

REV. SERIES 1

EPISODE 6

by

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January 2010

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1

EXT. HIGH STREET/WAR MEMORIAL. DAY 1 (1100) - DAY

1

Thursday 11th November. Remembrance Day.

ADAM and NIGEL stand, in dark coats, observing two minutes silence. Heads bowed. ADAM is holding a wreath. NIGEL is holding a small, portable Roberts radio to his ear, listening to a service broadcast.

WIDER: The area is strewn with rubbish. There's an upended bin that's thrown its contents. Traffic thunders by. A few cars toot. No one else is observing any silence.

There's a GANG of 12-16 year-olds, in school uniforms and baseball caps, kicking a football around, and doing aimless stunts on two BMX bikes. Listening to hip-hop from their phones.

The leader of the KIDS - ASHLEY - gets a bike stunt wrong - he nearly collides with NIGEL. NIGEL's face tightens with irritation. ASH clocks his reaction.

ASH
What you doing?

NIGEL ignores him - drops his head in silence again.

ASH
What you doing? Oi, you deaf?

NIGEL bites his lip to suppress fury. The KIDS gather and give the priests weirdo looks and watch them with curiosity.

The sound of the bugle reveille comes through the radio... Two minutes silence over. NIGEL nods to ADAM.

ADAM
We will remember them.

NIGEL
We will remember them.

ADAM goes and lays the wreath. Bows with slow reverence.

ASH
Someone died have they?

ADAM
You could say that.

NIGEL
Millions of brave men and women
died for you - so you can ride your
bikes around here and drink Fanta.

ASH
What they do that for then?

NIGEL

I'm starting to wonder.

Someone kicks the football. It hits NIGEL in the side of the head. The KIDS laugh at him.

2

INT. VICARAGE: KITCHEN/HALLWAY. DAY 1 (1202) - DAY

2

The doorbell goes. ADAM comes to answer the door, while on a cordless home phone to ELLIE.

ADAM (INTO PHONE)

I don't know which school they were from. Nigel threw a tantrum. Which was quite amusing. But I don't blame him Ellie. Hang on.

Opens the door...

3

EXT/INT. VICARAGE: FRONT DOOR. DAY 1 (CONTINUOUS) - DAY

3

It's COLIN.

ADAM

Hello Colin. Just on the phone.

COLIN

Who to?

ADAM

None of your business.

COLIN

I'm bored. Bored, bored, bored.

ADAM

Well I'm just on the phone to the Headmistress.

COLIN pulls a face of smutty innuendo + annoying wink.

COLIN

Get in there mate. I only want a brew.

He lets himself into the house, pushing past ADAM...

ADAM sees the ARCHDEACON also coming towards him.

ADAM

(into phone)

Ellie I'd better go. The dark Lord's arriving.

(he hangs up)

(CONTINUED)

2.

ARCHDEACON

Hello Adam. Have you seen your review?

ADAM

No. What? No.

4

INT. VICARAGE: KITCHEN. DAY 1 (1207) - DAY

4

COLIN gives the ARCHDEACON and ADAM a cup of tea.

ARCHDEACON

Thank you Colin.

He looks in the mug - then pours the entire lot down the sink as COLIN goes to join ADAM who's at the table on his laptop.

ALEX enters from work... lugging bags of shopping. She tries to hide her despair at finding her house full of people.

ALEX

Hello everyone. I was hoping you'd all be here in my kitchen.

ADAM

Yes, the Archdeacon's here.

Which sounds exactly like the reminder to be polite that it is.

ALEX gives the ARCHDEACON a nod as she sets about dumping heavy bags on the side...

ARCHDEACON

Alexandra. Have you been busy keeping murderers on our streets?

ALEX

That's right Archdeacon. I've told them all to go to Church to repent.

ARCHDEACON

Terrific. Well done Mrs. Smallbone.

ALEX

(re the laptop screen)
What's happening here?

ADAM

I've got a review on Godslot.com.
Do you know about this?

She shakes her head, as she starts unloading shopping into the fridge.

(CONTINUED)

3.

ARCHDEACON

It's a new, irreverent, Christian website, that's making quite a splash.

ALEX goes 'oh' with disinterest, as ADAM clicks pages...

COLIN

(to ALEX re shopping)
Do you want a hand with that Mrs. Vicar?

ALEX

No thank you Colin.

ARCHDEACON

They send anonymous people to review Sunday services.

COLIN

Did you buy any of that nice cheese?

ADAM

Here we go. St. Saviour's. I wonder which service they came to?

He clicks on 'St. Saviour in the Marshes' on a list of reviews.

ARCHDEACON

They give marks out of ten for the sermon. What mark do you think they gave you, Adam?

ALEX

(from the fridge)
I bet it was ten.

The ARCHDEACON enjoys shaking his head at ALEX.

COLIN

I hope they heard that excellent one you did about sheep.

ALEX

Nine? Seven?

ADAM

Eight?

He clicks his page open. There's a little passport style photo of ADAM in a box. Under that it says: **Sermon Marks: -1**

ADAM

Minus one. What?

