

## WHO ARE WE

St Michael's Players is one of the longest standing drama groups in London.

We have been staging plays in West London since 1949.

We are a very friendly group and aim to entertain as well as stage high quality productions. Our repertoire is varied, and we look to present 3-4 shows a year, which includes our famous 'Panto' in December. We are constantly on the lookout for new members to act, produce, direct, help backstage, help with front of house and with costumes and make up.

We rehearse twice a week – rehearsals and performances take place at

St Michael's Centre, 60 Elmwood Road, Chiswick, W4 3DZ.

Please contact our Chairman Alastair Dewar [alastair.dewar@cgi.com](mailto:alastair.dewar@cgi.com) if you would like to get involved – **WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

## 70 YEARS YOUNG

St Michael's Players turn 70 next year! In June 2019, we will stage a spectacular outdoor production of *Salad Days*

by Julian Slade and Dorothy Reynolds in St Paul's Church Garden.

**Sign up to our newsletter and be the first know when tickets go on sale!**

## WELCOME

We say a big welcome and welcome back to these lovely people and we hope that this will be the first of many more productions with us! – Bill Rodwell, Tessa Dunn (treading the boards next month in *Jack & The Beanstalk*), Alberto Lais, Jamie Makin, Chester Smith and Chris White

## WHAT'S NEXT

**5th-8th December: PANTO TIME! Jack and The Beanstalk**

## WHERE TO FIND US

[www.stmichaelsplayers.org](http://www.stmichaelsplayers.org)

Facebook

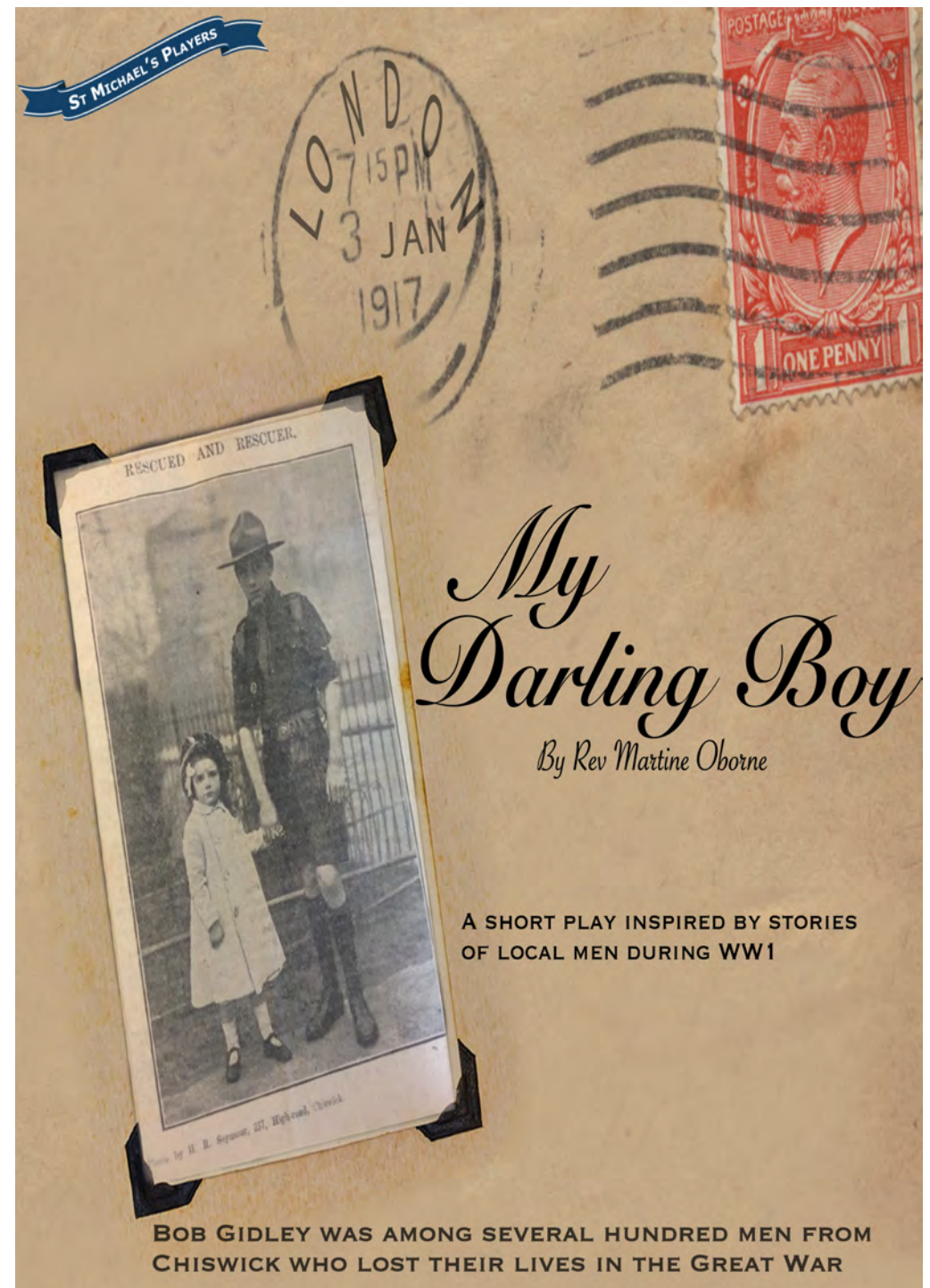
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# *My Darling Boy*

