

Bartholomew Players May 13th – 16th 2026
A Murder Is Announced by Agatha Christie

The setting of this production of *A Murder is Announced* was 1950s and was enhanced by considerable attention to detail with the set and costumes. The overall ambience was well maintained throughout by a skilful cast. Julia (Imogen Tingle) was confident and carried out her role of Letty's niece very well. Letitia Blacklock (Elaine Leggett) was brilliantly played. Her expertise and timing shone throughout. Louise Taney was convincing in her interpretation of a slightly lost Dora (Bunny). Patrick (Ed Miller) was commanding as Julia's brother. Elisabetta Filosa was brilliantly brittle as the paranoid Mitzi the housekeeper. Liz Hutchinson gave a superb performance as the slightly twittery, omnipresent persona of Miss Marple, assisting the pedestrian Inspector Craddock (Chris Carson) in investigating and unravelling the clues to solve the murders. Phillipa Haynes (Steph Hibbert) gave a confident performance and kept up her pretence and, right through to the eventual reveal. Mrs Sweetenham (Angela Cohen) was excellent as the aloof, nosy neighbour, along with her son Edmund (Jack Herbert) the shifty and interfering aspiring crime writer. Luke Frewin gave a spirited, albeit brief, performance as Rudy Shertz, being shot seconds after his entrance. Sergeant Mellors (Graeme Surtees) was solid in his performance supporting Inspector Craddock.

The tension was well maintained and although the clues were there it was not easy to work out who was real and who was fake or, indeed, who committed the murders. There were times when you led to believe that one, or other had a motive and had done the deadly deed. However, the reveal was well handled, but some feat of memory was required to work out the relationships to persons who had not been seen. Congratulations to Debi Lisburne Diacon for her skilful directing of this quite complicated piece. There were some nice touches and humour added in which enhanced the enjoyment of the play. Congratulations to all for a thoroughly believable and professional performance.

Nigel James