

Act 1 Hilda & the Northern Powerhouse

Modern Characters	
Patricia (Patti) Abdullahai (nee Smith):	White British F. Grimsby born, Oxford educated. Left London life recently with son Dan after tragic death of beloved husband Sam Abdullahai. Early 40s. Vicar of Goodmanham.
Dan Abdullahai:	Mixed Race White and Black African M. 13 years old. Son of Patti and Sam. At state school in South Hunsley near Hull. London born
Derrick Green	Black African M. Late 20s. Curate. Born in Hull. Parents working class.
Jean Lister:	White British F. Aged 60/70s. Moved to Goodmanham from West Yorkshire. Parish clerk
Emma White , Chief Exec at the Scarborough Cultural Halls	Any ethnicity F. Aged 40/50s Chief Exec at the Scarborough Cultural Halls Runs a visitor attraction on the East Coast, sits on lots of boards, doesn't want political power herself, but manipulates those that have it = a 'Kingmaker'.
Bishop Wilfrid Manse/Abbott Wilfrid:	White British M. Over 50 years. Bishop of Wakefield. Member of ' The Society '. White British M. Abbott Wilfrid. Saxon. Argued at the Synod of Whitby (see below, Hilda) for joining the Roman tradition.
Penny Patent	Any ethnicity F. Early 40s. Reporter for the local broadcaster East Coast FM
Saxon characters	<i>(apart from the pageant Act 2 - see Chorus)</i>
Caedmon:	White Saxon M. Swineherd at Whitby abbey. First English poet when published by Hilda. Current manifestation: busker/one man band (Mute until final scene)
Hilda of Whitby:	White Saxon F. Saxon saint. Late 40s/early 50s. Founded Whitby Abbey. Influential in 7th century and became a saint. Presided over the Synod of Whitby 664AD that joined the English to the Roman church of Europe (through deciding when to celebrate Easter). Currently patron of culture/learning and hijacked by The Society as a woman who didn't want to become a bishop.
Chorus: Market goers, listeners, congregation, radio contributors	3 x F 3 x M Mixture of ethnicities, roles and backgrounds. Also play the Saxon characters in the pageant Act 2

Optional Prologue

Market Stall

Helen (writer):

Places matter. The spaces and streets we inhabit can either welcome us and make us feel like we belong - or not.

Behind me is a map of your town. Every street is listed - so yours is on there somewhere.

Kate (writer)

The places we live in and love in ... they are ours ... and they've belonged to our ancestors before us, and will also shape our children and their children, and people we'll never know.

We make them, as others have before us. And they make us.

Helen

So we'd love you to come and tell us about your favourite places and the stories they conjure for you.

We'll put you (and your story) on the map.

Kate:

Whilst you're thinking about your stories, we'd like to share one we explored earlier...It's a work in progress.

Helen:

It's also interactive. There are moments in the performance where we want you to listen to what others have said and shared with us. And there are moments where your smartphones and your verbal contribution will really help.

Kate

Hilda lived on the East Coast. But - maybe because she was so busy doing things and not writing about them - she's almost dropped out of history.

She must have been good at sharing stories, and listening - because people consulted her from all over.

Helen

We're interested in other Hildas out there. The shapers, carers, place makers who nurture people and value stories.

Kate

They generate the energy, the concentration and power that sustains us all in our darkest moments.

Thank you for participating. We'll be around, whatever you'd like to share.

Scene 1: Introduction to East Coast Champion vote

Location: Goodmanham Church, Market Weighton, E Yorks, Exterior. Present day

Maundy Thursday, Easter

Screens flash up with 'East Coast FM', its web site (an actual site hosted by Our Big Picture) and the twitter handles/hashtags

Chorus mingle with the audience, pointing out the twitter handles and hashtags. Signal to the 'radio' page where East Coast FM

Caedmon (busking in the background, when his tune turns into the jingle for East Coast FM the play begins)

Penny P:

Goooooooood morning East Coasters! Thank you for tuning in, I'm Penny Patent and welcome to your favourite East Coast FM:

THE show for all the lucky people living between the Tweed and the Wash - Bringing you the stories that matter.

Things are seriously hotting up with the EAST COAST CHAMPION campaign - a brand new regional post giving a much needed voice to our communities up and down the East Coast. Let us know who you'd like to see representing all of us wonderful East Coasters !! @ECFM #Eastcoastchampion

We've already heard what the council leaders have to say but it's what YOU have to say that matters soooo... Today I'm coming live from Goodmanham Church Market Weighton in the East riding where I'll be talking to one of the frontrunners, someone who is making quite a name for herself - Patti Abdullahai (*stumbled over pronunciation*) Vicar of Goodmanham Church - and why not?

She's been winning hearts and minds all along our wonderful East Coast for some months now.

Wherever she goes, people seem to be following, and now she's drawing crowds from all over into little Goodmanham church as you'll hear in this clip:

Screens flash with social media activity to match/contradict the statements spoken below

Chorus :

- She came to Louth so we thought we'd come over and see Good-man-ham, (laughs) sounds like something from Robin Hood.
- We're not churchgoers but the woman talks sense - proper sense and she really cares about people -
- She's very welcoming and inclusive - I like that. So I've stopped by on my way to the Jewish cemetery in Hull, my uncle's there. We had a massive community in Grimsby once ..
- If they've got spare money for a bloody East Coast Champion then why don't they share it round? I wouldn't say no...
- I liked what she said about us flourishing - like Bridlington in Bloom

- It's a trek over the Bridge, but she's a Grimsby lass..and it's nice to come together
- Bloody do gooders - doesn't put food on the table or get us jobs does it?
- My Jimmy's in year 5, he loved her session with them on changemaking. They got to plan a town of the future and talk about making strangers welcome. He made our Dave think, you know.

Penny P:

Sounds like Vicar Patti is making waves along the East Coast ! We'll be hearing from her very shortly so don't go away!

And of course we're no strangers to rabble rousers along this coastline. In fact, on the site of this very church in Goodmanham over a 1000 years ago, Anglo Saxon superwoman Hilda of Whitby had her first brush with the then new religion of Christianity - crazy! Don't we love these kickass local women? More on the website.

Screens highlight website link with some Hilda images

Let me know who wears the trousers in your house? In mine it's me ALL THE WAY - Just tweet @ECFM or DM me on @PennyPatent

Screens show twitter handles and Penny's home page

Wilfrid, Hilda and Caedmon note the screens and move to their watching positions.

Scene 2: Introduction to Patti and her world

*Location: Goodmanham Church, Market Weighton, E Yorks, Interior Present day:
Maundy Thursday - continuation of above.*

Caedmon sets the musical tone.

Patti in the pulpit. Derrick flanking Patti - (one of the chorus is filming the service to be part of the online visuals for the East Coast FM item. Film is visible in real time on the screens.

Chorus as congregation spread through the nave. Jean part of congregation. Dan skulking behind a pillar at the back.

Hilda and Caedmon against the columns - can move at will and unseen amongst the congregation

Patti:

Hello and welcome everyone, great to see you here for the Easter celebrations ! Word's clearly getting out about how much fun we have here in gorgeous Goodmanham - because today we have East Coast FM's Penny Patent broadcasting live! Better be on our best behaviour eh Derrick?!

(Patti and Derrick coming among the congregation)

And a special shout out to our friends joining us online from Grimsby, Louth, Cleethorpes and Hull - a warm East Coast welcome to you all. I know some of you are new to our community, so let's introduce ourselves:

I'm Patti Abdullahi - I'm a single mum with a 13 year old. Moved here from London last year when my husband died - the only place I could imagine being was here on the East coast near where I grew up in Cleethorpes (*sound of Dan accidentally dropping his phone*)

That's my son Dan there at the back - not easy being a vicar's son.

Derrick picks it up for him

But we're all the same underneath remember -

Patti shows her clothes under her surplice. Dan leaves the nave noisily. Derrick saves her with:

Derrick:

Thanks Vicar Patti - and I'm Derrick your curate. It's wonderful to be here with everyone!

I was born local too - in Hull, though my parents were from Nigeria. It hasn't been easy finding my place but I believe I've found it here in Goodmanham with you.

Lesley stands up

Lesley

Hello Derrick, Patti - - vicar - lovely to be here

I'm Lesley, from Laceby in North East Lincs - you came to speak at the school where I teach and I know it sounds silly but I felt a connection so I wanted to come along and see ...(*falters*)

Patti:

Well we're very glad you did Lesley, and I really enjoyed meeting your class. Your kids had a great discussion about change and difference didn't they?

Yes, sir, the gentleman at the back

Cyril:

I won't stand if you don't mind. - Cyril, I live in Louth but I'm representing East Marsh United Grimsby - I'm not a church type but like that other lady -

I was really impressed with how you rolled up your sleeves and helped us clear that old yard to make a play space for the kids.

Patti:

Thanks Cyril - many hands make light work - and the kids will love it. It's a wonderful thing you're doing at East Marsh United - always happy to muck in!

Jean Lister gets to her feet

Jean:

I'm Jean Lister and I've been coming to this church for over 43 years, and I was wondering when exactly the Maundy Thursday service was going to start ?

Chorus: *(as congregation)*

- Jean did the flowers- she's after a medal from that Radio woman
- Did you know the vicar was mother to that lad - Must have been the dad?
- Had a job getting a pew - but it IS Easter
- If it's going to be all that happy-clappy claptrap kissing each other - count me out!
- Has she really got jeans on under that frock?

Patti: *(continuing her sermon)*

Lovely to see you all - new friends and old. There'll be plenty of chance to get know each other after the service. We've got homemade cakes and biscuits and hot drinks - all courtesy of 'Dads with Doughnuts' who meet here every Tuesday.

Easter is the perfect time for new beginnings - so Derrick and I are going to share our thoughts to stir the pot a bit. See if you have any new beginnings that you'd like to share...

Derrick:

Making space for change is difficult isn't it? Even when it's good! That first Palm Sunday, some people cheered, while others felt threatened.

Patti:

And it can sometimes feel like we are adrift and alone.

Derrick

Just think how terrifying it must have felt for the disciples when their leader was seized after they'd eaten together, was killed in the most humiliating way and then - disappeared - it left them feeling angry, confused and abandoned.

Jean:

That's more like it.

Patti

And they felt responsible for his legacy. No wonder they were in a mess!

Chorus person:

- Were they really - in a mess?
- Jean says we should have had them palm crosses on Sunday
- Will we be cursed if we don't have them do you think?
- I'm starving - will we have to pay for the tea and cake?

