

DAY OF RECKONING
West Wycombe Village Hall

The Masque Players made an excellent choice in this production. First time director Lannie Staff, certainly proved her worth in this instance. Set in the village hall the planning committee for the church meet one January evening. Nothing however is straightforward and the characters soon assert their own agenda and personalities on the proceedings. With a very strong cast there were no weak links, and their timing was immaculate holding their lines until the laughter had died down so that none of the dialogue was lost. Superbly written by Pam Valentine it contained plenty of laughs which the cast delivered most professionally and the pathos was portrayed sensitively. Once again the Masque Players have demonstrated how multi talented their members are with their versatility, from comedy through to pantomime. Look out for their next production which should make a visit to West Wycombe Village hall worthwhile.

Jocelyn Pearce made an impact from the start as Ethel, Megan Boddy portrayed the shy schoolteacher extremely well and carried off her new found confidence with assurance. Jenni Churches was great as Mavis the old woman and maintained her character throughout. Vikki Gomm brought just the right touch to her character as the rather posh woman and Rose Whitelock was superb as Gloria Pitt displaying a range of emotions that was very moving. Mandi McDermott demonstrated her position well as the long suffering wife of the vicar and Matt Aspden, not to be outdone as the only male in the cast, expressed considerable talent as the drunken wayward vicar who in the last scene gave a touching display of what his role as a vicar should be and showed the audience his transformation. As a professional actress one expected Caroline McDonnell to give a fine performance and she didn't disappoint. A very enjoyable evening and judging by the comments from the audience as we left it was very well received.

Rita Carpenter. Bucks Free Press.