*By Rev Martine Osborne*

## **Cast in order of appearance:**

Mrs A	Sue Darrieulat
Mrs B	Christine Lee
Constance Gidner	Flora Barker
Mrs Gidner	Madeleine Hazard
Tom Spencer	Jamie Makin
Mr Gidner	Alastair Dewar
Julian Gidner	Alberto Lais
Rev Lawrence Spencer	Adrian Ellis
Geoffrey Gidner	Chester Smith
Frank Gidner	Chris White
Mrs Spencer	Tessa Dunn
Bishop of Kensington	Bill Rodwell

**Directed by** – Adrian Ellis

**Producer-** Fleur de Henrie Pearce

**Stage Management** - Bryony Wilman and Chris Pease

**Technical Designer** – Marc Pearce

**Technical Operator** – Utku Er

**Front of House & Bar** –

Members & Friends of St Michael's Players

## **RUNNING ORDER**

My Darling Boy is One Act: approximately 1 hour

**There is no interval – the bar will be open before and after the show**

## **VERY SPECIAL THANKS**

St Michael's Church

Pennie Bayliss and Barnes Community Players for costume hire

*St Michael's Players will be donating all profits to St Michael's Church  
and The Royal British Legion*

# *"Lest We Forget"*

## *100 Years / 1918-2018*

St Michael's Church; in association with St Michael's Players, is delighted to present *My Darling Boy* –an original One Act play by Rev Martine Osborne. The play was originally staged four years ago, and this very special production is performed to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.

*My Darling Boy's* writer Rev Martine Osborne shares her inspiration and the plays' important message

*"Just before the centenary of the start of the First World War, I began to reflect on the words I say at Remembrance services every November – Binyon's words - **At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.** It suddenly struck me that we could not remember the thirty-three men listed on our church monument that lost their lives in WW1 because we knew nothing about their stories. So, we applied for some funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund and set about recapturing these stories. After about a year of work, we had traced descendants, poured over archives and unearthed all kinds of artefacts - from cigarette boxes to letters to fading photographs. We put all this together to produce an exhibition and a book called 'Heroes of Chiswick.' But still I didn't feel this quite communicated the experience of the whole community of the parish in the war years - when sons, brothers and fathers were away and when so many lost their lives or suffered so dreadfully. So, I wrote the short play *My Darling Boy.*"*

The title *My Darling Boy* was taken from a real letter written by a mother to her teenage son who had enlisted under age, hoping he would be spared active duty. The play is made up of a conflation of true stories and the names used have been changed, however towards the of the play you will hear the real names of those who lost their lives. *My Darling Boy* begins at the outbreak of WW1 with the pride felt by families that their boys were fighting for the country and the expectation that war would be over by Christmas. Little did they know that it was to last four long years and so many lives would be taken! *My Darling Boy* looks to the hopefulness that was shared at the time – that the lives lost would not have been in vain. That this would have been the war to end all wars!