Patti:

We all need havens. Safe spaces. Places to go when there is nowhere else and no one to guide us.

We all come here for different reasons - of course we do. For some this place might feel like home whereas for others it might feel more like an alien planet. Perhaps you come out of habit, or when you're in need.

Easter gives us all the chance to start over again.

Clean slate. New page..

Patti almost breaks down.

Derrick: *(clearly jumping in to help Patti out - not planned)*

So - we'd like to hear from you. What will be your fresh start this Easter?
Mine is to invite my dad to come to Goodmanham. He and I fell out over Brexit.

Anyone like to share theirs? Course not.

Who wants to stand up in front of a room full of people and bear their soul? I'll stick around after the service so come and find me if you fancy a chat

Patti:.

We've a packed Easter calendar ahead..
Easter parade on Friday, Saturday is the giant Goodmanham clothes swap, Sunday the egg hunt and Easter Monday - we've our team of fixers on hand to do as many of those odd jobs that you need doing but haven't managed to get round to!

And the church will be open all weekend with free refreshments and Jean's breathtaking Easter flowers, so do tell your friends

Derrick joins Patti and brings her back to the pulpit where they stand together

Chorus

- That vicar speaks with such passion and conviction
- Why is there no cross procession this year? I used to like that.
- What's new about Easter? Nothing. Just an excuse for the travel companies to double their prices.
- I guess I'd describe myself as agnostic. I believe in people but not a god as such
- Will this bloody East Coast Champion mean more jobs, less empty shops

Patti:

It's been a very difficult few years for us all and it has hit this part of the world hard.
But together we are stronger. .

This is our - your - haven.

Caedmon music arrests the general action and attracts spotlight onto him and Hilda. Caedmon and Hilda have made their way onto the altar/higher than the nave. They have flash lights/spot light to focus on them. They are distinguished as being on a 'different' plane to the congregation and others. When they speak, the rest of the congregation are in suspended animation/frozen.

Hilda:

Nice. Of the people. Chip off the old block!

'It's our haven' - she's even quoting me, Caedmon!

Caedmon uses an instrument to indicate he's heard Hilda. He's sceptical about quoting Hilda. Caedmon's strummed chord sums up his doubt.

Listen harder, Pigman - and yes I am still relevant after all this time...

'Having crossed the turbulent seas and made our way to calmer waters, it's our haven that awaits...'

Some of you said it was a truly spiritual experience if you remember...

Caedmon plays some amusing response.

You so did! Anyway, this is a bit of alright, eh?

Decent crowd - just like the old days.

Caedmon answers with music

More than we've seen in a while, right?

Caedmon plays a transition to reawaken the congregation/present day.

The congregation move out of the nave = end of service.

Patti mobbed by the congregation for an extra word/chat

Jean Lister approaches Derrick

Jean:

Good to get **some** religion at least, thank you Curate Derrick.
Not one mention of Jesus from the Vicar..

Derrick:

We all have our own style Mrs Lister. And just look how they're lapping it up!

Jean:

It's a church, not a game show, all these screens...

Derrick:

It allows us to be more inclusive, more accessible for those who can't physically get into church..

Jean:

We've had a crucifix procession here in Goodmanham all the time I've been here, and palm crosses - it's not right - .

Derrick:

But when was the church ever this full?

Jean:

Nothing wrong with the way it was.
She comes here with her weird London ways and that delinquent son of hers, and messes with it?

Chorus

- Yeah that was proper fun - never thought I'd be saying as much but - I'd come again.

- She's got guts that Patti. Taking on the establishment - good on her.
- I've never been a church man - 'cept for christenings, weddings and funerals but she really makes you feel welcome
- I bring the kids for the free tea and cake.
- The flowers really make this church - I bring my mother every Easter especially

Jean:

It's very kind of you to say that. Nice to be appreciated by someone.

Jean moves away to primp the flower arrangements as Dan, hood up, pushes past. Dan carries his skateboard.

Dan:

Delinquent. What does that even mean ?

Derrick:

Naughty.

She doesn't mean it - she's just -

Dan:

Because I dropped my fucking phone?

Derrick:

Keep your voice down

Dan:

Why? 'God's' house?

Mum swears. When she thinks no one's listening.

Why the Hell did we even come here?

It's a dump and they don't want us anyway

Derrick:

Whilst there might not be anywhere good to skate - it's not a dump

Dan:

What do you know about skating? -

Derrick:

I wasn't always a church guy. When I was living on the streets I had a deck a bit like that one.

Dan:

Diid you grow up round here?

Derrick:

Near enough. East Hull. And believe me it was no picnic being the only black kid in my class back then.

Dan:

Yeah but you didn't have a vicar for a mum...

Derrick (*laughs*)

No. But then again, I didn't really have a mum.. She died when I was a kid.

Dan:

Oh.

Want a go? (*Dan indicates skateboard.*)

Exit Dan and Derrick outside Church

Caedmon plays for suspended animation again for everyone but Hilda and Caedmon.

Hilda:

Interesting ... Caedmon this is definitely worth our closer attention...

Caedmon is dismissive in music.

Do it!

Hilda pulls rank and commands Caedmon to conjure the chorus so she can listen more closely.

Chorus

- Can't be easy for her as a single mum.
- Never trust a do-gooder. Especially one with a cross round their neck.
- She really cares about community: Been working with the Grimsby WI for four months now, she set up a mother and baby session for single mums
- I am sick of all the talkers - at least she's a doer. I think she's great!
- Yeah, she'd be a great East Coast Champion - why not? We need someone who will roll up their sleeves...

Jean L:

I don't know why we bothered making all those kneelers, vicar, when you don't give anyone a chance to use them.

Patti:

Such craftsmanship Jean..., I wondered if we might use them in the children's corner? Each one is a story in itself -

Jean L:

Well that takes the biscuit.

Wet bottoms and snot all over my hassocks

Patti:

Oh I didn't mean that Jean -

Jean:

Vicar Richard would never have stood for all this reality TV nonsense

Caedmon's music makes the nave and 'normal life' suspend again for Hilda and Caedmon

Hilda:

Not so sure now, are you -

Caedmon reply in music

Exactly: And all being at loggerheads is what we want...

Caedmon reply in music

It IS just like us- split down the middle.

For and against. Pro and con.

Caedmon reply in music

And **they** all have to live together and make it work just like we did.

Caedmon reply in music

Yes - She's getting them thinking.

Definitely one to watch I'd say

Caedmon replies in music

Well don't you bother then - leave it to me. I'll do it.

Yes - Go on -

Hilda points to the particular instrument that will break the barrier between their spirit world and the real world)

just a little try-out, see if it still works?

Reluctantly Caedmon plays the 'contact' instrument tune

Patti notices the 'contact' tune in the distance -

Patti:

Can you hear that busker, Jean?

Bless them, how lovely, they must be just outside!

Shall we ask them in for a cuppa?

Jean L:

Oh for heaven's sake, roll up for a free-for-all! -Turns away.

Caedmon plays again for suspended animation again for all but Patti, Hilda and Caedmon.

Hilda:

(to Caedmon) Well you've still got it love! Not so dusty -

Caedmon about to reply in music... but Patti interrupts to the surprise of Caedmon and Hilda

Patti:

Nice of you to say so!

Have we met before...?

I'm sorry I didn't see you earlier, did you come far?

Caedmon getting tangled in his instruments means the connection is open longer than intended - he hasn't made contact like this for some time

Hilda:

Far enough love... although it's all relative...last outing we tried like this one was Mother Teresa - but we just weren't getting through...Great to hear your 'new start' message - it's clearly striking a chord!

Furious with Hilda, Caedmon strikes a chord to cut off the contact. Patti frozen.

Hilda (to Caedmon)

I was just getting going!

Caedmon furious in music

I don't care. She IS worth watching.

Caedmon is disapproving in music which unfreezes the rest of the congregation. Patti is puzzled, but quickly distracted by looking for Dan, and is drawn outside. .

Scene 3: Not perfect...

Location: Goodmanham Church, Market Weighton, E Yorks, Exterior

Maundy Thursday - continuation.

Penny with microphone in background doing some vox pops with the dispersing congregation. Patti and Derrick emerge together.

Penny:

Hello Vicar - hearing great things... Might I steal you away for a few minutes...?

Patti:

Sure - but I just need to find my son Dan - Have you seen him, Derrick,I promised him I'd take him to town this afternoon -

Penny:

The modern woman - pulled in all directions!

Derrick:

I'll find him, vicar. He was here a moment ago - you concentrate on your interview!
(exit)

Penny's interview starts recording -

Penny:

So here I am in Market Weighton with Patti Abdullahai, Vicar of Goodmanham and the hot ticket for the East Coast Champion role!
Welcome to East Coast FM Patti ..

Patti:

Hello Penny. I wouldn't exactly describe myself as the hot ticket, unless you mean the sweaty kind - Easter weekend is our busiest time in the church calendar.

Penny:

Of course! All that chocolate to navigate.

Joking.

No one could accuse you of letting the grass grow under your feet could they?

Is it true that you've been working your way up and down the East coast drumming up support / gathering lost souls?

Patti:

(laughs awkwardly)

We've been talking to some amazing people all along the East coast about making a new start this Easter and what a difference it can make when people come together.

Penny:

Indeed you have. Let's have a little listen to some of the people you spoke with:

Chorus as radio clips

- She's got time for everyone - makes you feel right special
- This place has had a right battering - it'll take more than her to turn it round
- The lass is a doer
- She grew up here, she understands - one of us
- Look what she did with the playground - that girl moved mountains

Penny:

You're quite the hit, Vicar Abdullahai - what an inspiration to our listeners.

Some might say this sleepy little town isn't big enough for - you ?

What does your church think?

Chorus as congregation

- It's not the same - no procession, no kneeling...
- It might have worked in London - but it's not right our way
- I've never seen the place so full
- I'm not sure I belong any more
- The clothes swap is a brilliant idea - charity shops are so expensive now .
- I've never thought of myself as a church person - but she's normal like us, and she really cares
- Jean Lister told me to send a letter of complaint about the lack of bible readings

Penny:

So there you have it! Sounds like you've made a big impact locally.

Big fish in a little pond.

There's a lot of people out there who think you should chuck your hat in the ring for the East Coast Champion role.

Patti:

I love this pond...this place.
I wish you and your listeners a brilliant Easter.
Thank you for joining us here in Goodmanham.

Caedmon plays the ECFM jingle to close the scene.

Screens reflect the tweets that have been registered on their web site. (Tweet reactions to be gathered in the next outreach phase in build up to performance)

Derrick and Dan emerge from the side church door laughing followed by Wilfrid.

