

Church of Disrepute

by

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FADE IN:

OVER BLACK;

TITLE CARD: THE CHURCH OF DISREPUTE

**INT. CHURCH/NAVE - MORNING**

A large old church, huge stain glass windows let a warm glow of light into the nave.

The VICAR KEVIN SHEPPARD leads the service as we see various faces on the congregation staring up at him. He reads from the bible.

VICAR KEVIN (O,S)  
Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and water blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

We reveal the Vicar's face he is a young and handsome man.

A pretty young lady sits in the front pew, this is the Vicar's girlfriend CLAIRE. She sits staring lovingly at the Vicar.

VICAR KEVIN  
Matthew 26:28.

The door to the church opens. It makes a loud creaking noise, it draws the attention of some of the congregation.

A slender weak looking man enters. Clearly a drug user, he is wearing a full tracksuit. He makes eye contact with the Vicar, the Vicar looks annoyed by his presence.

VICAR KEVIN (CONT'D)  
And on that note, I think we'll call it day. I would just like us all to take a second to wish Joan a very happy birthday for tomorrow.

We reveal JOAN, a sweet elderly lady. Various members of the congregation applaud.

The Vicar gives an angry nod to a burly man stood against the wall, this is one of Kevin's curates MIKE.

Mike walks over to the druggy and pulls him to one side. The congregation stands to leave.

**EXT. CHURCH COURTYARD - CONTINUED**

The Vicar says his goodbyes to the congregation as they leave.

MAN

Lovely service Vicar.

VICAR KEVIN

Thank you.

CLAIRE

I'm going home, I'll see you when you get back.

VICAR KEVIN

OK sweetie, I'll see you soon.

The Vicar kisses Claire on the cheek.

JOAN

Lovely services as always, and thank you for the birthday wishes Vicar.

VICAR KEVIN

Your welcome Joan, we'll have to meet up this week and come up with a plan for these gardens.

JOAN

I look forward too it.

Joan is the last person to leave, the Vicar looks up at the church.

**INT. CHURCH - CONTINUED**

Mike is stood with druggy.

VICAR KEVIN

(To Mike)

Get him in the back, now.

**INT. VICAR'S OFFICE - CONTINUED**

The Vicar sits opposite the young druggy lad. The lad sits nervously, his leg twitches. Mikes stands in front of the door.

VICAR KEVIN  
So what can I do for you...

Waiting for him to say his name...

CAMERON  
CAMERON.

VICAR KEVIN  
Cameron, right. So what do you want Cameron?

CAMERON  
Well my friend JAKE said this was the place to come to get some...

Beat.

CAMERON (CONT'D)  
You know...

The vicar looks at Cameron lost.

VICAR KEVIN  
No, I'm sorry I don't know.

CAMERON  
Drugs.

VICAR KEVIN  
Drugs!, are you joking? this is a house of God. What makes you think you can get drugs here?

CAMERON  
Well my friend Jake said he got some here the other week.  
(beat)  
You're not the drug dealing Vicar?

The Vicar laughs.

VICAR KEVIN  
The drug dealing Vicar, what do you reckon Mike?, the drug dealing Vicar.

Mike laughs and shrugs his shoulders.

CAMERON  
 Maybe there has been some mistake,  
 I'll go...

CAMERON stands to leave.

VICAR KEVIN  
 Sit back down.

The Vicar is no longer joking. His tone is now very serious. A picture of the last supper is behind the Vicar, however for a brief moment JESUS face is now the DEVILS.

Cameron takes his seat again.

VICAR KEVIN (CONT'D)  
 I don't know what this Jake has  
 told you but you never.. ever..  
 come to my church again while I'm  
 doing my service. Do you  
 understand?

Cameron is sweating and clearly uncomfortable, he answers nervously.

CAMERON  
 Yes.

VICAR KEVIN  
 Good, because if you do me and my  
 friend Mike over there.  
 (anger)  
 We'll knock your fucking teeth  
 down your throat.

Beat.