ARCHDEACON

I've got some print-outs of the review here if you want.

He dishes out printed pages of the reviews to ALEX and COLIN. ADAM studies the computer page in horror.

ARCHDEACON

(delights in reading it)

Length of sermon; two minutes.
Which was three minutes too long.
The Reverend Adam Smallbone talked to his tiny and lifeless congregation about Jesus curing the blind man. He somehow tried to link this story to how people wear masks at the Notting Hill Carnival. It was without scholarship or insight, and the Reverend seemed as bored by his own words as the congregation was. He may have been hungover.

COLIN

That's bollocks! That was a good one.

ADAM

No it wasn't Colin. It was the worst sermon I've ever delivered. You took me to the Notting Hill Carnival the day before and fed me enough Red Stripe to fell a horse. When I got home on Sunday morning I couldn't see...

COLIN

Like the man in the story.

ADAM

...every other sermon I've done has had loads of thought and preparation...

ARCHDEACON

(loving it)

It hardly seems fair.

ADAM

...and they come to that one. It's not fair.

COLIN

Who are these Christians? I'll bury them alive!

ALEX

Who are these sad, green ink
losers, typing away in their
underpants, sniping at people, but
without the guts to actually
declare themselves?

ARCHDEACON

It's just a bit of fun Alex. It's
digital religion.

ALEX

Why've you pointed this out to him?

COLIN

(spots cheese on side)
Oh, Alex you have got that nice
cheese.

ALEX

No Colin.

She puts the cheese in the fridge, closes the door firmly.

ARCHDEACON

The aim is to help Christians be
self-critical.

ALEX

He doesn't need any help with that.

ADAM

Who will have seen it?

ARCHDEACON

Everyone. Everyone loves it.

ALEX

Everyone? You mean a tiny, little
clique of sado, virtual God spuds
who've got nothing better to do.
Just ignore it darling.

ADAM

Why do I bother?

ARCHDEACON

Well you didn't that day, did you?
(he laughs)

Don't worry Adam. Alex is right.
It's only everyone in the Church
who will have read it. And on the
plus side - if you do a good sermon
next time they might upgrade you to
a zero.

5

INT. CHURCH. DAY 1 (1624) - DAY

5

ADAM is on a pew, praying.

ADAM (V.O.)

Are you there, God? If so just a couple of questions. Why do you allow there to be kids who don't know what World War Two is? Why did you send that reviewer on my one bad day, is that what I deserve? Why's the graveyard strewn with litter? Why do Nazis always live til they're ninety-six? Why are there no more bumblebees? Why do African women get raped every day by boy soldiers going to get water for their starving village?

6

EXT. VICARAGE. DAY 2 (0803) - DAY

6

A new day. First light. A police car screeching somewhere.

7

INT. VICARAGE: BATHROOM. DAY 2 (0803) - DAY

7

ADAM and ALEX, cleaning teeth.

ALEX

Is this one of your little wobbles again?

ADAM

It's a big wobble this time.

ALEX

So be agnostic for a bit. All the good priests are. You've been agnostic for years really.

ADAM

No I haven't.

ALEX

Okay, well why don't you just take the day off? Don't be the vicar for the day. For once.

ADAM

I can't. It's a calling isn't it? I can't be uncalled for the day. Anyway I've got to go and do school assembly for Ellie. Be cross-examined by a load of atheist nine year-olds.

ALEX

Well tell them God doesn't exist.
You'll feel better. And - reverse
psychology - they'll all come
flocking.

He smiles at her ruefully. But is still clearly disturbed.

8

INT. SCHOOL: HALL. DAY 2 (0904) - DAY

8

ADAM in front of a load of 7-12 year-olds sitting straight-backed on the floor. ELLIE nearby...

ADAM

Can you remember who it was who
came down from the mountain with
the Ten Commandments?

A cocky BOY - EWAN - puts an urgent hand up. ADAM nods...

EWAN

Was it the baby Jesus sir?

ADAM knows EWAN is winding him up.

ADAM

No. Not Jesus, was it? Anyone else
know?

No one else puts a hand up. Except, to ADAM's irritation, EWAN - who sticks his hand up again firmly. ADAM decides to ignore it...

ADAM

It was Moses. Wasn't it?

CHLOE

You sure it wasn't baby Jesus, sir?

ADAM

No it wasn't the baby Jesus. It was
Moses.

EWAN

But I thought the answer is always
Jesus, sir.

ADAM

No it's not! Okay? Jesus is not
always the answer!

ELLIE steps in rapidly to save reputations.

ELLIE

Oh I think I just heard the bell.
That's it everyone. Off to class.
Thank you Reverend Smallbone.

Then the bell goes. The KIDS get up and disperse. ADAM glares at them as they leave. EWAN pulls him an ape face.

9 INT. SCHOOL: CORRIDOR/HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE. DAY 2 9
(0931) - DAY

ADAM and ELLIE come down the corridor towards her office.

ELLIE

Is this because of your minus one
for a sermon "without scholarship
or insight"?

ADAM

It's not just because of that,
okay? It's not easy having to face
a room full of feral, apathetic ten
year-olds.

