

ALPHA – CAN YOU GO?

By Rod

This sketch is designed as an appetiser for an ALPHA course. Theological content is limited. The scene is of two mates meeting together talking casually. They could be in a pub or wandering along a street. The whole conversation should be low key. Adapt football references to suit audience.

CAST

Nicky *Probably female but could easily be male!*

Pete *Probably better portrayed as male as keen on football!*

[Enter Nicky and Pete in conversation]

Nicky So, Pete, what are you up to next week?

Pete Not a lot. I'll probably stay in mostly. I might go to the footy on Tuesday.

N Oh, yeah. Who are Cheltenham playing?

P I dunno. Darlington or Rochdale or somebody.

N It doesn't sound very exciting.

P It probably won't be – but it's better than doing nothing all week.

N Expensive though. Fifteen quid to watch twenty-two grown men fighting each other for the privilege of kicking a ball.

P Yeah, I suppose. How about you then, Nicky? What are you up to?

N Nothing much – `cept Wednesday that is.

P Wednesday? You're going to watch Sheffield Wednesday? It's a long way to go – and it'll be even more expensive than Cheltenham.

N No. Wednesday. You know – the day of the week. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday.

P Oh, right. So what's so special about Wednesday?

N I'm going to ALPHA.

P Are you?

N Yeah. *[Pause]*

P So how long have you known him then?

N Who?

P This Al Farr.

N What? Not Al Farr. ALPHA. It's Greek.

P Oh, right. What does it mean?

N A. *[To sound like Eh]*

P *[Deliberately]* I said, "What does it mean?"

N And I said, "A". It means "A". It is the first letter of the Greek alphabet.

P Oh. So why do you want to learn Greek? Are you planning a holiday to Athens or something?

N No, I'm not..

P *[Continuing]* Only it's going to take you quite a while if you only do one letter a week.

N It's not a course in Greek.

P Well, what is it then?

N It starts with a meal; they call it an ALPHA supper.

P Oh really? That sounds great. I love that Greek food; moussaka's my favourite. I can just picture a Greek taverna with the locals doing Zorba's dance. *[Starts to hum tune and do the dance]*

N I tell you, it's got nothing to do with Greek: not the language, not the food and not the music.

P Well, why is it called ALPHA then?

N Er... I think it's because it's about beginnings.

P Beginnings of what?

N Faith.

P Faith who?

N No, you know FAITH – religion and that.

P Oh, I get it. It's one of those religious sects. You want to watch out you do. They'll indoctrinate you, brainwash you (that's if they can find your brain to wash it) and then force you to leave your family. Mind you, your family would probably be quite pleased. You'll become an automobile you will.

N I think the word you're looking for is automaton. But it's not like that at all. There's a lot of discussion and we're encouraged to say exactly what we like. And any way – it's not a sect – it's in church.

P In church! You're going to church – on a Wednesday. I know life can be pretty dull at times – but you must be desperate.

N The food's good.

P Is it?

N Yeah, and there's plenty of it; it would suit a greedy so and so like you.

P Hmm. So would I be allowed to come then?

N Yeah, it's open to anyone: even Cheltenham Town supporters. After all, they live by faith – with very little hope.
[At this point they begin to exit together, still talking]

P Now listen here; we've got a new manager now.

N But all your players are Duff.

P Only two actually: Michael and Shane Duff. And they're far from Duff. They're Northern Ireland internationals actually.

N Ooh. So, why are they still playing for a third division outfit like Cheltenham then?

P That's a good question, that is. Would I find the answer to that at your ALPHA course?

N I doubt it but we do discuss a lot of different things.

P Maybe I'll come and check it out this Wednesday.

THE END