLEYS

CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
John Wesley	Gerry Hood	Robert Moyle

THE CHOIRS

Carole Ashworth, Raymond Aspin, Heather Aspinall, James Aspinall, Jenny Aspinall, Di Braithwaite, Geoff Braithwaite, Catherine Campbell, Adam Chadwick, Anne Chadwick, Trudy Chadwick, Lady Clitheroe, Gill Cragg, April Creighton, Amy Creighton, Jo Eastwood, Valerie Hall, Geoffrey Hitchen, Phylis Jackson, Muriel Jones, Kathleen King, Trudy Mansfield, Laura Marlow, Sarah Marlow, Susan Marlow, Christa McFall, Harry McFall, Henny McFall, Philippa McFall, Jean Oldroyd, Jim Parker, Eileen Parker, Alan Reid, Molly Roskell, Joan Squires, Kirsteen Walmsley, June Weaver, Alice Wells, Jean Whitsey, Margaret Wood, David Yorke.

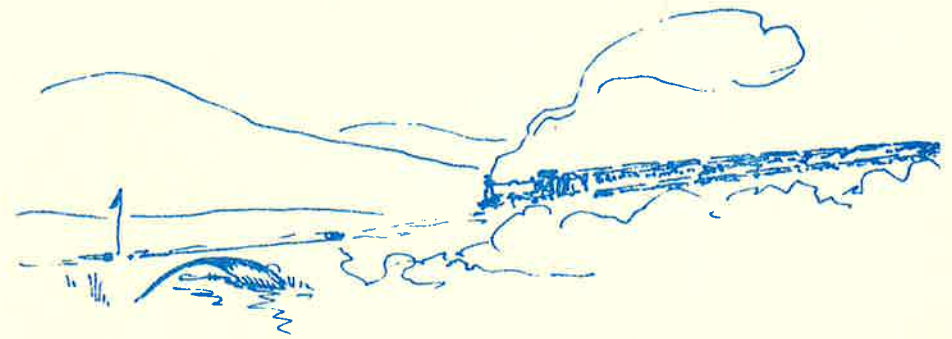
Cellist: Georgina Wilkes.
Organist: Adele Pridding.



SCENE NINE

DOWNHAM AS WE KNOW IT

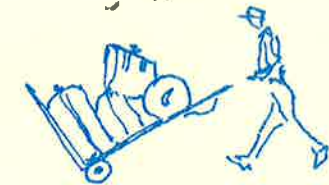
CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Storyteller	Bill Walker	
W Assheton	Martin Chadwick	Ralph Assheton
Bailiff	Gerry Hood	Jon Whitsey
1st Farmer	John Whittaker	J Holmes
2nd Farmer	Eddie Bootle	S Hopwood

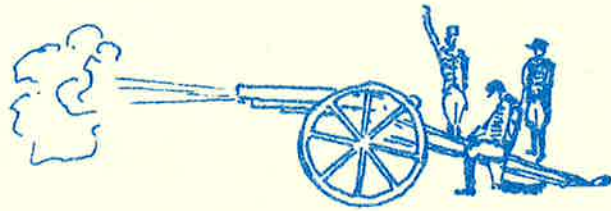


SCENE TEN

THE COMING OF STEAM

CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Porter	Mel Scolah	Adam Chadwick
Station Master	Martin Cosgrif	Gerry Purchase
Passengers		The cast





SCENE ELEVEN

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

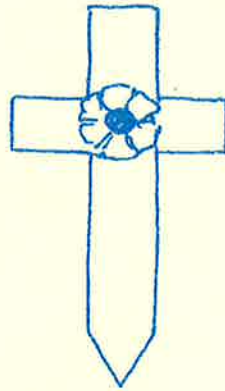
CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Chairman	Bill Taylor	Colin Aspinall
Robinson	Peter Dilworth	Michael McFall
Sarah	Rachel Scott	Lesley Knight
Smithies	Michael O'Hagan	Gerry Purchas
Bulcock	Mel Scorch	Jon Whitsey
Committee Members		Susan Marlow
		Elizabeth Wrigley
Mr R C Assheton	Roger Dugdale	Ralph Assheton
Squire	Martin Chadwick	Robert Moyle



SCENE TWELVE

THE SECOND NEW CHURCH

CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Beth	Barbara Price	Jo Eastwood
Sophie	Fran Osborne	Susan Marlow
Tommy Higson		Gerry Purchase
Organist	Adele Pridding	
Cellist	Georgina Wilkes	



