

## Passion Play in Essex

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An ecumenical group is bringing the real story of the first Easter to life in Trinity Square, South Woodham Ferrers on Good Friday and Easter Saturday.

The play tells the story of Holy Week, leading up to Easter, and the dramatic tale of the Last Supper, Judas' betrayal, Jesus' trial and his Crucifixion and Resurrection. Drawn straight from the original accounts in the Bible, the production tells the tale faithfully and accessibly, with modern language and realistic performances.



Says producer Paul Hardy: "The team who brought you 'One Life, One Passion' in 2009 are back, with a mixture of contemporary and historical realism. In 2009, over 800 people gathered for just one performance, and many were visibly moved. With an all-age family vibe, a vibrant local cast, and a script that's even better than before, it's the perfect way to round off the Easter weekend."

In 2009 'One Life, One Passion' started with Jesus entering Jerusalem on ... a Harley Davidson. What will he arrive on in 2014?

The blind man Bartimeus appears in the 2014 production, played by Bishop John Wraw, Bishop of Bradwell, accompanied by trainee guide dog Roma. Kenton Church is the new Jesus. How will he deliver arguably the most challenging dramatic role that exists? He will be in Agony on the steps of a branch of a bank as his Garden of Gethsemane – ironic or what?

Excitement is growing as the only Passion Play in Essex and East Anglia approaches, says director Peter Blackman. "Rehearsals of the new longer play have been going well. Our cast of over 50 includes a lot of experienced actors as well as some fresh talent. They will show how relevant the story of the Passion of Christ is today using all the available features of our exciting town centre. The Bandstand is the natural venue for The Last Supper and the Trial. The purpose made cross provides a most realistic Crucifixion."

The South Woodham Ferrers Passion Play, 'One Life, One Passion', follows a centuries old tradition of telling the Easter story using street theatre, recreating events that happened in Jerusalem 2000 years ago on the streets of the town.

The performances will take place on Good Friday 18 April and on Saturday 19 April starting at 11am in Trinity Square, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex CM3 5JX. Everyone is very welcome to attend. The performance on Saturday 19 April will be especially accessible, including signing for deaf people.

If you would like to take part or attend there's more information on the website

[www.onelifeonepassion.co.uk](http://www.onelifeonepassion.co.uk) .