She gives him a reprimanding look for that.

ADAM

I'm sorry Ellie. It was just a
momentary lapse of cool. Maybe I
need a new career? Maybe I should
be a teacher? I'd be a good
teacher, wouldn't I?

She stops outside her office door. Gives him a pitying look.

ELLIE

No. And that way you'd have a room
of feral, apathetic ten year-olds -
six times a day. I think you should
take that terrible review as
encouragement.

ADAM

Shut up. I'm not one of your kids.

ELLIE

You're behaving like one of them.
(then with a smile)
And tuck your shirt in please.

ADAM

I'm sorry. Sorry.
(tucks shirt)
Those are lovely shoes Ellie. Are
they new?

ELLIE

No.

ADAM

They're very good. Like little
boots.

She goes purposefully into her office to escape him.

ELLIE

Well thank you for coming today
Adam. It's always interesting. Now,
if you'll forgive me, I need to
sort out a venue for this party
next Friday.

ADAM

I thought it was at that fancy
gastropub?

ELLIE

They've pulled out. With a week to
go.

ADAM

Oh dear.

(tuts, beat)

Well you can use the church if you
want. Use it.

ELLIE

(considering it)

Er.

ADAM

Yeah, use it. No skin off my nose.

ELLIE

It's a fundraising event for the
school, for the new library. I
couldn't give you any money.

ADAM

Doesn't matter. Please. Use it. It
might as well be used for something
people enjoy. What day, Friday?
There's only the homeless meal. I
can shift that.

ELLIE

That would be a life saver Adam.

ADAM

I'll scratch yours, you scratch
mine. Tell you what make it a vicar
and tarts party. I might turn up as
one or the other.

10

EXT. STREET. DAY 2 (1004) - DAY

10

ADAM is heading home up the cold street, a forlorn figure, hands shoved in deep pockets. Head low.

A police car pulls up by him. POLICEMAN LLOYD - 30s, sarcastic, thinks he's God's gift - talks out the window.

POLICEMAN LLOYD

Excuse me sir, can we have a word?

ADAM goes to the car.

ADAM

Yes officer?

POLICEMAN LLOYD

Are you a vicar?

ADAM

Er. Yes.

He gestures to his dog collar and the church. Gently implying that the man is an idiot.

POLICEMAN LLOYD

Can you prove it please?

ADAM

What? Sorry?

POLICEMAN LLOYD

Repeating myself. Can you prove it please? Got. Any. ID?

ADAM in shock. He feels his empty pockets.

ADAM

Well... No. But I am a vicar.

The COPS share loaded looks.

11

INT. CHURCH: VESTRY OFFICE. DAY 2 (1032) - DAY

11

ADAM and the two COPS. NIGEL shows them his ID.

NIGEL

Yes I can confirm that this is the one and only much cherished and occasionally respected vicar of St. Saviour's.

POLICEMAN LLOYD

Alright sir, thank you.

(then to ADAM)

Can I ask you to carry some ID in future please. Whoever it is going round impersonating a vicar has got pretty ballsy. He got out of a fixed fine for a litter offence on the High Street. And harassed the Bishop of London at a coffee morning with questions about The Da Vinci Code.

ADAM

Is it actually illegal to impersonate a vicar?

Beat. Neither POLICE OFFICER is actually sure.

POLICEMAN LLOYD

Erm. Well it's certainly wrong.

NIGEL

Adam's been doing it for years!

Everyone - except ADAM - laughs.

The COPPERS leave. ADAM glares at NIGEL for his remark.

NIGEL

Just a joke.

ADAM

Right Nigel, I've got a job for you. Ellie's doing a school 'Vicars & Tarts' fundraising party in the church this Friday. So can you oversee it please? Liaise with her.

NIGEL

I'm not sure that's an appropriate use of the church is it? A vicar and prostitutes party?

ADAM

Well when you run your own church Nigel you can make that decision.

NIGEL

Well I'm not happy with this. Father Winters down the road did a Rave In The Nave. It ended at 9.30, but nonetheless things were stolen. And a man urinated in the font.

ADAM musters up some negotiating energy with a deep breath.

ADAM

If it's a success Nigel, you will get all the credit. I hand the entire thing over to you.

NIGEL

Really? So I will be the party planner? Overseeing drinks, the music, balloons and all the games.

ADAM

Yes. Whatever. Everything. Anything. And you can do the sermon on Sunday too.

(NIGEL's delight)

Now I'm off to do some "hospital visits". I'll be out all day. Don't phone me.

12

INT. VICARAGE: LIVING ROOM. DAY 2 (1402) - DAY

12

ADAM isn't at the hospital. He is sitting in his socks and pants and a food stained T-shirt - watching daytime TV - and eating Wotsits. He yawns. Then farts.

He reaches for the TV remote on a pouffe... it's just beyond reach... he puffs with annoyance... can't be arsed to lean forward... so he pulls/kicks it with his feet towards him.

The phone rings. He answers.

ADAM

Hello? Who? Who's ill?

(beat)

Has she seen a doctor? Well a doctor's probably first port of call if she can't actually breathe.

