



What are the Long Crendon Mystery Plays?

The Mystery Plays tell the story of Man from the Creation to the Last Judgement.

Throughout Europe in the 14th, 15th and 16th Centuries, they were performed in the streets of the towns of their origin, often during Corpus Christi processions. They were spoken in the language of the people, and form the basis of theatre from Shakespeare to the present day. The Long Crendon plays are taken from the York cycle, the most complete of the surviving manuscript texts.

Medieval Banquets and Pub Suppers

An authentic four course medieval banquet with wine will be served in the stunning Medieval Hall and dining room at Long Crendon Manor House in Frogmore Lane, preceding the Mystery Plays on Friday and Saturday.

Guests are invited to arrive at the Manor House at 6:00 pm for Drinks – outside on the Terrace if fine – before sitting down to the four course banquet with wine at 6:15 pm. During the meal, local musicians will entertain the guests from the Minstrels gallery.

Soon after 7:45 pm, everyone will leave the Manor House and make their way to Church House in the High Street to join the procession of local actors en route to St Mary's Church, taking their seats for the Medieval Mystery Plays, which begin at 8:15 pm.

This year the Eight Bells Pub in the High Street will again be serving traditional (but not medieval) two course pub suppers before the plays, from 6:15pm onwards.

Music and costumes

Almost all of the music that accompanies the plays is taken from the period of the Cycle. Medieval plainsong is chanted during the course of the evening, and the *Quem Quaeritis?*, originally sung by two choir boys in Church, is one of the earliest forms of religious drama in England. There are also two motets composed by former Long Crendon residents.

Much research was done to ensure that all the costumes for the cast faithfully represent the dress of the period. The cast of over 60 local actors and children assemble in Long Crendon High Street outside Church House at 8:00 pm each evening and process to the Church to begin the performances at 8:15 pm.