Derrick

What do you mean 'what's a Tunnock's teacake' - they're the best part of being Yorkshire!

Dan:

I'm not - Yorkshire

Derrick:

Right - course not. OK so let's see if I still can -

Derrick turns an Ollie on Dan's skateboard. Dan shows him how it should be done as Jean emerges from main door with a cup of tea for Penny.

Jean:

Bitter isn't it for Easter? I expect that's got a lot to do with it. People will do anything for a free biscuit and a brew

Penny:

A few more bums on seats recently ?

Jean:

I doubt they'll be back after that floor show.
If I'd wanted theatricals I'd have gone to Hull New Theatre. *(Exit)*

Derrick

O-K - I know my place Dan. You skate a lot?

Dan:

Used to, Victoria Park Raemers

Derrick:

Have you tried RockCity in Hull?

Dan:

Nah. Won't be as good.
And anyway mum's too busy to take me.

We're miles from bloody anywhere..

Dan picks up the skate and slumps down to wait for his mum, away from Derrick.

Penny P: *(to Derrick, indicating Jean / the congregation)*

I can see the net curtains of Goodmanham are twitching...

Derrick:

Just flapping - the winds of change.

Penny:

You know Penny Patent gets all the goss: Patti? Is she all she's cracked up to be - ?

Derrick:

Straight up, she's the real deal.

You'll see, the one we need!

Wilfrid has been lurking and overhears then exit.

Dan disappears back into the church.

Patti reemerges from the church wearing jeans and a T shirt

Penny: *(wolf whistles)*

A woman of many disguises Patti - Abdullahai - quite a name you've got there.

Patti:

My husband was Nigerian. Maiden name was Smith

Penny:

Like the singer.

Patti does a double take.

Penny:

You don't remember me at all, do you?

Penelope Potts.

You buggered off to Oxford. Didn't think we'd see you for dust.

Patti:

Penny Potts - of course .. wow, small world!

Penny:

Not really. I've been here ever since - and now back you come.

Wasn't expecting you to have been born again!

Patti:

And you've come out of your shell. Wouldn't say 'boo' to a goose...

Penny:

'Teacher's pet' ...back with us also-rans...

Patti:

The listeners love you - you've such a following at East Coast FM- quite the influencer ...

Penny:

You can take the girl out of Cleethorpes but...anyway, Backatcha!
Seems like you're packing the house in sleepy Goodmanham -

Patti :

Well -

Penny: *(grinning then smile dissolves)*

So why did you come back to the end of the pier?
Couldn't hack it in the smoke?

Patti:

My husband - died.
Couldn't afford London without his salary.

Penny:

I'm sorry to hear that.

Patti:

And mum and dad left me the Cleethorpes bungalow so - the only thing that made sense was to move back.

Penny:

Bet you're regretting it now?

Patti:

It's nice to be by the sea -
but I'd forgotten the hopelessness.
Such entrenched lack of belief

Penny:

And you genuinely believe that God can save the East coast?

Patti:

(smiles) I'm talking about self belief. Self esteem, self worth.
Talk to the kids on Brandsholme estate, talk to the older ladies in Filey, talk to the Grimsby dockers (those that are still there) - they don't believe anyone cares, especially not themselves.
I hate hearing that.

Penny: *(doubtful)*

Is that why you're buzzing about the East Coast like a latter day missionary?

Patti

Someone should be listening don't you think?

Click sound. Suggestion that this conversation has been recorded.

Jean, Dan and Derrick emerge together.

Jean:

Found him! Drinking the communion wine!

Patti:

Oh Dan - why? Jean I'm sorry - of course I'll sort this -

Derrick:

It really wasn't anything serious - was it Mrs Lister? It's been a long time for him to wait, given how much work Vicar Patti has had to do today.

Jean:

The Devil makes work for idle hands - he's feral that child.(exit)

Dan:

Can we go now?

Patti:

Er - I think you've got something you need to say, Dan? What's going on -

Dan:

I need to be in town! Now! Charlie Mason has texted me and you said you'd -

Patti:

Charlie Mason - wasn't he the one who got you detention last week -?

Dan:

Mum! (makes to head off again)

Patti:

Ok I've - just give me five minutes to get things sorted here - (to Penny)

Dan:

It's always five more minutes. Why do you -
They're just a bunch of losers and you know this stuff is all complete crap -
(*storms off, but nowhere to go*)

Derrick: (*to Patti*)

Vicar - finish your interview. I can drop him off - the beast is in the car park and needs a run out. How about that Dan?

Dan:

Thanks.(*Sets off for the car park*)

Patti

Oh no - I don't think - I'm really fine to -

Derrick:

It's fine! I was going into town anyway. You finish up here.

*Derrick and Dan exit.
Penny smiles and packs away her recorder.
Patti left alone.*

Scene 4: Self Doubt

Location: Goodmanham Church, Market Weighton, E Yorks, Interior Maundy Thursday, continuation.

*Patti tries lighting a candle to have a prayer - realises it's pointless. Snuffs it out.
Checks her phone. (What she sees flashes up on screens: it's from Facebook)*

'Praying is like trying to undo a knot. You never know quite what's going to work, it's just important to keep going. (Also, best check what you're trying to undo isn't holding up something else important.)'

Patti:

Too right - it's pretty much all unravelling...

Christ Dan!

Damn.

No text, no call, nothing?

Jean Lister is right: Delinquent. Feral.

Damn Damn Damn.

Sam

Sam?

How am I supposed to do this, eh? 'Give him space?' How much?
He could be anywhere between here and Grimsby for all I know.

Caedmon and Hilda emerge to listen.

You swore Sam - you said we'd always be together, you and me. Strong.
Working as one - And now when I need you more than ever, you're nowhere and I'm here - where?
Back of beyond, ruining Dan's life when he's not doing it for himself.
Working my arse off, pissing off the parish, some of them hate my very existence - no they do!
They really do.
Others thinking I'm Mother Fucking Teresa when inside I'm really just a mess -

East Coast Loser
Christ, love.
You know he was always your little shadow... and now you're the shadow and he's...
What the Hell am I doing?

Hilda commands Caedmon to play the 'contact' instrument tune.

Hilda relights the candle. Caedmon plays a very calming/soothing tune.

Patti shivers.

Hilda:

You are doing great!

Patti:

Oh my God! You made me jump

Hilda:

Sorry to shock you. Deep breaths!

Here - there's got to be some wine somewhere about...Usually is.

Patti

I thought I was alone, that's all.

Hilda:

We're never alone, love.

No truly - we never are.

Patti:

I'm sure you're right - but where's your family?

Did they leave without you after morning service? Do you need me to get you a taxi?

Hilda:

Oh I see all of my family that I want to see -

But as I said, you don't need to doubt yourself.

You're doing a really great job - really great. We are with you all the way -

Patti:

Oh - thanks! We?

Hilda:

We can all relate to you - you say it how it is - you aren't perfect - you -

Patti: (*embarrassed*)

I'm certainly not perfect!

A vicar who swears and struggles to pray - it's not something I shout about, but as you saw - I'm struggling and - I'm - sorry you heard that -

Hilda:

Don't apologise. No need - it's your struggle that makes you strong.

Patti

My son needs me to be strong - but I get moments when - .

Hilda:

We all do!

Patti:

He misses his dad -

Hilda:

.. a fine man

Patti:

He was! And he was Dan's dad and I can't replace him - just like I can't be the Messiah that the people round here need.

Can't even be the kind of vicar Goodmanham wants me to be! And now there's this East Coast Champion thing...

Hang on -?

What did you say your name was -?

Caedmon plays the tune and extinguishes the candle.

Derrick enters. Exit Hilda and Caedmon

Derrick: *(confused that Patti is talking to herself)*

Who were you talking to -?

Patti points to where Hilda was then realises she's gone anyway - her gesture fades. Doubts herself.

Don't you let them get to you - you're doing great. Although if do you make a habit of talking to yourself...Come on, I'm joking!

I just came to say that it's all good with Dan. He's with his schoolmates and one of the dads says he will drop him home for you.

Patti.

So you, he..

You really don't need to do keep doing that, Derrick.

I would have had it covered -

I can look after my own son.

Derrick:

I'm sorry. I was just trying to help.

It can't be easy for you - or for him.

Patti:

Oh? Since when did you become an expert on me and my son?

Derrick: *(uneasy laugh)*

I'm not an expert on anyone but I do remember what it was like at his age

Patti:

And I don't?

Derrick:

Patti. Amazing as you are, you can't imagine how it feels to be a mixed race kid, especially around here . You know?

Awkward pause.

He'll understand. Give him time. His mum has an important job to do - and she's doing it brilliantly

Patti shakes head.

And for what it's worth, I think you should go for the East Coast Champion gig. You're practically doing the job already...

Patti:

Not you as well. Penny Patent was urging me this afternoon.

Derrick:

It's a sign. The congregation hangs on your every word.

When you talk about a fresh start - they know it's for real.

They believe in you. I believe in you.

We must have had two hundred and fifty today.

It's a Goodmanham record, for sure.

There were Asian and Polish families, Cyril gave a lift to the Big Issue seller from Grimsby market and some Hull Uni students.

What a broad church this is Patti - a place for everyone

You made this. You're an inspiration. I really mean it.

Patti:

Shame it's falling on such deaf ears

Derrick:

You mean Jean? She's just feeling threatened. Rome wasn't built in a day.

You are the change we need - everyone's lining up for a piece of you.

Patti:

Today's headlines, tomorrow's chip paper right?

Derrick:

Jean needs to move with the times. Either that or we look for a new Parish Secretary

Patti:

She's really passionate though, it's a shame that passion couldn't be directed into something constructive.

Derrick:

She certainly had plenty to say on the radio - maybe we could find her a project - she loves local history.

Maybe we could let her loose with Hilda of Whitby and her links to Goodmanham.

She knows all about that since the WI pageant -

Patti:

That's not a bad idea Derrick - I'd like to see it.

I really should read my Bede again and check out the Goodmanham section. I'd forgotten Hilda did time around here, wasn't just the Whitby legend -

Derrick

Never mind Bede, take it from me, Hilda was a real woman of the people.
A mother to everyone, but in the best way. She really cared: fed, clothed and housed them, got them work. She championed the swineherd Caedmon and published his poems - recognised his talent despite his status.
And now we need to rescue her from the Remainers!

Patti:

Remainers? What do you mean, Anti Brexit?

Derrick:

Ha no! 'The Society'. Old school clergy who want the church to remain as it was - male led, without women bishops! They adopted Hilda as their patron saint because she 'never wanted to be a bishop'.