The Vicar once again changes to a more upbeat tone.

VICAR KEVIN (CONT'D)  
 Now, it just so happens that I am  
 a drug dealing Vicar. But you deal  
 with Mike. He'll give you his  
 number and you contact him direct.  
 You don't just show up here, but  
 seen as you are here, what can I  
 get you?

The Vicar grins. Cameron sits in shock.

**INT/EXT. CHURCH DOORWAY - CONTINUED**

The Vicar and Mike stand in the door way to the church, they watch Cameron walk down a path through the gardens.

VICAR KEVIN  
These fucking kids Mike. They're  
going to get me sent to prison.

Mike chuckles, They head back inside the church.

**INT. LOCAL SHOP - MORNING**

The Vicar is outside of work, he is wearing casual clothes but with a dog collar on. He is in the local shop. Joan walks in. She shouts out to get the Vicar's attention.

JOAN  
VICAR!

He turns round.

VICAR KEVIN  
Hey Joan.

JOAN  
I'm glad I caught you. I've been  
thinking about what we're going to  
do with the gardens at the church  
and my friend says her grandson is  
good with the internet and we can  
get a lot of Daffodils for cheap  
she says.

VICAR KEVIN  
Do you want Daffodils Joan?

JOAN  
Not really but I know the church  
is paying and-

VICAR KEVIN  
Joan we live in a very generous  
community. Come and see me later  
and I'll give you the money to get  
what you like.

JOAN  
Are you sure we can afford it? I  
still don't know how you got the  
money to pay for the church roof?

VICAR KEVIN  
Joan, leave it to me.

Kevin smiles.

**INT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON**

The Vicar sits talking with Mike. There is only them two in the church.

The door opens once again, a smartly dressed, dangerous looking man walks in, this is HARRY. A big bodyguard figure follows him in, he doesn't speak.

VICAR KEVIN  
Hello, can we help you?

HARRY  
Hello Vicar, I'm Harry and this my associate BARRY. I have a business proposal for you.

VICAR KEVIN  
Business proposal?, This is a house of God. A Church. Not Dragon's den.

HARRY  
It's getting old now Padre.  
(beat)  
I'm only going to say this once. You're gonna work for me. I'm not asking you. I'm telling you. I'll be back in a few days with some of my gear for you to deal. You'll get your cut, just like the other dealers, so you can keep pretty your wife in pretty things.

VICAR KEVIN  
Leave her out of it.

HARRY  
Or what? Fire and Damnation, an eye for an eye?

Harry gives Kevin and Mike a look. Then turns and walks out.

VICAR KEVIN  
Jesus...

**INT. VICAR'S OFFICE - CONTINUED**

The Vicar and Mike sit opposite each other. They discuss whats just happened.

VICAR KEVIN  
What the fuck are we going to do?

MIKE

I don't know.

VICAR KEVIN

We've not been careful enough. I knew something like this would happen eventually.

MIKE

You know what we've got to do Kev.

The Vicar looks at him blankly.

MIKE (CONT'D)

The supplier will know some people. Lets make them disappear. They're going to drag us all to hell.

VICAR KEVIN

Great choice of words and I know. We can't do that though, we just supply a bit of weed..

(beat)

And a bit of crack. We're not big time gangsters. I'm a fucking Vicar for fuck sake.

Mike receives a text on his phone. He checks it.

MIKE

YOUNG GAZ wants to come buy some stuff. Iv'e got to go meet the suppliers, will you be OK?

VICAR KEVIN

(deep in thought)

Yeah, I'll be fine. Tell him to come.

Mike stands up and leaves. The Vicar unlocks his desk draw. Inside is an old fashioned looking revolver. He picks it up and holds it in front of him.

**INT. VICAR'S OFFICE - LATER THE SAME DAY**

Young Gaz sits opposite the vicar. Like Cameron he's another very young looking, skinny nervous drug user. The Vicar remains sat still deep in thought.

YOUNG GAZ

Vicar, you with me?