He hangs up.

He sits in front of more telly with a tray of shame; fags, crisps, cakes, sweets, beer, Pot Noodle. He smokes while slurping Pot Noodles from a fork.

ADAM

(at telly)

Don't pick the minger you stupid farmer.

13

INT. LONDIS-STYLE CORNER SHOP. DAY 2 (1504) - DAY

13

ADAM at the till (in his dirty T-shirt and tracky bums) with a pack of jaffa cakes. He points at the cigarette display.

ADAM
And a packet of ten please.

The apathetic TILL GIRL - LISA - scans the fags and cakes.

LISA
Five pounds five p.

ADAM takes a fiver from his wallet.

ADAM
I've only got a fiver. Is that alright? I'll give you 5p next time.

LISA shakes her head. Can't do.

ADAM
No, c'mon. You know me.

She shakes her head. Chews some gum.

ADAM
I'm the vicar. I'm always in here.
I'm normally in a dog collar.

LISA
Yeah, right. You're the second one trying this on today.

ADAM
What?

LISA
Least the other one looked like a vicar.

ADAM
What? What are you talking about?
(gets nothing back)
You won't let me off 5p? You're seriously making me choose between my fags and these cakes?

LISA
If you're a vicar what you doing smoking fags?

ADAM
Because I like it. Right, I'll put these back.

He storms off with the jaffa cakes back to the cake aisle.

Once there... he checks he's unobserved... then sticks the biscuits under the elastic of his tracky bums... pulls his T-shirt over them.

He reappears at the till.

ADAM

Right, no cakes. I've put them back. Now give me my fags.

She beeps the fags... takes his £5 note... gives him change... he heads out... over his shoulder as he goes...

ADAM

You shit.

14

INT. VICARAGE: LIVING ROOM. DAY 2 (1803) - NIGHT

14

ALEX enters from work. She comes to the sitting room. Sees ADAM lying on the sofa like a beached mammal, on his laptop. Biscuit debris around him.

ALEX

Hello. How are you feeling?

ADAM

Brilliant. I just won 60 quid on PokerParty by bluffing every hand.

ALEX

Good. Is the crisis over? What have you done today?

ADAM

Stolen some jaffa cakes. Eaten them all. Watched seven episodes of Channel Five's 'Farmer Wants A Wife'.

ALEX

What's that?

ADAM

Louise Redknapp helps farmers choose a partner. Then I had a wank.

ALEX

Have these things restored your faith in God?

ADAM

No they haven't. The farmers keep choosing the wrong women. But the wank was quite nice.

ALEX

Sorry I wasn't around to help with that.

ALEX (cont'd)

I had to do Section 9 Procedural
Applications for a Somali family's
tribunal tomorrow.

Said with a smile but the content of it pulls ADAM up.

ADAM

Good for you. Do you think you'll
win?

ALEX

Yes. Of course I'll win. What are
you going to do now?

ADAM

Watch some repeats of Top Gear.

15

EXT. PUB. DAY 3 (2006) - NIGHT

15

ADAM and COLIN sitting outside so they can smoke with their pints. ADAM's crisis is fuelled by his increasing drinking.

COLIN

What channel's it on? Does Louise
have sex with the animals, or is
that someone else?

ADAM

Not in the episodes I saw.

COLIN reaches for his fags. ADAM sighs out at the world.

ADAM

Here you go Colin. Have one of mine
for once.

He plops his 10 pack on the table.

COLIN

Oh good, cheers. You've started
buying again.
(helping himself)
You've got a face on today Vicar?

ADAM

Yes. I'm experiencing a large
amount of ontological despair.

COLIN

Yeah. Are you?

ADAM

Sometimes I stand outside the
church here on a Sunday, saying
goodbye to ten or twelve people,
and do you know what I feel like?

COLIN shakes his head with great concern.

ADAM
A remnant.

Beat.

COLIN
A remnant of what?

ADAM
Of an illusion people used to
believe in.

COLIN
Adam, why are you being such a
dickhead?

ADAM
I know - deep down of course - that
if God made his existence clear and
irrefutable it would overwhelm us
and deprive us all of free will and
independence, but right now - just
for once - now I feel like being
overwhelmed. Because I am
underwhelmed by everything else. By
the thoughtlessness and
carelessness and neediness of
everyone else. If I'd been in
charge of creation I think I'd have
kept the flowers and the
waterfalls, and the butterflies and
Louise Redknapp and I'd have left
out the malaria, AIDS, earthquakes,
cancer, and dementia. Quite frankly
I think I'd have done the whole
thing a fuck sight better.

Beat.

COLIN
Is this because of that shit review
you got?

ADAM grimaces - no.

COLIN
You can't be like this. You're the
vicar. You're too important to
people.

ADAM
No I'm not.

COLIN
Yes you are. Last week you told me
about how special the universe is.

COLIN (cont'd)

You explained how I was made of carbon. And that is only created in stars, isn't it? That's what you said.

(slurps his beer)

I am literally made of stardust.

(he burps into his fist)

If that doesn't make you believe in God - you're a tosser.