Patti:

Aah... I see.
So do you think I should try for that too?!

Derrick:

My face doesn't fit there either.
For what it's worth, I think you'd make a magnificent bishop and an East Coast Champion.

Patti:

World domination on the side?

Derrick:

I mean it!
All my life I've dreamt of this - a diverse and inclusive space, at the heart of the community, mattering to people, making a difference - and now - it's happening. YOU are making it happen.
And you give me the chance to be a part of it - I just hope I can live up to the challenge, Patti!
Derrick is overcome, exits to collect his robes

Patti:

You hope YOU can live up to the challenge - Oh Hell.

Shit Sam. God. Dan. Where the hell are you?

Patti opens her phone - no messages at all. She follows Derrick upstage.

Scene 5: Is she the one?

*Location: Continuation of above, Maundy Thursday.
Caedmon and Hilda emerge.*

Caedmon plays a prompt.

Hilda:

You have no need to thank me Pigman.
It was your beautiful verse that rightly made your name.
I was just glad to play a supporting role.

Caedmon plays a response

Hilda:

Well I agree, he is a discerning young curate... 'Hilda's amazing, real woman of the people- you see, Caedmon, not forgotten even now -

Caedmon plays his answer

Hilda:

But why them?
I mean - so many of the associations are great - schools, St Hilda's College Oxford, patron saint of arts and culture ... but 'The Society', denying a role for women in my name ! How dare they appropriate me like that. Their 'Society' is not mine!

Caedmon plays his response

Hilda -

But I don't get to choose do I?
Once you've had your time, that's it. Open season. They can all lay claim to you and mould you into whatever shape they choose, put words in your mouth!

Caedmon plays his response.

I know, I'm sorry. You will get your voice back. I'm going to make sure you do.

I've always thought regrets were pointless, but I should have made more time to write... but, that was your department of course, Mister 'founder of English poetry' ...

Cadmon comments in music

It's a good legacy and you should be proud of it.
And I'm **not going to** stand idly by, am I?

Caedmon plays a suggestion

I reckon that young Dan had the right idea

Caedmon plays a question

Ha no! An appearance on a skateboard is not what I had in mind!
Maybe a glass of communion wine...

Caedmon responds

I love you too.

Caedmon: plays his query - Sceptical about Patti's ability

No - you're wrong. Patti is the key to all of this - passionate and driven.

Broken and confused. Perfect. And she's going to make things right - for me, for you, for all of us.

I can't believe after all our wanderings, we come back and find her in our own church

Caedmon plays his response.

Bishop be damned.

She'll get that East Coast Champion post and then you'll see..

Scene 6 : Pressure building

Location: Goodmanham Church, Market Weighton, E Yorks, Interior

Good Friday lunch time: Patti and Derrick emerging from the Vestry.

Emma is approaching along the nave., sees Patti and Derrick and overhears the end of the conversation

Derrick:

Another blinder of a service Patti.

Patti

Have we converted Jean yet?

Derrick

Still cross about there being no cross ..but she's lit up about Hilda ... has designs on the pageant already.

Patti

Nice.

Derrick:

Have you thought any more about the East Coast Champion?

You'll be a shoo in.

Chorus (*of Emma*)

- What's SHE doing here? She was all over Yorkshire Life last month –
- Show's something's of interest when she turns up
- Like a bad penny. Nosey cow.

Derrick

The world would be your oyster. Today Goodmanham, tomorrow the whole of the East Coast - and one in the eye for the old guard - what a mission -

Emma : (*booms across the Nave*)

Well said young man!

It's a fabulous platform, spot on...

And so you're the (in) famous Reverend Abdullahai? (*to Derrick*)

Derrick:

Ah - no! That would be my colleague Patti - Vicar Abdullahai

Patti - please meet Ms Emma White OBE from..

Emma:

(cuts off Derrick without missing a beat) Vicar!

Delighted - yeah!

Rocking the denim there Patti - fab-u-lous- the dark horse we've been hearing all about.

Patti:

What do you mean?

Emma:

All over the news - Those Vox Pops summoned yours truly all the way from Scarborough

(Emma manoeuvres Patti to link arms with her as she promenades along the aisle)

Love Love Loved today's service -

You bring it all to life.

Patti:

I'm really glad it spoke to you.

I'm sorry though, please forgive my rudeness but I really need to get going. I have to collect my son and I can't be late -

Derrick:

No, it's fine! Dan told you he's getting dropped off remember -

Patti:

Did he - ? We had a pizza planned

Emma:

Wonderful ! So you'll have time for a little tete a tete then...

Packed houses in Goodmanham - unheard of !

So of course I had to come and check you out - we've got high hopes for you sweetheart- poster girl for the East Riding .. local girl makes good...

Patti:

Ha! That's a good one. And to be precise, I'm from Cleethorpes, so North East Lincs...

Dan appears and hears the following

Emma:

Of course you do!

Which is why you'd make such a fabulous East Coast Champion..

You know you want to..

Patti:

You as well! Wow - I guess I should be flattered but -

Dan:

For Christ's sake, Mum! Do you never stop?

Patti:

Dan

Emma:

Well hello there young Daniel - gorgeous, gorgeous.
Your mum Patti is doing a great job here young man. Fab-U-lous.

Dan:

Oh Yeah. Great. You carry on 'Patti'. Derrick, can you give me a lift?

Patti:

No Dan. Derrick. Emma.
I'm going with my son now, as planned. An afternoon that only involves him, and me
and some stonking pizza.
That's what we're going to do..

Emma

So hard being all things to all people, Reverend.
Single parent too - so hard.
Bless.
But when you've got the gift, the common touch and such a great calling, your people
need you...

Patti

(grabs her coat and keys and whisks Dan away.)
Ms White. You are really kind and you've come a long way.
This is Derrick - he's the beating heart of this church and does everything I do and
more.

It's not the Beast, Dan, but get us going on the music will you?

Emma

Fascinating...

Emma and Derrick watch as Patti and Dan dash off.

Scene 7: ECFM update

Screens flash with Good Friday ECFM update. Caedmon plays the 'jingle' tune. He and Hilda observe. Enter Penny P - there is no specific 'location' for this scene.

Penny P:

Welcome back East Coasters!

Things are really hotting up now with the East Coast Champion stakes - word on the street is there's a mystery new addition to the list - ooooo!

Yes, I've got it from very reliable sources that the powers that be are swinging into action now, and coaching their candidates of choice...

And I'm here to ensure that you, our wonderful listeners, are always ahead of the game... so I can't wait to bring you ALL the latest....

The following Vox Pops runs while Patti's social tweets flash up on the screens : demonstrating Patti is not exactly in tune with the common voice....(again, these need to be refreshed for the next performance/venue)

Vox Pops	Patti's tweets/social media feed
<i>We need a champion who is really going to understand us - even when things are rubbish</i>	<i>Great to hear from the Filey Fairies group - it IS all about the cupcakes! Hope @JonJ and Gemma got enough chocolate sprinkles!</i>
<i>Why would I care who's East Coast Champion - they won't ever do anything for me will they</i>	<i>Don't give up on the Hornsea Mere dragon race... raising important funds for a great cause</i>
<i>They'll just be feathering their own nest, that's what they always do</i>	<i>Join us - litter picking on Grimsby People's Park #MakeGrimsbyGreat</i>
<i>I mean look at the short list - it's all the usual suspects, if it's not God Squad it's two faced politicians, where are the real people?</i>	<i>Thanks for all the good wishes people but I'm honestly still undecided #EastCoastChampion @RevPatti</i>

Scene 7a: Meeting Wilfrid

*Location: Goodmanham Church, Market Weighton, E Yorks, Interior
Easter Saturday*

Patti emerging from the Vestry. Bishop Wilfrid loiters in the children's corner of Goodmanham Church. He has the look of a 'trendy' type. He is peering into the food donations box as Patti emerges from vestry

Wilfrid:

'Interesting' Easter Saturday sermon Mrs Abdullahai.

Delighted to see our 'firebrand' in action. Nice to see the old place so full. Even if it's the free food drawing them in..

Patti:

It's so sad that we need food banks at all isn't it?

Welcome to Goodmanham, Have I seen you here before?

Wilfred:

I was a regular in Richard's day (he was my curate in our Wakefield wilderness). I hadn't realised things had changed so quickly.... I'm more West Yorkshire you might say- Bishop Wilfrid Manse.

Patti:

Oh...I wasn't expecting...you're not wearing...

Wilfrid:

I prefer to 'go amongst' when I can.. Much like yourself I imagine.
I didn't see Mrs Lister in the congregation, is she unwell?

Patti:

Jean?

Wilfrid:

Never missed an Easter service to my knowledge.. Reverend Richard used to save me some of her fabulous hot cross buns.

Patti:

She's certainly an expert on crosses

Wilfrid:

Marvellous woman! Always treasure a good baker: It's all down to the recipe of course... the consistency ...the faithful need to know where they are, so important, don't you agree?.

Patti:

Um. Well - Jean and I don't always see eye to eye as yet but -

Wilfrid:

A diamond. Keeper of the flame.
But all this (*indicates the screens*) will have sent her into a tailspin -

Patti

She's definitely more at home with kneelers and floral displays

Wilfrid

It's so important to move with the times of course.
So much more we can do to modernise: social media, clicks and likes. You really have that side covered Patti - I may call you Patti?

Patti:

Oh - yes sure.

Wilfrid:

It's all about balance - respect for tradition and moving with the times. So much we can do to spread the word, you're a regular on the local radio I hear

Patti:

Not intentionally I'm not really -

Wilfrid

And tipped for a broader regional role I understand - are you the mystery candidate they're talking about?

And why not? With the right guidance, the right parameters, the correct ingredients- it could be just the ticket..

Patti:

I really don't think -

Wilfrid:

Oh come along Ms Abdullhai, you're not fooling anyone. The church and its confines are too restrictive for your 'talents', you need a bigger stage

Laudable as your commitment is to these little people on the periphery, it's really time we returned to the old way: the true way, the one path: a strong, united and respected church. I'm sure with your capital London experience and Oxford pedigree, you agree?

Patti:

It's always a question of perspective. I don't believe I know anyone who is 'little' or 'peripheral'.

Wilfrid:

Of course, quite quite. Most people find the only way out of Hull Grimsby and the East Coast is either the motorways heading West, or a quick trip off the nearest pier. With so little in their humdrum lives - it's no wonder your fairytales are pulling them in

Patti:

I prefer to trade in stories. After all, it's in our job description, isn't it?

