

Interested in Amateur Dramatics?

Acting? Costumes? Make-up? Set-building? Props? maybe even Directing! St. Barnabas' Church in Limassol is staging an open-air production of A Man for All Seasons by Robert Bolt in May 2017.

One of only 4 productions to win both the Best Play Tony (1962) and the Best Picture Oscar (1966), the original play opened at the ANTA Playhouse (New York) on November 21, 1961 and ran for 637 performances. The stage play starred Paul Scofield who later starred in a 1966 film version with Robert Shaw as Henry VIII, Orson Wells as Cardinal Wolsey and Leo Mc Kern as the common man. A made for TV movie later starred Charlton Heston as More and Roy Kinnear as the common man. This 1988 film follows the original stage play more literally and could be considered more true to the stage play than the earlier film.

More, the appointed Lord Chancellor is so highly regarded that his outspoken unwillingness to break with Rome makes Henry VIII look unreasonable and the king is furious. As the king's wrath grows, he enlists the aid of Thomas Cranmer to discredit More by attempts at legal trickery, but the attempts fail. More feels the growing pressure and danger and determines it best to resign his post to retire to private life. Unfortunately, because More's resignation would be considered a condemnation of the king's intended impropriety, the king will still settle only for More's approval of the divorce. More, however, refuses to agree.

Henry now has it declared that he has supreme power in English religious affairs, and is no longer subservient to Rome and the Pope, thereby establishing the Church of England. He then further had a law passed establishing it as treasonous for any member of the king's court to refuse to sign acceptance of the new church hierarchy. More's refusal to sign dooms him, but he will be remembered as a deeply principled "man for all seasons."

Robert Bolt borrowed the title from Robert Whittington, a contemporary of Thomas More, who in 1520 wrote of him: "More is a man of an angel's wit and singular learning; I know not his fellow. For where is the man of that gentleness, lowliness and affability? And, as time requireth, a man of marvelous mirth and pastimes, and sometime of as sad gravity: a man for all seasons."

The story is one that explores the complicated character of Sir Thomas More who was, it seems, on the one hand a compassionate and caring family man who believed in formal scholastic education for his daughter, unusual at the time, justice without corruption as a lawyer and fair treatment for his servants and working people. Yet at the same time he was totally unbending in his adherence to the fundamentalist teachings of the church of the time and willing to subscribe to the burning of "heretics". The story also explores the politics of the age and the ruthlessness of Henry VIII as a self-centred despot.

If you are interested in being part of this project please contact

Ross Pays ideally by Email ross@pays.ws or Tel 99 452359 Fax 25 434027 And tell us what interests you. Rehearsals will start January 2017. Auditions early December 2016