ADAM

I'm tired of having to tell everyone what they want to hear the whole time. I spend my life having to be good - and yet I can't actually tell people what I really think. How is that good?

COLIN

It's not. You should be telling people what you really think.

ADAM

Okay, Colin I really think you come round to the vicarage too much. Stop it. It's irritating.

Terrible pause. COLIN in shock...

ADAM

How do you like that? Is that helpful? I tell you what else I really think - I really think I fancy that headmistress.

(then with bitter sarcasm)

Oh you're right! I feel much better.

COLIN

You bastard.

He gets up and goes off in a huff. ADAM lights a fag.

ELLIE is busy writing something important. There's a knock, then ADAM enters with a big, cheesy smile. He is dressed in open neck mufti.

ADAM

Hello headmistress.

ELLIE

Oh, hello Adam. I wasn't expecting you in today?

ADAM

It's my day off actually. I was passing. Thought I'd come in and spread a smile.

He perches on her desk... spreads a thigh. She frowns...

ADAM

I just wanted to say that I think you run a really excellent school Ellie. We're all so busy, running around, it's easy to never take stock and appreciate the things we've achieved. And I think you achieve extraordinary things here.

ELLIE

Adam are you wearing aftershave?

ADAM

Er. Just a little. Day off.
(he laughs it away)
Adoha gave it to me for Christmas.
It's Puff Daddy - Unforgivable.

ELLIE

Certainly is.

ADAM laughs. Then leans in a touch...

ADAM

I was wondering - since I've got the day off - if we could grab a bite of lunch together?

She frowns heavily. So he cleverly and quickly expands...

ADAM

There's a few ideas I've had about curriculum enrichment that I'd like to discuss with you. And also it would allow me to say thanks to you for er...

ELLIE

For putting up with you?

He grins that away. Then with seriousness...

ADAM

Have you ever been to Nando's?

ELLIE

Adam I'd love to chat with you, I would, but I've got a staff meeting at lunchtime.

ADAM

No problemo. Just an idea.

ELLIE

Send me an email.

ADAM waves that idea away with cool nonchalance.

ADAM

All set for Friday? How's the party going?

ELLIE

Great. Fine, thank you.

ADAM

I hope you'll be going as a tart?

Beat.

ELLIE

Well... thanks so much again for your help with the venue.

ADAM

No need to thank me. I suppose you could thank me. Some time. In some small, or large, way.

ELLIE gets up purposefully and heads out...

ELLIE

I'd love to do that. Probably in a small way. Now I must just check on Year 5. Goodbye.

Leaving ADAM perched on her desk considering how that went. He nods to himself... because he thinks it went quite well.

17

EXT/INT. VICARAGE: FRONT DOOR. DAY 4 (1502) - DAY

17

ADAM answers in his pants and socks with a fag. It's ADOHA.

ADAM

What do you want Adoha?

ADOHA is surprised by ADAM's appearance.

ADOHA

Adam, you are in your pants.

ADAM

Yep.

Beat during which she can't help looking at his pants/crotch.

ADOHA

I just read that terrible review
you got Adam. On that nasty
website. Where they said you were
boring. You must be upset
sweetheart?

ADAM

No. I don't give a monkey's arse.

ADOHA

That's the spirit. Chin up. Now I
want to talk to you about the
flowers for Uma's funeral.

But she spots his cigarette.

ADOHA

Do you smoke Adam?

ADAM

No.

He has a defiant drag in her face... then dumps and stubs it.
She scowls as she continues...

ADOHA

Good. I was thinking of doing a
standing spray] of lilies and
gladioli for Uma.

ADAM

You're always banging on about the
flowers Adoha. But you've got to
understand I really don't care what
you do with them.

ADOHA - horrified.

ADOHA

Well if you are going to be like
this I shall talk to your
assistant.

ADAM

Yes, talk to Nigel, if you've got
the strength.

ADOHA

I don't mean Nigel. I mean that
other man everyone likes.

She starts to go.

ADAM

What? Who? Adoha? Who? What man?

His tone makes her stop, she turns back.

ADOHA

Your assistant. The one everyone likes. I haven't met him, but Tony said he did a lovely prayer in Lidl, for Uma's son.

ADAM

When was this?

ADOHA

Yesterday.

ADAM

Adoha, I don't know who this person is.

ADOHA

Oh. Well he was very good whoever he was. People prefer him to you.

18

INT. CHURCH: VESTRY OFFICE. DAY 5 (1003) - DAY

18

ADAM, in mufti, is eating crisps, while tipping himself backwards and forwards on 2 legs of a wooden chair with childish insouciance. A frantic NIGEL is busy looking for phone numbers in the book and/or on-line. Bustling around.

ADAM

Whoever this bloke is, he did a prayer at the youth club football matches. They loved him.

NIGEL

I don't have time for this right now Adam. I need to get an HDMI multiple connector for the amp tonight. And guavas for the fruit punch.

ADAM

You see, people don't need me. It's just about wearing a costume. This job. That's all it is. If this fake vicar makes people feel better about their lives - what's the problem? Let him do it. If I can find him I might invite him to come and do a sermon.