Wilfrid:

Absolutely.

Well - It's a great start you've made. I will make it known at diocesan council that your promotional plan has great potential - the Archbishop will be delighted. I think you'll find that will help to smooth the way for your 'big push' on the Champion front. I flatter myself, I can pull a few strings.

Derrick enters and overhears the last

Ah - yes - well, tempus fugit. Nice to meet you Patti and good luck.

And here's your trusty curate (*to Derrick*) - we're really ringing in the changes at Goodmanham aren't we?

Must dash, my Deacon David gets distraught when I dawdle, and Pascal evensong awaits.

Gesturing the cushions in the children's corner with the kneelers in place -

So wise to focus on your maternal instincts.

Lambs to the fold -

À bien tôt!

Derrick:

Wow. That's better than a royal visit - we really must be shaking things up round here. He's backing you?

Patti:

We've ruffled some West Yorkshire feathers I suppose.
Where's Dan, Derrick? I thought he said he was with you -

Derrick:

He was - he's fine. It's all sorted.

Patti:

Where? What's sorted with Dan?

Derrick:

He told you right?
He's with Charlie, they're doing some Art project?

Patti:

With Charlie? In Cleethorpes?

Derrick

I dropped him on the front. It is the holiday weekend!

Patti

An art project on the front?

Derrick

You know what lads are like when they get caught up in something. He'll call you when he's hungry.

Derrick exits.

Patti rings Dan, it goes straight to the answerphone. Shows on the screens.

Patti:

Hi Dan, I'm sorry about today but it's the last major service.
Anyway, I wondered if you fancied a takeaway?
Fish and chips and scraps and some Dr Pepper?
I'll be back in an hour - send me a text if you want to change your order.
Bye.

Message pings by return and shows on screens.

Dan: Not hungry

Scene 8: Patti understands who Hilda really is

Location: same place. Easter Saturday continued.

Patti slumps in a pew. Head in hands. She rips off her vicar stuff and throws it on the floor.

Patti:

'Maternal instincts.'

Hilda:

You are too hard on yourself

Patti:

(jumps) you again!

Are you stalking me? We didn't get properly introduced...?

Hilda:

Stalking? *(turns to Caedmon for an explanation of the term - he doesn't know either).*

No clue, sorry my love. I just know how hard it is to be all things to everyone.

Everyone claims you for their cause, thinks you fit their perspective, and you are left feeling like you're not managing to do anything particularly well.

Patti:

Everyone wants a piece of you - and then your whole reason for being abandons you - permanently - and you don't know how to - you don't know what to - oh God what am I saying?

I seem to have put myself forward to become an East Coast Champion. I don't know what it is, I don't know why - but everyone else seems to think it's a good idea. So I end up going along with them and now -

Hilda:

That's great news! In fact, you're managing everything REALLY well -

Patti

Whatever I do, it's wrong, it's getting me more committed when I'm trying to withdraw, it's getting more complicated when I'm trying to simplify - I'm not even sure I can explain it to myself...

Hilda

It's never been easy for women. And we've never made it easy for ourselves. Believe me, in some ways you've got it easy compared to my day.

Patti:

Your day?

Hilda:

My mother was a single parent too... I never knew my dad.

That's something for your lad - he did know his father, loved him. That means a lot.

Patti:

Yes it does. It means everything to Dan.

I don't even know your name - you're good at listening.

Hilda:

I like listening. I've had a lot of practice.

Patti:

Me too.

When we got here, it just seemed to be the right thing to do - natural. London was madness. All the focus on me, on my loss, on our loss - We needed to get out, I needed to get out, to talk to strangers, to hear their stories. Swapping stories - it made me think, at least there are stories - and not all of them are cut off and interrupted. Finished.

Hilda:

You are really good at it, love. I can see that.. People feel your kindness, and your pain - it's why they come in droves.

Patti:

Seems to me they need so much more than I can give - counselling, councillors to sort out their problems, new houses, new jobs, new body parts some of them, I had no idea so many legs got amputated on the East Coast - so many broken people, so many sad stories.

Hilda

You are called to help them - make them whole.
This Champion role will give you the platform to do so much.

Patti

Ha that's the joke. Not called all see - can't get through.
Nothing since Sam died.

Hilda:

Oh Love.
I lost my vote and my voice and I had to live with that.

Patti

I lost Sam and my faith you see - I thought coming here ... I miss him.

Hilda

Probably that was the point - you were needed.
I had the same issue - kind of

Patti

Oh No. You were widowed too?

Hilda

I lost someone very important to me,
My guide, my steer, my inspiration - died.
It was only when he'd gone that my true calling became clear.
Although sometimes I wonder if my true calling is still calling...

Patti

I'm sorry you've been alone so long, but I really -

Hilda

Oh I haven't been alone! If anything I've had more company as the years have gone by, and of course Pigman keeps me entertained, so it's not all bad.

Patti

Pigman?

Hilda

The poet. He can't half conjure a tune - go on! Give her a blast!

Caedmon strums a little tune. Patti is lulled and relaxed by the music and the talk.

Nice isn't it?

Patti

You still haven't told me who you are. Do you still work - are you local?

Hilda

I don't think we ever stop working, do you? And I'm certainly local

Patti

That's fantastic. You will be such a great role model to our congregation. It would be great to get you more involved here in Goodmanham - would you be up for that?
What would you like to do - we've got all kinds of groups and get togethers, it's more a question of -

Hilda:
 You're at it again - it's good of you to offer, but really love - that's not why I'm here.

Patti
 OK - so why are you here then? -

Hilda
 I need to be here with you right now - you're exactly what I have been looking for since the vote went the wrong way

Patti
 You're losing me - which vote? Brexit?

Hilda:
 No not that one. An earlier forerunner, you might say.

Patti:
 Who exactly are you?

Hilda
 Hilda -
 Saint Hilda Abbess of Streonshalh was my last gig - you'd call it Whitby..

Patti
 Stop it - please. I'm not in the mood for jokes ..Saint Hilda

Hilda
 Never been more serious in my whole entire life.

Patti shakes her head

Listen love. I've been waiting a long time for you. As I told you before, mother Teresa is only the most recent. We tried them all - your Martin Luther King, Sam Wesley, Florry Nightingale,

Caedmon plays tune to remind Hilda about more recent contacts

Well yes, that's right, more recently who have we had - Diana Princess of Wales, Bob Geldoff, Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg
 And now: So many people purport to make a difference these days – bloggers, entrepreneurs, philanthropists - but very few truly make things happen. Even fewer make things happen for the good of other people.
 But you have done both.
 While experiencing some of the worst pain anyone could know.
 You have found a way to live with what life gave you, what God gave you to do.
 I'm as sure as I've ever been that you are - the one.

Patti:
 You're crazy..

Hilda:
 Not crazy - yet! Although one could be forgiven after 1200 years of false alarms -

Patti:
 What the hell are you doing? What kind of fool do you think you can take me for?

Hilda:
 You're no fool! I know it's you!
 You will right the mistake that I allowed to happen - you will restore balance, return the church to the people - it's already happening, they're flocking to you! , sharing their stories as Aiden always said

Patti:

What are you talking about?

You're freaking me out big time here - I will call for someone to get you out of this cold church, somewhere you can be safe and -

Hilda:

I'm not - strictly - in your church but that's probably not the point right now...

Patti:

No!

That's it. Enough.

I've a teenage son who's lost his dad.

I've lost my beloved Sam, the Goodmanham congregation think I'm radical. The new arrivals need hope. Emma wants a champion. Penny wants an apology. Bishop

Wilfrid wants - goodness knows,

and Derrick - and now YOU - are both looking for some Messiah.

I am NOT your - or anyone else's - 'The One'. I am DONE.

Blackout.

End of Act 1

ACT 2: Hilda & The Northern Powerhouse

Scene 1: The pageant of St Hilda

Location: Knave of the Church, Goodmanham. Easter Saturday: morning.

Jean enters with a microphone and addresses the audience as a congregation.

Jean: *(very nervous but also grimly fearless)*

Welcome to you all.

Unaccustomed as I am -

The Goodmanham WI is delighted at such short notice, to re-enact -

We are gathered here to share with you once again our enactment of the Story of St Hilda through the medium of dance, movement and song.

I thank you.

It's a story dear to my heart and one that is rooted in the East Coast - our East coast - and I hope it will be an inspiration to women and girls everywhere.

(in stage whisper to offstage): No Pearl - not yet -

Bede tells us: 'All who knew Hilda called her mother because of her outstanding devotion and grace'

Hilda: *(to Caedmon)*

Quite right too! Best thing that greasy little creep managed to say...

Caedmon provides some gentle background music for the pageant.

Jean:

We have revived this Hilda pageant this Eastertide by popular demand

Through the medium of dance movement and song -

(No Pearl, it's the other way - turn round!)

Chorus 1 (Pearl) has entered as pregnant Breguswith carrying baby Hereswith in her arms. She begins her movement facing upstage (she's not wearing her glasses for authenticity reasons and can't see a thing).

Chorus 2 (M) enters with banner 'Hereric's exile and death' as Hereric. He embraces Breguswith and Hereswith, and leaves for Elmet. King of Elmet (chorus 6) hands Hereric a goblet of poison, Hereric dies. Breguswith is told and is distraught.

Chorus 3 enters with banner 'Breguswith's dream'.

Jean:

Bede tells us that Hilda's mother, Breguswith dreamt that she wore a necklace of fine jewels that shone out under her clothing and its light lit up all of England. This was, of course, a sign of what her soon-to-be-born daughter Hilda would achieve.

Hilda

(nudging Caedmon) There you are, see - ! What would Mum say, eh?

Chorus 4 enters with banner 'the protection of King Edwin'

Jean:

King Edwin - later Saint Edwin - and his wife Ethelburgh protected the little family, and all converted to Christianity in 627 in York.

Little is known of Hilda's life until Hilda was summoned out of exile in Kent at the age of 33 by Saint Aiden to run an abbey in Hartlepool, Northumberland.

Chorus 5 enters with banner 'called by Aiden to Northumberland'

Later - in 657 - she became the founding abbess of Whitby abbey Streonshalh.

It was there she presided over the most important referendum of the time - Synod of Whitby, 664AD.

Three chorus enter as Celtic 'side', and three as Roman with banners showing celtic and Roman tonsor of the monks hair, and different dates for Easter.....

Hilda:

Hmm, not sure I like where this is going...

Jean:

And so today, Saint Hilda is venerated as patron saint of learning and culture, as the saint who banished snakes from Whitby connected with her ammonite symbol, and of course as the exemplar of female obedience that our brothers in The Society have recognised as -

Hilda:

Caedmon!

Now!

Caedmon strikes a chord that stops the pageant.

Hilda:

This is what happened.

Hilda stage-manages the following re-enactment with the help of Caedmon and plays the part of Hilda herself. Chorus take other relevant roles.

Re-enactment of the 'For and Against' of the Synod of Whitby

Location: Main hall at the double Monastery, Streonshalh Whitby, North Yorks, Interior

January 664 - after a long synod that has lasted since November 663 AD

Caedmon prepares the way for the majestic Synod procession...Wilfrid leads the procession in enormous pomp.

Hilda awaits the arrival of the parties at the centre of a long debating table. (Echoes of last supper with a female at the centre).

King Oswy sits behind on his throne. The parties line up in opposition, it is grand and imposing. Deference shown to Hilda as host and chief adjudicator: even the royals respect her.

Wilfrid speaks on behalf of Rome. Bishop Colman on behalf of the existing faith.

- The Irish camp: Bishop Colman and the Irish party (including Bishop Cedd)
- Roman camp: Queen Enfleda + Oswy's 'natural' son, Prince Alchfrid (later King), French Bishop Agilbert + Abbott Wilfrid.

Hilda: *(stands to open the debate, she's tired)*

Welcome to you all. We are gathered here today - January AD 664 - to settle some very important business before God and our people. For three months now we have argued and fought and it is time to decide .

We have with us King Oswy (indicates) and Queen Enfleda who will listen to each side as they present their case and make a decision about whether we continue in our English faith or as colleagues here will argue, join the European faith - championed by the Pope in Rome...

Friends, we have been debating and consulting for many long weeks.

All nod sagely and in seemingly civilised fashion.

The following 'debate' descends through exaggerated stylised movement amongst the chorus to visualise a slanging match and then a fight...

Hilda:

In the 'remain' corner we have Brother Coleman

Coleman: *(Stands to speak. He positions upright a simple wooden, weathered cross on the altar)*

I'm not going to pull any punches. Our church community is for and of the people. As Saint Aiden, champion of the people's hearts made clear, faith is strong where people connect with each other. Christ and Aiden built a church of people. They didn't need fancy buildings and treasures to dazzle and bewitch. They were there for the people when they needed them... The unity and peace of our sovereign nation rests upon our making decisions that suit our islands, not dictated by some foreign arbiter in Europe. England for the English.

Hilda:

In the 'leave' corner we have Abbott Wilfrid

Wilfrid: *(Stands to speak. He positions upright a richly jewelled cross on the altar and lays the wooden cross flat)*

Rousing words Brother, rousing words but let's face it - nice guy that he was, Aiden wasn't really up to the job - more of a foot soldier or a porter, waiting on St Peter who was busy guarding the gates of heaven from RomeWe are a young nation and we have a lot to learn. Our brothers in Rome understand this...We want only the very best for our honoured powerful King Oswy and elegant wise Queen Enfleda.

This rift of faith divides man from wife, and must be resolved.

Your majesties deserve to belong to a single European union of faith: and remain on the side of archangels Peter, Paul and Michael.

Chorus now take sides and move into fist fights (slogans below were all used in Brexit or last election campaigns)

Chorus 1:

Let's take back control!

Chorus 2:

Yes to Europe!

Chorus 3:

We want our country back!

Chorus 4:

For the many not the few!

Chorus 5:

Let's get this done!

Chorus 6:

Drain the swamp!

King Oswy:

Enough!

I have heard all arguments.

Wilfrid, Coleman both - do you agree that, as my Queen has pronounced, wise as she is noble, St Peter is indeed the 'rock' upon whom our faith is built and holds the keys to the kingdom of heaven?

Wilfrid/Coleman:

Aye Sire.

King Oswy:

Then Europe it is. To Rome we go.

The pomp and status of the scene depart. Exit all except Hilda

Hilda stands beside the altar and strokes the old wooden cross. The altar has a candle, unlit. Caedmon lights the candle.

Hilda:

No!

This does not serve the people.

Caedmon attempts to offer comfort or a suggestion - Hilda shakes head/rejects. Caedmon leaves.

And that was it, God help me.

Was there something else I could have done?

Hilda blows out the candle.

Scene 2: East Coast Champion: mystery candidate update

Present day: Easter Sunday.

Using Screens to show the 'zoom' conversations - use lighting to highlight that the guests are in different locations.

Wilfrid is speaking from Goodmanham with Derrick and Jean.

Patti is waiting on the phone in Grimsby.

Emma is in Scarborough with Penny.

Penny: *(on stage but talking on the radio, alongside Emma)*

Good morning East Coasters!

Get excited people: the clock is counting down! East Coast Champion voting starts in just a few days, and it's a matter of hours before your popular choice is revealed, the candidate that YOU want to see stand as Champion from East Coast FM: did you submit your nomination?

There's been loads going down since Vicar Patti put her hat in the ring this week, and I'm delighted to say we're trending on @ECFM #ECChampion - see what's going down!

I'm also delighted to have some guests on this morning, commentators who have been following the campaign with me over the last few weeks and will be familiar to you listeners - first with me here on the coast is local mover and shaker Emma White OBE, Chief Exec at the Scarborough Cultural Halls

Emma

Hiya! Ooo - I love the build up, thanks Penny - hi people! Vicar Patti - yeah!! My sources in Scar-bo-rough ALSO suggest there's another mystery candidate who's been out and about and making a real difference to people on the ground -

Penny

Yes, I've heard that too Emma - it's going to be a close contest, which is as it should be, only the best for the East Coast.

And my second guest to join this afternoon is Bishop Wilfrid Manse, joining us from Goodmanham, the church that seems to have put God well and truly back on the map ! Welcome Bishop.... great to have you on East Coast FM!

Wilfrid (*speaking on zoom screen from Goodmanham*)

Penny - hi. Thanks so much for having me.

it's a pleasure to join you from Goodmanham where I'm here with Parish Secretary Jean Lister and Curate Derrick Green, while Vicar Patti is once again out and about doing her good works. It's a pleasure to support her candidacy.

(*Derrick and Jean wave on the zoom screen*)

We're delighted that our Vicar is building so successfully on our great work here on the East Coast....

Penny

Well, funny you should mention that, we've got a call scheduled with Vicar Patti too and here she is on the line now: Hi Vicar Patti

Patti

Hello Penny - great to talk to you again, yeah I'm in Grimsby today - and er - (*noises behind her*)

oh, sorry, hang on, I just need to -

Business of Patti being distracted by Dan - he can't believe she's on the phone again

Penny:

Vicar Patti is in such demand, she doesn't seem to have time to talk, eh Bishop Wilfrid?

Wilfrid (*getting annoyed that has to fill in time?*)

There's something so reassuring about having a person of faith representing the voice of the people - someone able to listen and understand but also able to navigate the corridors of power and ensure things get done

Emma

Absolutely! If this East Coast Champion role is going to mean anything, it needs a doer, a mover and a shaker - a to go to someone who can make things happen: charm the gatekeepers and blockers, a real player

Penny

Surely we need someone who really listens and cares - someone who has the interests of East Coasters at heart - ?

Emma

Without a doubt -

Penny

Okay - We've been trying to get back in touch with Vicar Patti, but unfortunately she's not answering her line at the moment

Wilfrid

What?

Emma

No doubt she's been called into one of her many missions of mercy, she's got the heart for this role: knows how to speak the language of the East Coast

Penny

And it's a local voice that we need?

Emma

Hundred percent: one of our own, Penny, one of our own.

Derrick ensures the zoom is no longer broadcasting: Screens read 'offline, not broadcasting' Wilfrid mutes himself on zoom and lighting shows him 'offline' with Jean and Derrick in the Goodmanham location...

Derrick starts calling Patti on the phone but not getting through

Wilfrid:

Where the Hell has she got to now?

This is just too much bleeding heart - for Christ's sake. Where do her responsibilities lie? Does she realise some of us are putting our reputations on the line?

Jean is startled by the nastiness of Wilfrid's reaction and leans back on the controls... this turns the recording/zoom call back on so it is broadcast?. Screens read: 'broadcasting zoom'

Derrick:

She's stretched pretty thin right now and we need to look out for her and her son.

Wilfrid:

Doesn't she realise how important this broadcast media message can be to... I bet it's that useless lump of a child of hers getting in the way again... What a waste of space!

Jean:

Bishop Wilfrid ... !

Wilfrid:

What he needs is discipline.

Can't have this kind of sloppy behaviour.

Detestable little mongrel...

I'm out of time as it is - enough is enough.(Exit)

Derrick

You can say that again.

Thank God Patti didn't hear that...

Jean and Derrick realise that something was still broadcasting as comments/complaints start to appear on the screens as below

<i>Was that a Bishop just then being racist?</i>	<i>Did he actually say 'mongrel'?</i>
<i>How dare he say that about our Patti?</i>	<i>Yeah, tell it how it is, Bish Bosh Bash</i>
<i>They're all as bad as each other</i>	<i>Victory for justice</i>
<i>Call himself a Christian?</i>	<i>What have dogs got to do with it?</i>

Scene 3: Patti Lost

Patti and Dan in Grimsby - on Cleethorpes front. Easter Saturday - continuation.

Patti

Dan?

Dan:

'An afternoon together' you said.

You said the Easter Vigil tonight meant you could spend time with me today.

Just us two - a chance to do some stuff together.

It's like you think I don't realise what you're doing - do you think I'm thick or something?

Patti

Love - of course I don't! Far from it -

Dan

You make me sick. Everything is just your way of showing everyone how good you are. What do you want now - to be some stupid Champion - come on Mum, who are you kidding?

Patti

No Dan - that's really not fair -

Dan

Isn't it? The kids at school think you're pathetic. Charlie says you're an embarrassing do-gooder.

Patti

I'm not trying to be anything, I'm just doing my best..

Dan

Why do you care so much about them? They're not even interested

Patti

I'm sorry I'm such an embarrassment to you...

Dan
You care more about them than you do about me - pushing yourself in where you're not wanted - even Dad used to say -

Patti
What did Dad say -?

Dan
That you were married to the job - he called you 'the crusader'.

Patti
Did he tell you that?

Dan
Maybe if you hadn't been out all the time he'd not have been in the car that night -

Patti
Dan! What are you saying?

Dan
Maybe he'd have been home and not coming to collect you.
Not in the car, not -

Patti
Oh my God, Dan, do you think I haven't thought that too - ?
If I could possibly go back and change things, I would -

Dan
He got me Mum. He got me.