VICAR KEVIN  
Yeah. How much you wanting?

YOUNG GAZ  
£40

VICAR KEVIN  
OK.  
(beat)  
You sure you want these drugs Gaz?

YOUNG GAZ  
Well, yes, I do Vicar, very much  
so.

VICAR KEVIN  
I don't think you do. Don't you  
wanna do something more with your  
life? go out and help people?,  
contribute to society?

YOUNG GAZ  
For a drug dealing Vicar you're a  
bit of a bummer.  
(beat)  
Can I have my drugs please.

The Vicar opens his desk draw and passes him the drugs.

VICAR KEVIN  
Come with me.

The Vicar stands and leaves the room. Young Gaz follows.

**INT. CHURCH/NAVE - CONTINUED**

VICAR KEVIN  
Here.

The Vicar points to the church collection box.

VICAR KEVIN (CONT'D)  
Put that money in here. Maybe It  
can do somebody some good.

YOUNG GAZ  
Okay..

Young Gaz puts the money in the collection box and exits  
the church. The Vicar stares remorsefully looking into the  
distance. He walks over to the statue of Jesus on the cross  
and goes down to his knees. He closes his eyes places his  
hands together about to pray.

VICAR KEVIN

I know I've made mistakes and I know I've not been a great follower, but I've worked so hard to get where I am and have been devoted to you for the most part, and I know in hindsight selling drugs from your home wasn't very christian of me and I am truly sorry. You don't know how hard is to run a church with no money and to make this a nice place for the people of this village. Anyway, please make this situation with Harry go away, he's going to end up taking us all down and ruin everything we've built here. I'll change my ways, I promise, Amen.

**INT. VICARS LIVING ROOM - EVENING**

The Vicar sits on his sofa staring mindlessly at the TV. Claire sit at the other end of the sofa reading. She puts her book down.

CLAIRE

How was church today?, help anymore misguided youngsters?

VICAR KEVIN

Not today.

CLAIRE

Whats up with you?

VICAR KEVIN

Nothing.

CLAIRE

There's something up I can always tell.

VICAR KEVIN

I just had a problem with someone I was trying to help but they wouldn't listen.

CLAIRE

Well you cant help every single person. No matter how hard you try.

VICAR KEVIN  
I know. I'm just worried about  
whats going to happen.

CLAIRE  
You're a good man Kevin and I know  
you'll always do the right thing  
and things don't work out the way  
you want at least you'll have  
tried your best and done  
everything you can.  
(beat)  
That's why I love you.

Kevin gives her a half smile.

VICAR KEVIN  
I love you too.

The Vicar receives a text. He reads it.

VICAR KEVIN (CONT'D)  
I've got to go to church, Mike  
says there's been some vandalism.

The Vicar gets off the sofa to leave.

**EXT. CHURCHYARD - NIGHT**

The Vicar and Mike stand outside the church looking up at  
it.

VICAR KEVIN  
Lord forgive me for what I'm about  
to say but FUCK ME WE'RE IN  
TROUBLE!

MIKE  
Yeah... this isn't good.

We reveal a vandalised white billboard on the wall with red  
graffiti reading "CHOOSE WISELY VICAR". The pair look  
outraged.

VICAR KEVIN  
Take this board down Mike. We  
can't have people seeing this.

The vicar looks around sheepishly to make sure no one has  
seen.

MIKE  
What are we going to do?

VICAR KEVIN

I'm going to call Harry and tell him we won't have anything to do with him and we're getting out of the drugs business.

**INT. VICARS OFFICE - CONTINUED**

The Vicar calls Harry on a landline.

HARRY

Hello.

VICAR KEVIN

Harry, it's Vicar Kevin.

HARRY

I've been waiting for your call vicar.

(beat)

So what the plan?

VICAR KEVIN

We can't do it Harry and we're getting out of the drug business.

HARRY

Oh Vicar, I think you may have misunderstood. I wasn't actually giving you a choice here. You are doing this for us. We can't miss this opportunity.