NIGEL

I'm sure it would score better than minus one.

ADAM

Shut up Nigel, you'd have got minus ten.

NIGEL

Adam, is there something you actually want, because I'm a little busy. I'm keen tonight is a success, and that it has a religious aspect to it.

ADAM

What? It's a party Nigel. Ever been to one?

NIGEL

Very droll. You're going to have an accident if you're not careful.

(ADAM keeps tipping,
sticking his legs out)

Since the party is in a sacred place I think it will be appropriate to start the evening with a small prayer. And I've got to think of a prize for best prostitute.

ARCHDEACON

Start what with a prostitute?

They turn... The ARCHDEACON is in the doorway.

NIGEL

Oh hello Archdeacon.

NIGEL becomes nervous. ADAM doesn't budge. Keeps swinging in his chair.

ADAM

There's a vicar and tarts party in the church tonight. Nigel's organising it.

Implying it's all NIGEL's fault. NIGEL defends himself like a child...

NIGEL

Yes, but only because you asked me to do it.

The ARCHDEACON looks at them both... withholding his judgement for a moment... then he smiles...

ARCHDEACON

What a clever idea Adam. What a fun way to raise money for the church.

ADAM

Yep. Thanks.

ADAM offers the ARCHDEACON a crisp. He takes one.

ARCHDEACON

Can I come?

NIGEL

I'd love you to come.

ARCHDEACON

Who's going to be there?

ADAM

Sorry, you can't come Archdeacon.
It's sold out. That's bad luck.
You'll have to go to one of your
posh clubs for nobs instead. Or
have you got a seminar on Listed
Building Health & Safety Signage to
go to? That's how you spend your
evenings isn't it? Learning about
Fire Exits.

The ARCHDEACON dead-eyes ADAM for that burst of truth.

ARCHDEACON

You quite literally have no idea
how I spend my evenings. Do I
detect a certain lack of esprit du
corps from you today Adam?

ADAM

No my venereal...venerable friend.
Love the vocation. Love the people.

ARCHDEACON

Are you being like this because of
that terrible review you got?
(beat, re his chair)
That's going to tip over in a
minute.

ADAM shrugs, and keeps tipping back and forth on 2 legs.

ARCHDEACON

And are you both aware that someone
is going round East London
impersonating a vicar?
(beat, then a loaded)
Not you Adam.

NIGEL laughs.

ADAM

Yes I've heard that one a few times
now, thanks.

ARCHDEACON

Whoever it is conned themselves
into a private view at The White
Cube, and persuaded Tracey Emin to
take him to the pub.

ADAM's two chair legs slip from under him and he crashes onto
his arse with a bang. Perhaps the ARCHDEACON kicked them?

ARCHDEACON

I did tell you.

19

EXT. CHURCH. DAY 5 (2003) - NIGHT

19

Establish the church at night. There are coloured disco
lights in the windows. And a TRAMP pissing against a wall.

20

INT. CHURCH. DAY 5 (2003) - NIGHT

20

NIGEL is dressed immaculately as a 16th century Pope, with a
ridiculously tall sparkly Papal tiara. His dreams come true.
He comes to the front of the church...

NIGEL

Good evening everyone. Good
evening. If I could just have your
attention for an uno momento.

Spin the shot - WIDER: The nave is full of PARTY PEOPLE. Some
dressed as vicars, some tarts. There are some women dressed
as sexy nuns in very short skirts. Many of the men have fake
beards. Two have big, bare plastic breasts on display over
their clerical shirts. It's a hell of an image.

There are party lights and decorations. A makeshift bar area
and drinks in plastic cups.

NIGEL

I know this evening is a bit of fun
- for a good cause - but I did
think it would be appropriate since
we are in God's House to start the
evening with a brief prayer.

Everyone assumes this is going to be a comedy prayer. The
whole CROWD whoop and cheer... and stamp their feet...

PARTY CROWD

Prayer! Prayer! Prayer! Prayer!

Panic hits NIGEL's face...

21

EXT. VICARAGE. DAY 5 (2017) - NIGHT

21

ALEX and ADAM leave the house. He's dressed as a vicar again. But so is she. They look identical. Apart from the fact ADAM is wearing a large, fake 70s porn-star moustache in the spirit of - party.

ALEX

Come on, we're late.

ADAM

Why wouldn't you let me dress as a whore? Just for a change?

ALEX

Because it was one of the most upsetting things I've ever seen.

As they leave a POLICE CAR pulls up next to them.

POLICEMAN (O.S.)

Hold on a minute there please.

ADAM

Oh for God's sake - I'm a vicar. I can prove it.

He starts rummaging in his pockets for his ID.

22

INT. CHURCH. DAY 5 (2104) - NIGHT

22

Music and lights. People chatting in groups.

FIND: ADAM getting three drinks at the bar. He downs one... heads off with the other two.

LATER he dances in the middle of the dance floor in a committed but mildly embarrassing way.