Patti
I get you -

Dan
No you don't. You don't get me at all -
Dad would never have been talking on the radio when he'd promised to spend time with me and -

Patti
Dan I'm sorry - it's just the deadline - it's not for long -

Dan
You know, don't bother.
Just go and talk to your radio friends, Mum.
I don't need you - Patti.

Patti
Dan!

Dan
I wish. I wish. It hadn't been him that died.

Dan leaves.

Patti
No.
This is not happening.
Sam - help me. Someone help me. I can't - I can't - I

Patti breaks down. She's utterly bereft.

Caedmon's busker persona makes sense of his and Hilda's presence on Cleethorpes front

Hilda
You can. You can and you must.
It's tough, I know, but he will understand in time -

Patti
Not you.
No - please leave.

Hilda
It's hard. It's lonely.
But you know, you have what it takes to -

Patti
Just leave.
Go away.
My son has just told me he wishes I had died. Happy now?
This is not your problem, this is my problem.
I have no wish to be rude but you are not my priority.

Hilda
This is my problem: You are my priority!

Patti
Who the Hell do you think you are?

Hilda
I told you who I am

Patti
Yes. Hilda from Whitby. You did.
Of all the reincarnated souls out there, you had to be mine.
Find someone else to torment. My priority is Dan

Hilda
He's my priority too.
You both are.
He makes you who you are, and together you will succeed - there's so much to do,
and as Champion you get a ready made platform that will give you influence to do
more - the East Coast people need you Patti

Patti
My son needs me

Hilda
We all need you.

Patti
Just go.

Hilda
I can help you win - I've learnt so much over the years and -

Patti
Go.

Hilda
Don't do what I did -

Patti
Fuck what you did.

*Caedemon leads Hilda away, he plays the cacophony that is going on in Patti's head.
Caedmon's solo bleeds into the chorus report below.*

Chorus 1:

Have you heard - the mystery candidate has been revealed...!

Chorus 2:

So what? I don't know why you bother with all that politicking - it's only the same
ones feathering their nests

Chorus 3:

That Penny Patent after all!

Chorus 4:

Her off the radio?

Chorus 5:

Yeah! She's been that busy interviewing all the other candidates, thought she might
as well have a pop at it herself

Chorus 6:

She's got a nice voice.

Chorus 1:

That'll be one in the eye for that Patti Abdullahai

Chorus 2:

Never trust a foreigner

Chorus 3:

She's from Grimsby isn't she?

Chorus 4:

No Hull! She's a yellow belly, Hully Gully

Chorus 5:

Scarbadian

Chorus 6:

Hornsea-ite

*Descends into another mock/stylised fight - all defending their own little patch of the east
coast*

Scene 4: Cacophony - Aloft

*Patti alone. Late at night, after the Easter Vigil, Easter Saturday - Patti has returned to an
empty house. She's lost Dan. She's now sitting on the Cleethorpes sea wall. Great graffiti
designs surround her.*

This is the Grimsby/Cleethorpes where she grew up. .

Patti

Welcome home Patricia Smith.

Right back where you started,

Only worse. Alone. A dead husband and a son who wishes I was dead.

Faith gone...

Takes in the graffiti, the sea, her old stamping ground. Convulsed with the loss of Dan.

We should never have left London. Selfish.

I was lost but you were just finding yourself. Please come back..
(to a graffiti face)
Did you do this Dan? It's pretty good.
Your dad was quite a dab hand back in the day. It was vandalism then.
The vicar and the vandal.
I kept him on the straight and narrow and he - made me real.
And then you came along. We'd only just started growing up ourselves. So little time.
You're all I have Dan, please don't leave me. I can't go on without you.
Just call won't you?

Unsure where to go next, Patti drifts away and phone signal returns which means a load of missed calls/downloads. The phone pings to indicate missed calls.

That was quickOh. Derrick

*The texts that download (onto the screens) shows Derrick saying 'ring me' – 'where are you?' She calls him. Doesn't get through.
Patti calls the voicemail number – it starts to play, Derrick alerting her to the radio interview from earlier when they thought she had missed the slot – Penny shuts off impatiently.*

Fuck the radio interview Derrick.
Scans horizon.
Phone rings.
Dan? Is that you love?

Derrick: *(on phone)*
Patti! Where are you? We've got him! I've rung you so many times - It's OK.
He's OK.
Patti:
Where is he?
Has he had an accident?
Derrick:
No – no accident.
Patti:
He didn't do something daft did he?
Derrick:
... he didn't want me to ring you but I insisted and ...
Patti:
You insisted ! How dare you? You can't do this –
Derrick:
Hang on - I haven't done anything – I just –
Patti:
Turning him against me, pushing me into radio broadcasts and trying for this stupid job, taking my place –
Derrick:
Patti! Stop right there.
Patti:
You wanted him all along. All that 'buddy' bullshit.
Skateboards, you got your tentacles into -

Derrick:

You don't mean any of this – (*hangs up*)

Hilda and Caedmon arrive and watch Patti's rage and despair

Patti:

I can't believe I didn't see it! He's turned my own son against me

Patti breaks down into desperate sobs/collapses to the floor.

Slowly Hilda comforts her. Pieta. Caedmon plays a gentle soothing solace.

Hilda:

There now.

– I know. I know.

It's going to be OK.

Dan just needed someone to talk to - a man

All this champion stuff. It's everywhere.

Derrick was just there, you see.

That's all.

Patti:

He's MY son.

Of course he's a man.

I'm raising a son - what the Hell do you know about it?

You swan in and out -

Do you even know what that means?

Hilda:

You have no clue what I know.

It's not just about you - your son and all that means is part of what makes you

Patti:

Makes me what? The chosen one?

I won't be your sodding scapegoat - I won't.

Go to Hell where you belong. There's nothing NOTHING you can do.

Caedmon plays a soothing tune.

Hilda:

You're freezing – come on Caedmon.

There is something we CAN do.

Caedmon queries in music whether Hilda is serious in her suggestion = the full service of out of body experience to allow Patti to get an insight into what's happening for Dan and therefore what she herself needs to do next...

Yes I do mean it.

I know it's been a long time – but if ever there was a moment for the full monty , it's now, don't you agree?

Caedmon agrees in music and then strikes up the accompaniment for the 'full service'.

Hilda and Caedmon remove Patti from Cleethorpes sea wall, and alight on a vantage point that overlooks the skatepark where Dan is doing smooth tricks, circling alone in the moonlight below them. The screens show what they can see.

Patti:

Dan!
Look at him! He looks so small, so far away
He used to skate with his dad.
He's got so good at it... look at him go!
Not a care in the world...Where are we?

Hilda

Aloft.
It doesn't matter.
Always gives me the heebie jeebies being this high, but the only thing you need to know is that he's there.
He's safe. Take your time.
He will wait for you.

Patti:

Will he?

Hilda:

He loves you.

Patti

Tell me - Why do you bother?
I mean – doing all this for me. For us. We're just two little lost dabs of dust.
I just don't know what use I am to you – or anyone.
There's nothing left, you see – Empty.

Hilda:

That's why.

Patti

Because I am a failure? A wash out.
A fraud – even Dan could see I don't know what I'm doing.
I rush about with details, but inside there's just empty space.
No words.
No ideas.
Just lack of Sam. Lack of Dan. Lack of –

Hilda

Belief.
I know.
I've been there too.

Caedmon plays a comment to Hilda

Hilda:

Caedmon's right. So much goes unsaid and unseen.

Even after centuries of doubt and guilt - for what? For believing that things would work out right if we all play our part. Draining. Exhausting. But then you see that some people don't play their part - they've got another plan of their own and I got really angry! And fearful.

All watch Dan for a while.

But look at that magnificent boy that you and Sam made!
You believe in him. And he needs a mother who believes in him. And in herself.
That's all. It's enough. You're enough.

I thought I'd failed, that I'd messed up. My fault, my naivety, would affect millennia to come.

I'd done my best with what surrounded me at the time and with the human being I was - but it wasn't enough to keep us all safe. Not by a long way.
It was exhausting. It broke me.

Same for you.
Your grief walks beside you, and keeps pace.
It opens the doors of strangers who see your pain and your passion.
It reminds them who they are and that's why you are enough.

You feel broken and lonely – yet you listen to others who are broken and lonely too.
You share.
You tell stories and together you break bread and stonking pizza.
We are enough.

*Caedmon gives Patti one of his instruments. Slowly she starts to pick out a tune.
Hilda was going to start talking again, but Caedmon silences her. Just wait.*

Patti's phone rings to alerts her to a text but she ignores it.

Patti:

Thank you.
I'm glad Derrick was there for Dan.
And I'm glad you stuck around.
It's clearer to me now.

On the screen, a text from Derrick:
Patti? Where are you?

Patti types back

I'm coming back now.
I'm sorry I've been an arse.
Thank you.

Scene 5: East Coast Champion decided

Location: Scarborough Cultural Halls, Easter Monday

Screens flash with 'Vote Announced!'

Possible to link to a 'spot poll' through SLIDO during the performance - so audience get to vote too?

Chorus 1:

Today's the day!

Chorus 2:

East Coast Champion - did you vote?

Chorus 3:

Load of fuss about nothing - what's it going to change anyway?

Chorus 4:

Have your say! People's voice matters

Emma:

Welcome one and all to Scar-bo-rough's beautiful Cultural Halls

The perfect venue for your extra special day: weddings, funerals, christenings, bar mitzvahs- we cater for one and all.

Where better to count the votes for the most important decision we have all had the pleasure of making in recent times - electing our first East Coast Champion to represent the people's voice on our glorious East Coast.

Fab-U-Lous!

The waiting is over, and all the hard work by the team has paid off.

We have our winner.

Chorus 1:

Who will it be?

Chorus 2:

There was a good turn out in the end!

Chorus 3:

Trust that Emma White to be in the middle of it all, got her fingers in all the pies she does

Chorus 4:

People's voice - yeah right. Only when it suits them.

Hilda:

Just watch, Caedmon - she's going to do it.

People know when you're genuine

Caedmon plays his doubts

Yes I know we should wait and see, we will, but I've got a feeling in my bones and -

Caedmon plays his doubts more strongly

Let's just see. The wrongs of the past will be righted. I know it. People can see through to the truth and - Look, it's time.

Candidates file out: Penny and Patti and some other candidates made up of chorus people

Emma:

It's my pleasure and honour to announce the winner - the new East Coast Champion elected with 60,000 votes is.... Our very own Penny Patent!!

