



[The Film & Video Institute](http://www.theiac.org.uk)

THE IAC BRITISH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR FILM COMPETITION 2017

Judges' Comments

Title: Mr Wellby's Cross
Number: 22059
Award: 4 Stars

The judges liked this film and especially with the unexpected twist the end of the story. The film's title is clever as it has two meanings, he is cross because he has not been repaid and his own connection with the church. We assume that the title of the film has nothing to do with the present Archbishop of Canterbury – we note the Archbishop only has one 'L' and this guy has two!

Michael was just walking down the road by the wall. We knew that the guy in the glasses was obviously awaiting his arrival, but not that he would be dragged into the church's crypt. Michael's excuses for not going to see Mr Wellby were so weak they were almost amusing. At this point the reason for the meeting was not clear.

Once in the crypt there was the unusual scene of Mr Wellby reading the Financial Times, this would not have been the expected reading matter for the gangster we assumed him to be. It was not surprising that in the dark of the crypt Michael was attacked and it was only after the assault that we found out Michael owed money. It was felt by all the judges that the lighting of the crypt scene could have been improved. The first view of Mr Wellby showed the top of his head well lit and his face not really visible. We were not happy that the top of his head was out of shot and chopped off in another shot.

It was pleasing that the graphic scenes of violence took place out of sight. The judges thought that the film had clear dialogue and that the sound had been recorded well, as all dialogue could be heard clearly. The film was well edited with good pace. The revelation that Mr Wellby was a man of the cloth had been well hidden from us by the scarf. It was confusing as we didn't expect that kind of behaviour from an ordained man. It was a complete story re the money, but then talking about choir practice and the flowers on Sunday seemed unreal and surprising.

When Michael was dragged outside and thrown onto the pavement, the final twist was revealed as he staggered to his feet. The sign on the church wall read, "First National Church Loan Company, Saints and Sinners welcome." All the judges burst out laughing. This reaction may have been the release of tension that had been successfully built up in the crypt. Well done.

On behalf of: Frances Haydon
Howard-Smith AACI
Alistair Biggar LACI

Judging Panel