SCENE THIRTEEN

THE GREAT WAR

CHARACTERS

VOICES

PLAYERS

Storyteller

Bill Walker

News boy

Christa McFall

Luke Hayton

Burns

John Whittaker

Hudson

Eddie Bootle

Leeming

Michael McFall

Lonsdale

Bill Hemingway

Robinson

John Whitaker

Smithies

Michael McFall

Webster

Peter Dilworth

Soldiers chorus

The Male Choir



SCENE FOURTEEN

BETWEEN THE WARS

CHARACTERS VOICES

PLAYERS

Millie

Rachel Scott

Christa McFall

Nellie

Dianne Woodcock

Amy Creighton

Foreman

Edie Bootle

Colin Aspinall

Jack

John Whitaker

Gerry Purchase

Flapper

Barbara Taylor

Lesley Knight

Denis

John Whittaker

Ralph Assheton

Fritz

Martin Chadwick

Michael McFall

Hermann

John Whittaker

Jon Whitsey

SCENE FIFTEEN

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Storyteller	Bill Walker	
Schmitt	John Whittaker	Michael McFall
Premm		Jon Whitsey
Smith	Peter Dilworth	Andrew Hayton
Price	Michael O'Hagan	Harry McFall
Sergeant	Bill Walker	J Holmes
Soldier	Michael O'Hagan	Adam Chadwick
Billie	Michael O'Hagan	Andrew Hayton
Harold	Peter Dilworth	Adam Chadwick
Father	Mel Scorer	Gerry Purchase
Mother	Barbara Price	Val Hall
Henry	Martin Cosgrif	James Aspinall
Betty	Fran Osborne	April Creighton
Haw-Haw	Barbara Price	
Girl	Christa McFall	Sarah Marlow
Farmer	Eddie Bootle	Robert Moyle
BBC announcer	Michael McFall	

SCENE SIXTEEN

THE POST WAR YEARS

CHARACTERS	VOICES	PLAYERS
Storyteller	Bill Walker	
Henry	Martin Cosgrif	James Aspinall
Father	Mel Scorer	Gerry Purchase
Mother	Barbara Price	Val Hall
Betty		April Creighton
1st Housewife	Jean Holmes	Sylvia Hopwood
2nd Housewife	Rachel Scott	Molly Roskell
1st Husband	Michael O'Hagan	Colin Aspinall
2nd Husband	Peter Dilworth	Robert Moyle
Aimee	Jean Holmes	Amy Creighto
Deidre	Christa McFall	Christa McFall
Managing Dir	John Whittaker	Ralph Assheton
Jones	David Scott	Gerry Purchase
Vicar	Martin Chadwick	Michael McFall
Warden	David Scott	Colin Aspinall
1st Farmer	John Whittaker	Colin Aspinall
2nd Farmer	Eddie Bootle	Robert Moyle
1st councillor	Eddie Bootle	Colin Aspinall
2nd councillor		Leslie Knight
3rd councillor		Susan Marlow
		Elizabeth Wrigley
Mr Newcomer	Martin Chadwick	Gerry Purchase
Mrs Newcomer	Pat Hargreaves	Valerie Hall



SCENE SEVENTEEN

FINALE

CHARACTERS

VOICES

PLAYERS

Storyteller

Bill Walker

The Choirs

The Company

THE PRODUCTION TEAM.

Producers.	Sound Action	Barbara Taylor Fran Osborne
Directors	Music Sound Lighting Choristers Casting	Jim Parker Brian Webster Martin Butters Kirsteen Walmsley Philippa McFall
Site Control	Tom McLean	
Wardrobe	Eileen Wilson, Anne Moyle, Henrietta McFall, Jo Eastwood, Philippa McFall	
Dressers	Audrey Roney, Kath Swarbrick	
Make-up	Olivia Assheton	
Properties	David & Sandra Oyston	
Stewards	Di Braithwaite, Geoff Braithwaite, Gill Cragg, Brenda Lund, Jean Whitsey,	
Box Office	Di Braithwaite, Gill Cragg, Mary Hall, Sheila Knowles, Phyllis Jakson, Brenda Lund, Steve Marshall, Tom McLean, Michael McFall, Judy Nixon, Eileen Parker, Andrew Potts, Jean Whitsey, Linda Whitsey, Diana Wilkins.	
Back Stage	Bill Anderson, Steve Bell, Thomas Binns, Alastair Campbell, Peter Craig, Nigel East- wood, Danny Fielding, John Hardbattle, Geoff Holmes, John Roskell, Chris Swarbrick, Bob Swarbrick, Jackie Wilkins, Steve Wilkins.	
Script	Michael McFall	

Understudies

Whenever possible, parts will be played by those listed in this programme. However, in the case of sickness or other adversity, the Producers may have to make occasional changes without notice

SPONSORSHIP.

Without the help and generous support of our many sponsors the Millennium Masque would never have been anything but a script. We have been given grants, loans and gifts in kind apart from the tireless support of the production team and the cast who have given time and transport, phone bills and food quite apart from their talents in every sphere.

We know that names are invidious but we mention here just some of our sponsors in the hope that they will share our gratitude with all the others who must remain un-named.

Leader II.
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Community Council of Lancashire
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Booths
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Dugdales
Edwin Jackson
Mytton Fold
Burgess
Brian Price
Jennings Brothers
John Pye
Tesco
Townsons Fuels
Ultra frame
Wilkinson Solid Fuel
Waterloo Timber

All of us who have been involved with the production of the Masque since 1997 would like to thank the Patron and the Parochial Church Council for their help and enthusiastic support from start to finish.

Good luck to Downham in the next one thousand years.