

'Theatre company are putting on the right show in the right place at the right time...'

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Sentinel theatre critic Alan Cookman says he is looking forward to seeing Godspell in the surroundings of Stoke Minster – although the logistics may prove challenging

THE imminent closure of The Mitchell Memorial Theatre has tested the ingenuity of the amateur theatre community.

Shows will be performed in unfamiliar venues during the two-year refurbishment programme.

But some will be less familiar than others.

The staging of Godspell in Stoke Minster – The Church of St Peter Ad Vincula – is an inspired move that does credit to the company and to the church authorities.

Regular worshippers might find it all a bit fraught, but where better to stage a show based on The Gospel According to St Matthew than in the house of God?

Like Jesus Christ Superstar, which pre-dated it by a year, Godspell is religion with a rock 'n' roll beat.

In the early 1970s these shows were radical departures for the musical theatre, but both became part of the mainstream repertoire.

How often are they performed in church? I don't know, but it sounds to me like the right show in the right place at the right time.