Hilda aghast. Caedmon 'right' but also shocked. Chorus clusters around Penny. Hilda stagemanages the following

Penny:

I can't believe I've beaten Patti Smith (*giggles*).

Patti:

Best woman won - well done Penny.

Penny:

It's only because I'm a name they recognise

Patti:

Seriously -

Congratulations!

Hilda manipulates despite Caedmon's warnings and acts upon Penny putting ideas/words in her head....

Penny:

Can we - can I suggest something - ?
it might sound a bit weird -

Patti:

Fire away, East Coast Champion! You can suggest all sorts of things now - weird or not!

Penny

I'd love it if we could work together on this?
Stronger together and all that?

(Penny is shocked at her own suggestions -)

Patti:

What?

Penny:

I know. Crazy idea?

Patti:

Listen, I don't want the job.
Need to get my work/life balance back on track and anyway I think you'll do it so much better.

Penny:

Hear me out - I have no idea what's put this in my mind, but I think it's my best idea yet... A job-share !

Together we'd be unstoppable.

It isn't each other we should be competing against - it's working together for the East Coasters, building belief - as you said - and confidence and a genuine future for our kids.

What do you say?

Hilda:

Alleluia. Just say yes....

Patti is considering it

She looks from Dan to Hilda to Derrick to Bishop Wilfrid and Jean ...

New scene 5A

Dan and Patti sitting on the Cleethorpes sea wall.

Dan:

Thought you might like spice with your chips.

Patti:

Ooo - get you and your Hull ways. Thanks love.

Dan:

Were you disappointed?

Patti:

That it wasn't curry sauce and a pickled onion?
Maybe..

Dan:

Mum! About not winning the champion thing

Patti:

Nah. Penny's got the stomach for radio and politics.
I'm all about the chips as you well know.

Dan:

You do loads more good work than she does.
People should have chosen you.

Patti:

Well - Penny chose me as her Champion's Deputy didn't she? And with Derrick moving up to vicar of Goodmanham, I can now keep 'crusading' with my communities - but just four days a week.
So you and dad know what matters to me more.

You know Penny went to the same school as me?
We weren't friends. I was what you'd call a 'try hard'.

Dan:

Nothing changed there then mum?

Patti (*gives him a gentle shove*)

How are the scraps?

Dan:

Scrappy.
I love what they use to fry stuff up here.

Patti:

Dripping

Dan:

What?

Patti:

Your granny (my mum) used to spread it on her toast.
She said HER mum put it on my grand dad's bald patch to make his hair grow.

Dan:

Jesus.

Patti:

Hey - Wash your mouth out. I'm still Community Outreach for the church so we won't be having any of that.

Both laugh

Patti:

This street art - especially the newer stuff - it's really brilliant.

Dan mock shock but visibly pleased

Patti:

I wonder who's behind it?

Dan:

It's not bad.

For Cleethorpes

Patti:

We could commission whoever it is to do some work on the East Coast if you could find out who it is.

Dan:

Do you really think it's good - ?

London standards?

Patti:

I think you're really talented Dan.

And having a part time Church outreach officer and part time Champion deputy for a mum gives you the perfect M.O.

Dan:

Have you finished with those chips?

Patti:

Be my guest.

Dan:

I was thinking of asking a few friends over later.

Patti:

No problem.

Shall we do pizza?

Dan:

Homemade?!

Patti:

Dad's special recipe.

About time we gave it an airing.

Scene 6: The new order

Goodmanham, Interior. Whitsun/Ascension day (40 days later!)

Derrick goes up to the pulpit - we're expecting a traditional sermon. He's in all the robes and looks very impressive.

Derrick:

Are we ready????

Jean:

Ready when you are Dan?

Dan

Yup - let's do this...

Go live! We're streaming now!

Excitement. The formality of the church setting has disappeared. All just agog to see what will happen and how they can get along.

Jean and Derrick:

Yes!

Patti - *via zoom*

Hello hello hello! Oh wow - moon to mother ship, this is amazing - great job guys!

Hi there everyone!

It is SO Brilliant to be speaking to you from Boggle Hole!

Famous neighbour to Robin Hood's Bay on our gorgeous prehistoric coastline.

Right now it's the youth hostel here that's hosting our mission - say hello everyone:

Big shout of 'hello' from behind her

We are working with the local primary school (St Aidan's) and the indomitable Whitby WI and together we're doing a beach clean for the East Coast Champion!

We've collected loads of plastic and just look at at these fossils we've collected!

Can you see all this? (*indicating*)

Congregation in Goodmanham are getting up to see better / crowding round the screens - no sense of standing on ceremony or needing to be 'in place'. A hubbub of questions and comments.

Patti

Hi there - do you want to show the gang back in Goodmanham what you have been up to?

Chorus 1 (*on zoom - pointing to the screen showing the congregation in Goodmanham*)

Are they all still in school on a Sunday?

Patti:

Ha - not school exactly - is it, Derrick!?

More like a club...

Chorus 2 (*on zoom*):

We've moved mountains with Patti here - thanks for lending her out to us!

She's given us the oomph to do this, and look how quickly we've cleared this beach - our Boggle is ready to boggle freely again!

Chorus: (*in Goodmanham*)

How about we take a trip over there to see them all - we could lend a hand on the next bay?

Would you like that?

Chorus 3 (*on zoom*)

Boggle on down!

Yeah, come on over - we'll do extra butties !

Derrick:

Sounds fantastic.

And while we're thinking about waterways - did you all see the clip we did in the week on the chalk wellsprings in the Freshney? Starring our very own street artist...

Can we just run that clip Dan?

Dan runs the clip that shows on the screens. It's Patti and him with two Grimsby-ites, plotting the chalk springs in the Freshney, behind the supermarket, and then we see Dan working on the street art that the Grimsbyites are using to highlight the chalk springs

What do you reckon Goodmanham - is this our first bus tour ?(to congregation)

Chorus 4:

We used to go to Robin Hood's Bay and Boggle Hole with school - but that was years ago

Chorus 5

They can come over ours and we'll do the Pub and pizza night shindig again Patti!

Chorus 6

Yeah and we can do the launch of the 'Hilda' bus
Hasn't Dan done a beautiful job with those ammonites !!! !

Jean:

I could bring extra batches of hot cross buns and Simnel cookies

Dan:

Yay thanks Jean! Count me in!

Patti:

Awesome.

We'll christen the bus with a charabanc round trip Boggle Hole to the Freshney - and I bet Penny and the team will help us. What do you reckon Jean? Would Hilda have approved?

Patti winks at Hilda and Caedmon - a bit of stage business shows that they have heard her and appreciate the acknowledgement, but Jean and Derrick/Congregation still don't see Hilda/Caedmon.

Hilda 'commands' Jean as follows, while Jean thinks she's thought of it herself...

Jean:

She most certainly would - those cliffs were where loads of ammonites have been found, Hilda's symbol.

It's just the sort of thing Hilda would have done if she'd had a bus to do it on - especially one that's now so beautifully decorated.

Dan:

You mean you actually like it?

Jean:

I don't like it -
I love it.

Congregation and zoom call flicker to freeze.

Caedmon plays particular music.

All lights out except on Hilda upstage and Patti downstage.

Patti:

Thank you.Hilda of Streoneshalh

Hilda

Hey no - thank YOU.
Looks like Hilda's here to stay - bus and all.

A-ma-zing as Emma would say.
 You look - like some things are working out for you.

Patti
 They are.
 Thanks to you.

Hilda
 Oddly enough - I think you'll find that most people believe - rightly - that it's thanks to you, my dear.
 You were always, always and always the solution.
 Great to see Jean's buns have found a welcome home.

Patti
 The only one who didn't get on board was Wilfrid.

Hilda
 Oh him. He never did.

Patti
 Dan's finding his feet now. And he's so much happier now I've a foot in both camps !

Hilda
 Of course he is.
 And if you'll allow me to say so - I think you are too.

Patti-
 I just wish Sam was here with us.

Hilda:
 He's not really gone - like me.
 He just left unfinished business.
 He'll find a way to let you know.

Patti
 I think he already has...
 Dan remembered Sam used to call me 'crusader'.
 It was Sam's joke thing, but I hated it - all that empire and privilege.
 And when I overdid it, and wore myself to a frazzle, he'd hug me, hooking me up to his 'Powerhouse' he called it, like I was a battery that was running flat - oh I don't know..
 Now that Derrick's got his promotion, I can leave him to the God squad while I work on outreach for him, and this work to support Penny gives me the means and the justification to be crusading around and none of it on a Church ticket.
 Just me talking to other people, to communities, swapping stories,

Hilda
 Like Aiden - Like me

Caedmon plays his response - in agreement
 Exactly Pigman. It does work.

Patti
 Eating together, laughing - listening. I love it.
 We all want to be heard, and why not?

Hilda:
 Why not Pigman?

Caedmon plays his agreement happily.
 Patti:

That's right, Caedmon. We all want to be together. And it really feeds me - fuels me up. I've realised that THAT is our Powerhouse. When the battery runs low - it's the energy source we need.

Hilda:

Bless you. Of course.

At last.

Our Northern Powerhouse.

It's a different kind of renewable energy.

Patti:

It's been our new start.

Hilda and the Northern Powerhouse.

Hilda

I'll sing to that, eh Caedmon?

Hilda and Patti exit together revealing Wilfrid watching them from behind.

Caedmon sees him and lags behind to observe the whole exchange.

Wilfrid is waiting for Derrick - who emerges still in full robes. Looks like a rendezvous.

Derrick hesitates.

Dan shouts to Derrick from the nave

Dan:

Derrick! I've got the deck with me - reckon you can still do a hard flip?

Derrick: (pulling off robes as he goes to join Dan)

You just watch me...!

Wilfrid notes Derrick's choice. Wilfrid and Caedmon share a look. Wilfrid exits.

Scene 7 Epilogue

No Location. Finally Caedmon has found his voice: the rightful order is restored.

Aye Aye Aye Aloft -

Held in the atmosphere beyond the clouds

There's no descent,

no accidental angels making devilment

Together we observe their shining crowds

Aye Aye Aye Aye

And we know -

There's no more landing gear for you or me

Oh no -

No more coming down from here I see

Our altitude has registered, it's clear that we are- aloft!

***Aye Aye Aye Aye Aloft!
We are circling the blue belt Aloft!
Nothing shields us from the sure shelf Aloft!
Pointless here to send a flare
Free-fall float in zero air
You and me were born to soar Aloft!***

Aye aye aye aye - aye!!!

END

Post show:

Stewards/cast hand out feedback forms/contact details so audience can get in touch make suggestions, get involved.