He's trying to impress ELLIE with his moves. She is sitting, dressed in a white surplice, with a drink watching the dance floor. He mixes dance moves of apparent nonchalance and sexual disinterest, with some sultry moves that are directed straight at her. Complete with the odd thrown moment of heady eye contact.

When NIGEL comes to join him on the dance floor ADAM gives him a look of utter disdain, seems to mouth 'fuck off' at him, then staggers away in the other direction...

FIND: ELLIE joins ALEX. Both dressed as vicars.

ELLIE

Is Adam alright at the moment?

ALEX

God knows. What makes you say that?

ELLIE

His dancing for one thing. It's not the most dignified thing I've ever seen.

ALEX

That's his normal dancing.

ELLIE

He's started wearing a lot of unusual aftershave. And he came round to school yesterday, wondering whether he could join my Salsacise class.

ALEX smiles. Confides...

ALEX

He's having one of his biannual crises. Although I must say this is a particularly bad one. He believes in God. He's just not sure if God believes in him. I have to put up with this occasionally. It's all part of being a vicar's wife.

The two WOMEN share an amused smile.

ELLIE

And he invited me to Nando's.

ALEX

Did he? He's never bloody invited me there. If he comes on to you again you have my permission to do what I do in these situations.

ELLIE looks questioningly at ALEX.

FIND: ADAM back at the bar... having another drink.

He spots ELLIE - now standing alone (ALEX just left her). He watches her for a moment, from wobbly feet. Contemplating his options and emotions. His stupid beer goggles take over. He heads towards her with intent. Dangerously drunk.

ADAM

Hello Ellie. I think you'll find your clothing tonight is a little "surplice to requirements"!

He beams at her (over his porn moustache) for his clever, sexy pun. He gets absolutely nothing back...

ADAM (CONT'D)

I hope - as a woman - you're not
going to make "a habit of it"?

ELLIE

Stop it Adam. This is just
embarrassing. Your lovely wife is
my friend. You're meant to be a grown-
up vicar.

ADAM

Oh. You prefer a more adult
approach? Me too. How about a quick-
one in the vestry?

She pokes him hard in the eye with one finger.

23

EXT. CHURCH. DAY 5 (2232) - NIGHT

23

ADAM (drunk) and ALEX arguing on the street. He's lost his
moustache. They're both still dressed as vicars.

ALEX

Go home. You're making a fool of
yourself.

ADAM

Am I! Well am I? Oh dear. Oh dreary
me...

ALEX

Yes. Go on...

ADAM

... Alex is married to a foolish
vicar. Well that won't do - will
it? No, no, no. What a nightmare.
When she's so in control of
everything else. Poor Alex.

ALEX

Fuck off home Adam. You're drunk.
Go home before you say something
you really regret.

ADAM

No. I'm drunk, so you fuck off.
Don't you tell me to fuck off. I'm
the vicar. You fuck off.

ALTERNATIVE VERSION

ALEX

Go home Adam. You're drunk. Go home
before you say something you really
regret.

ADAM

No. I'm drunk, so you go home.
Don't you tell me to go home. I'm
the vicar. You go home.

She steps up to him and with alarming calmness says...

ALEX

Go home now.

ADAM stares at her through drunken but now fearful eyes... he falls into simpers...

ADAM

Yes. Okay I will.

He gives her a final look that attempts to convey hoity command and control... then he spins on his heels and ambles off.

ALEX watches him go.

24

EXT. STREETS/SHOPPING PRECINCT. DAY 5 (2246) - NIGHT

24

ADAM staggers onwards... aimlessly... lost in a concrete wilderness... he starts singing Frankie Vallie's 'You're Too Good To be True' to the night.

ADAM

"You're too good to be true, can't take my eyes offa you."

(then very loudly)

"I WANT YOU BABY! AND IF IT'S QUITE ALRIGHT! I WANT YOU BABY! I WANT YOU BABY!"

(then to himself)

I'm too good to be true. That's what I am. That's what I am.

25

INT. CHURCH. DAY 5 (2247) - NIGHT

25

Two grim-faced POLICE OFFICERS stride into the nave, and find 30 or so people all dressed as some version of vicar, cleric, bishop or nun. People start to notice the COPS. They turn and look at them questioningly. The room falls silent.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON

Is anyone here the vicar?

26

EXT. HIGH STREET/WAR MEMORIAL. DAY 5 (2316) - NIGHT

26

Drunken, lost ADAM ambles up the street. Somewhere along the way he's picked up a shish kebab that he's eating out of a styrofoam box. He's spilling most of it down himself.

He ends up at the paved cenotaph where we were for Scene 1. The same KIDS are there - arsing around with their bikes. One of them is having a piss against a wall.

ADAM's face darkens...

ADAM

Oh it's you lot again.

The KIDS turn to him. ADAM staggers to the middle of the area...

ASH

What do you want?

ADAM

What do I want? I'll tell you what I want. I want all of you in prison. I want zero tolerance. That's what I want. I want you all locked up with ankle tags and then I want you all to be made to clear all the litter all over London while reciting war poetry.

The KIDS laugh at him.

ASH

You looking for a fight vicar?

ADAM

Yes! That's what I want. I want a fight. I'm going to teach you all a lesson. I gonna fight you all.

