

GIRLS GROUP 1

JANUARY

JANUARY,

AUGUST AND JULY

GIRLS GROUP 2

JANUARY

AUGUST AND JULY

MEN

JERUSALEM!

ALL

GOD BLESS YOU YORKSHIRE
KEEP ROLLING ONWARDS AND FOREVER
EVERGREEN AND PLEASANT –

MEN

LAND!

(The husbands clear as the song melts into just CORA on the piano and with the ladies singing.)

Scene 2 – Knapely Village Hall

GIRLS

... BUILT JERUSALEM

IN ENGLAND'S GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND

(In strides MARIE. All sit like guilty kids.)

MARIE

Ladies welcome, welcome to tonight's meeting of Knapely Women's Institute, indeed our harvest festival meeting! Thanks Ruth for opening up the hall, and also coming in early to turn the boiler on!

RUTH

(Batting it off.)

Oh that's nothing honestly -

MARIE

Also thanks to Ruth for decorating the hall so beautifully on a theme of harvest!

RUTH

(Batting small applause off.)

No, no happy to, happy to.

MARIE

And I hear we also tonight have some harvest festival scones! Who baked those?

EVERYONE (VARIOUSLY)

Ruth.

RUTH

Seriously it's no trouble / at all-

CHRIS

Can I just say I organised liquid refreshments!

(Everyone pointedly applauds as CHRIS bows. Car horn offstage.)

MARIE

And that'll be tonight's guest speaker! What's her name again?

RUTH

Brenda Hulse.

MARIE

And she's given a talk here before?

RUTH

Last time was May, just before you joined.

(MARIE exits.)

CELIA

Oh god. It's gonna be a bad one. Jessie's got her knitting out.

CORA

We can all see y've got a book behind there, Jess.

CELIA

She's been knitting that scarf for three years.

JESSIE

I don't know if you recall but Brenda Hulse is the one who talked for ninety minutes about her collection of tea towels.

CORA

Oh my god.

ANNIE

Y're kidding.

CELIA

(Rising.)

Right well have a nice time, I've left an egg on—

JESSIE

(Knitting.)

Sit down please.