

Narrator: REV. LEONARD HICKIN

Scenes Enacted by:—

Jennifer Asgill	Eustace Alliot
Alison Ball	Malcolm Brown
Gladys Balls	Maurice Brown
Gwyneth Bradley	Robert Bryan
Catherine Brown	Richard Buck
Barbara Cook	Miles Castleton
Patricia Cox	Derek Gaston
Mary Crosthwaite	Harold Havercroft
Sylvia Dollemore	Christopher Hickin
Rosemary Eakin	Edward Hills
Patricia Gwyther	Rex King
Elizabeth Hunt	Keith Ladbury
Rosemary Hunt	Christopher Marsh
Charlotte Knox-Wright	John Marsh
Dorothy Ladbury	Leslie Meers
Kathleen Mackenzie	Peter Monzani
Mary Meers	James Newth
Ada Pearson	Basil Oliver
Dora Reckitt	Ian Pearson
Frances Reckitt	Arthur Rodgers
Christine Rodgers	Peter Southgate
Joyce Spratt	Michael Tagent
Coralie Way	

Written by: LESLIE PIKE

Produced by: BRIAN BALL

Stage Manager ... VALERIE GATES *Lighting* EDDIE SIMPSON

Stanley Mason Ltd., Printers, Amersham.

ST. LEONARD'S PARISH CHURCH

CHESHAM BOIS

750th

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Programme of Pageant

presented on

Friday, 28th May, 1965

at 8 p.m.

and

Saturday, 29th May, 1965

at 6 p.m.

Scene 1. MAGNA CARTA
Presented by the Choir

As near as can be ascertained, the original Chapell of Boyes was founded in 1215, the year in which the Barons forced King John to append his royal seal to the Magna Carta at Runnymede.

Scene 2. THE BLACK DEATH
Presented by the Mothers' Union

Sweeping across Europe from Asia, a terrible plague devastated England during 1348 and 1349, killing off half the total population.

Scene 3. PERSECUTION OF THE LOLLARDS
Presented by the Youth Group

In the 14th century John Wyclif and his associates at Oxford initiated a reformation against the worldliness of the Church and the temporal powers of the Pope. This movement gained much support. The Lollards, as these reformers were called, were particularly persecuted in our own district.

Scene 4. DEATH OF HENRY V
Presented by the Sidesmen

Victor over the French at Agincourt in 1415, Henry V made a triumphal entry into Paris in 1420 to be acknowledged as the future sovereign of France; but he died of dysentery in a chateau near the capital two years later.

Scene 5. FIRST RECORDED MARRIAGE AT CHESHAM BOIS
Presented by the Children's Church

The earliest marriage entry in our register is as follows:— "Maister John Cheyne Esquire and Mistress Joice Lee the daughter of Sr. Anthony Lee Knight, were married the xxixth day of November Ao.Dni. 1562."

Scene 6. THE ELIZABETHAN REGISTER
Presented by the Mothers' Union

Succeeding Cardinal Wolsey as adviser to Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell was appointed Vicar-General and Chancellor. In 1538 he decreed that all parish priests should keep registers. Very few of the earliest ones have survived; but that of Chesham Bois goes back as far as 1562.

Scene 7. LEVY OF SHIP MONEY
Presented by the Youth Group

Ruling largely without a Parliament, Charles I found it increasingly difficult to obtain funds and resorted to illegal measures to raise money. The first public stand against this procedure was made by the local patriot, John Hampden, on the Ship Money levy.

Scene 8. GREAT FIRE OF LONDON
Presented by the Sidesmen

Following the Great Plague of 1655, the insanitary and overcrowded city of London was purged by the devastation of 1666 which continued for four days, the dense smoke and some of the debris being carried on the strong wind as far west as Windsor.

Scene 9. CHESHAM BOIS A PECULIAR
Presented by the Church Room

From early times certain churches were designated as Peculiars, being granted freedom from the customary ecclesiastical authority. A number of these still survive but have largely ceased to exert their peculiar rights and privileges.

Scene 10. THE RELIGIOUS REVIVAL
Presented by the Youth Group

Like the original attempt at the reformation of the Church by Wyclif, the great evangelical movement of the 18th century also started at Oxford, being initiated by John Wesley whose followers became known as Methodists. The Rector of Chesham Bois was a strong supporter of this movement to revitalise the Church.

Scene 11. BUILDING THE NEW RECTORY
Presented by the Parochial Church Council

The rectory had long been the original part of a now larger house in North Road. On the appointment of his relation, the Hon. Lowther Barrington, to the living of Chesham Bois, the Duke of Bedford considered that a new and more suitable parsonage was required.

Scene 12. ENLARGING THE CHURCH
Presented by the Lay Readers

The original 13th century chapel is now the chancel of our church. For many generations the population was so small that this sufficed as a parish church; but considerable extensions and alterations were undertaken during the 19th century.

Scene 13. THE CHURCH SCHOOL
Presented by the Parochial Church Council

In these days of State education it tends to be overlooked that the Church originally provided free schools throughout the country. Many of these have now been taken over by the local education authorities; but others are still Church controlled as Voluntary or State-Aided schools.

Scene 14. CORONATION OF H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II
Presented by the Choir

To celebrate this occasion the bells of all churches throughout the land were rung at 8 p.m. on 2nd June, 1953. Although we now have young men bellringers, at that time our three bells were rung by lady members of the choir.

Scene 15. FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

We have looked back over three quarters of a millennium. That is now history; but the future is ours . . .