



“Utterly Compelling...”

“I recommend anyone and everyone to go along to the next performances!”
(The blog of the President and Vice President of the British Methodist Conference)

Applegart is a story telling initiative overturning preconceptions and re-telling faith stories in a modern and refreshing way. At 8pm on the first Sunday of every month Applegart takes over the upper room of the White Hart Pub in Whitechapel and attempts to tell Gospel stories in a fresh and innovative way.

There's no preaching no commentary just stories, music, drama and a licensed bar! The material is hard hitting, funny and moving.

So, how do you tell the Gospel of Jesus without mentioning his name? Well a new venture called 'Applegart' is doing just that. It is a mission project based in the Tower Hamlets Circuit. Two actors, one a singer/songwriter the other a storyteller, share the gospel every month in a pub in Whitechapel. "Our objective is to let the story speak, maybe for the first time to some." To do this Phil Summers and Peter Moreton have created a way of telling the story whilst avoiding 'religious' language which often acts as a plug for people's hearing. They call it 'Applegart'. "As in upsetting the...." Phil says. "The story is a challenging one and has upset many people over the centuries, the way we present it may also cause upset. But we feel it is worth it if the story is to be heard."

When the President and vice President of Conference saw the premier of Applegart on their District visit they were very impressed. "Utterly compelling!" proclaims David Walton "Everyone should take the opportunity to see it."

So far Applegart has had four outings, each one building on the success of the last. Phil says "We are particularly pleased that people who often find 'church' difficult are finding a home at Applegart, from older young people to partners of long time church members". Applegart is certainly a long way removed from storytime at Sunday school, the language is rich and some scenes have been violent, there is a good deal of humour too.

As storytellers, Phil Summers and Peter Moreton have a combined 40 years or so experience.

Peter has worked extensively as an actor and musician performing around the world with companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National

Theatre, playing in venues as varied as The Royal Albert Hall and St Paul's Cathedral. As a writer and composer his work has been performed at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and as far a-field as Singapore.

Phil trained at Bretton Hall in Yorkshire, as a storyteller he has worked in schools for over 20 years. He told in the Telling Place's tour of Mark's Gospel. Phil leads workshops in theatre and storytelling, and has served as the Methodist Church's national secretary for drama.

Both Peter and Phil are often joined by specially selected guests.

The White Hart Pub is 100 yards on the left as you come out of Whitechapel Tube Station. Entrance to Applegart is free. Come along early to get a seat and a drink!

Contact Details:

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<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=103151325132#/group.php?gid=32642013716>