He strikes a fearsome fighting pose, that involves using his wet pitta kebab as a potential weapon.

The KIDS think he's hilarious... Goaded, they encircle him. ADAM wheels about... he attempts the odd entirely fruitless kick or kebab lunge... the KIDS easily dance around him laughing.

Thankfully a POLICE CAR pulls up hard with a brief fart of its siren... the KIDS back off as one POLICEMAN comes running up...

POLICEMAN FERGUSON

Hey! Hey? What's going on?

ASH

He started it.

The KIDS retreat. ADAM can't resist a final, ineffectual kick at the BOY.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON
Hey, calm down, will you?

He sees ADAM's outfit.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON
Are you the parish vicar here?

ADAM
Of course I'm the bloody vicar! Why don't you stop asking?

He wipes his bloody nose.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON
Right, will you come with me please?

ADAM thinks he's been arrested.

ADAM
I'm coming quietly officer.

27

EXT/INT. POLICE CAR. DAY 5. MOMENTS LATER (2322) - NIGHT 27

FERGUSON leads ADAM to the policecar.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON
Good news is, while you were fighting crime, my partner caught this bloke impersonating a vicar. He'd gatecrashed a Bar Mitzvah.

They arrive at the car. The back seat window goes down and... COLIN's face appears. Dressed in a dog collar and suit.

COLIN
Hello Vicarage.

ADAM
Of course. Hello Colin.

COLIN holds up his cuffed hands.

COLIN
I think I'm in trouble again.

ADAM
Me too. I wouldn't worry too much Colin. They're not even sure it's illegal.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON

Get in the front please. We haven't
got much time.

ADAM

Time for what?

POLICEMAN FERGUSON

Get in.

ADAM gets in the front passenger seat... from behind him...

COLIN

It's great being a vicar isn't it?
Everyone respects you. I always
knew your life was bliss.

The KIDS outside watch as the car speeds off...

COLIN

(doing the police siren)
Dhur-dhur-dhur.

28

EXT. HOUSING ESTATE. DAY 5 (2332) - NIGHT

28

The POLICECAR pulls in to a courtyard parking area... out get
ADAM and POLICEMAN FERGUSON.

29

EXT. HOUSING ESTATE: WALKWAY. DAY 5 (2334) - NIGHT

29

They pace down a walkway towards one particular flat.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON

She's only got a couple of hours to
live. We've been looking for you
all evening.

ADAM

What do you want from me?

They pause outside the door. FERGUSON looks at him seriously
and with disbelief. Isn't it obvious?

POLICEMAN FERGUSON

She's about to die Father. She
wants Last Rites.

That pulls ADAM up.

ADAM

I'm not sure I'm the right man.

FERGUSON looks at him - what?

ADAM

I've been having a bit of a crisis.
I'm not sure I'm strong and able.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON

You're not strong and able? This
woman is in great pain. She's been
hanging on. She wants release. Now
are you her vicar or not?

ADAM is brought up by all that. He thinks...

ADAM

"I heard the voice of the Lord
saying, Whom shall I send, and who
will go for us? Then I said, Here I
am. Send Me."

POLICEMAN FERGUSON

What?

ADAM

Isaiah 6. It was read at my
ordination.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON

I'd love to see the photos some
time. Now shall we go in?

ADAM looks at FERGUSON with renewed strength and purpose.

30

INT. HOUSING ESTATE FLAT: BEDROOM. DAY 5 (2342) - NIGHT 30

The Last Rites. VAL (70) lies pale and dying in bed. She's a
shocking sight. Skin and bone. Hanging on. Her HUSBAND (70)
standing nearby. A stillness.

ADAM stands over her. He dips his thumb in oil, poured from a
bottle of cheap cooking oil. He recites the Nuc Dimittis from
Luke 2:29.

ADAM

Into your hands O merciful Saviour,
we commend your servant Val.
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of
your own fold, a lamb of your own
flock. Enfold her in the arms of
your mercy, in the blessed rest of
everlasting peace and in the
glorious company of the saints in
light. Lord, now let thy servant
depart in peace, according to your
word.

With his thumb he makes the sign of the cross on her
forehead, then over her hands.

(CONTINUED)
33.

ADAM

For my eyes have seen thy
salvation, which you have prepared
in the presence of all peoples.

VAL's body relaxes as she dies and goes to eternal rest. It's a blessed moment.

ADAM cries small, silent tears over her body.

He looks at the HUSBAND - who smiles sadly and profoundly at ADAM and nods a thanks that is beyond words.

31

EXT. HOUSING ESTATE: WALKWAY. DAY 5 (2357) - NIGHT

31

ADAM comes from the flat. Very sober and sad. But with a new sense of his vital role and mission.

He stands and looks out at all the city lights.

POLICEMAN FERGUSON comes and stands by him.

There is nothing to say.

FERGUSON offers him his hip-flask.

ADAM declines it with a gesture.

ADAM

I'm fine thank you.

He stands and looks out at the city. A tableau.

All those souls.

END OF EPISODE