

Signs of the times as play comes to life



Jane Dawson reports from the Chester Mystery Plays



CMP/8/20/65

THERE are a lot of firsts in the 2013 production of the Chester Mystery Plays: the first time the plays will be performed in the nave of Chester Cathedral; the first time film and animated graphics will be used; the first time there will be signed performances for people with hearing impairments.

Andy Higgins, of BSL Tickets, will use British Sign Language and he will have to consider the interpretation of film, music and song as well as drama and dialogue.

Chairman Jo Sykes said: "I'm delighted that we are able to offer signed performances and Andy will bring the plays alive for a whole new audience.

"We saw how effective he was when he worked on the Theatre in the Quarter/A Handbag of Harmonies

production of Handbag - the Musical!"

Meanwhile, Vanda Hargen, an actor and co-ordinator for the Friends' group, has had the unenviable task of putting the production programme together with graphic designer, Nick Sample.

She said: "It's a huge undertaking. There are so many people to thank - it's not just about the cast but also about all the unsung heroes who work behind the scenes making costumes and props, helping front of house and working on our archive."

■ THE signed performances are on Saturday, June 29 (1pm) and Monday, July 1 (7.30pm). For tickets, telephone 01244 500959 or visit www.chestermysteryplays.com.



INTERPRETER: Andy Higgins, of BSL (British Sign Language) Tickets.