(beat)

If you don't do this we're going to take everything you love. Your church, your pretty girlfriend.

VICAR KEVIN

I don't want this. We'll all end up in prison. If I have to come clean to everyone to get out of this situation I will. I'll tell Claire myself if I have to, I'll hand my notice in at the church.

HARRY

You've made a very poor decision tonight Vicar.

Harry hangs the phone up.

**INT. CHURCH/NAVE - MORNING**

The Vicar once again leads a church service.

VICAR KEVIN

But if serving the LORD seems  
undesirable to you, then choose  
for yourselves this day whom you  
will serve, whether the gods your  
ancestors served beyond the  
Euphrates, or the gods of the  
Amortises, in whose land you are  
living. But as for me and my  
household, we will serve the LORD.

Once again the loud creaking door to the church opens.  
Harry and Barry walk in menacingly. The Vicar continues.

VICAR KEVIN (CONT'D)

JOSHUA 24:15.

HARRY

(interrupting)

BEHOLD, THE DRUG DEALING VICAR!

The congregation all turn to look at Harry. He stands in  
front of the church door like a messiah.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Have you told them the truth  
Vicar?

Claire sits in the Pugh closest to the Vicar.

CLAIRE

What's going on Kevin?

VICAR KEVIN

Unfortunately this brings today's  
service to an end. I will see you  
all next week.

Most of the congregation stand to leave. Joan remains  
seated.

JOAN

I'm not going anywhere Vicar.  
What's going on?

The Vicar walks over to Joan.

VICAR KEVIN

I'm sorry Joan. Please just go,  
I'll explain everything to you  
later.

JOAN  
(whispering)  
Shall I call the police?

VICAR KEVIN  
(whispering)  
No no no, it's fine. It will all  
be OK.

JOAN  
OK Vicar, I'll be back later.

The Vicar nods, Joan leaves the church.

VICAR KEVIN  
Claire you leave as well.

HARRY  
NO, Claire stays.

Claire looks confused and scared.

VICAR KEVIN  
Harry please.

Harry nods to Barry. Barry walks towards Claire. Mike walks over to intervene, The Vicar stops Mike. The five of them just remain. Harry pulls out a gun.

HARRY  
Now, Vicar. I'm going to give you  
one more chance to reconsider.

VICAR KEVIN  
Why? what are you going to do?,  
shoot me? shoot Claire? You think  
we can still pull this off? after  
the stunt you've just pulled.

Harry grabs Claire from Barry and put a gun to her head.

HARRY  
Yes, yes I do Vicar.

CLAIRE  
(panic)  
What's going on Kevin?

VICAR KEVIN  
I'm so sorry Claire. I didn't want  
you to get caught up in this.

The Vicar pulls his gun out from the back of his trousers.

HARRY

Vicar. What are you going to do with that?

The Vicar looks distressed.

VICAR KEVIN

I don't get how you think this is going to end. I'm just not going to do it. Kill Clair I'm defiantly not doing it, don't kill Claire I'm still not doing it.

MIKE

Kev, lets just do it. Don't push them. We can do it.

VICAR KEVIN

No Mike, no we can't. All my congregation have seen this. They're not going to let this go, Claire has seen this, shes defiantly going to leave me. I'm going to lose my job, my church and probably end up in prison.

The Vicar puts the gun to his own head and begins to say a passage from the bible.

MIKE

Kevin don't do anything stupid.

CLAIRE

Kev, don't.

VICAR KEVIN

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

The Vicar has tears running down his face, he is agitated.

HARRY

He's not going to do it. He doesn't have the...

BANG!

The Vicar pulls the trigger. Blood splatters over the statue of Jesus on the cross. The room falls silent.

Claire breaks free from Harry's grip and runs towards Kevin's body.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
(looking at Barry)  
Shit... lets get out of here.

Harry and Barry run out the door. Claire holds the Vicar in her arms, she is hysterical, Mike tries to help, she pushes him away.

FADE OUT: