

Life of teacher set to be celebrated

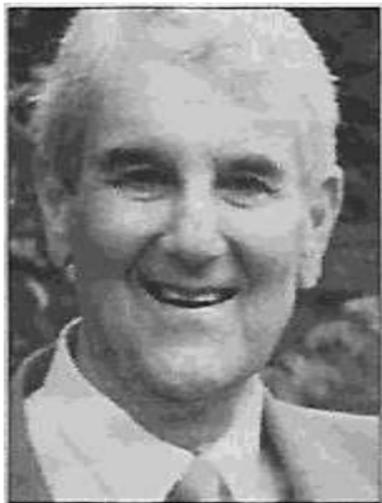
THE LIFE of the teacher and theatre director Gerard Gould will be celebrated at a memorial service at the Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy on Sunday, September 4.

Mr Gould, who died in June aged 89 at St Luke's Nursing Home, Oxford, is credited with helping shape the teaching of both literature and drama in English schools.

Born Gunter Goldstein, in Breslau, Germany, in 1922, he was the son of Selma and Abraham Goldstein, a textile merchant and decorated First World War veteran.

All of his family, save his sister Gerda, were to perish at the hands of the Nazis in Auschwitz.

Mr Gould survived after escaping to England in 1939, where he was taken in by



the Pease family. Long-standing members of the Fabian Society, the Peases were friends with G.B. Shaw, H.G. Wells and Constance Garnett, the translator of Russian plays.

After serving in the Land Army, planting mangelwurzels on a farm near Watlington, Mr Gould took a teaching job at Rotherfield

secondary modern, where he took the revolutionary step of introducing drama classes.

In 1950, Mr Gould became head of English and drama at the new Wheatley secondary modern, where he met his wife-to-be, Eileen Bottrill, also a teacher.

Six years later he became head of English and drama at Lord Williams's, Thame, where he wrote the first of several books that were used extensively in classrooms around the country.

In 1976 Mr Gould became a senior LEA advisor until his retirement in 1984, when he became a foundation governor of Lord Williams's until 1995.

His 1987 play, *Rupert My Son*, starring the West End's Hal Fowler, was a great success for the Mayfly Theatre.

Mr Gould also directed many plays for the City of Oxford Theatre Guild, and was a supporter of the Oxford

Playhouse, where, as a director of the Young Playhouse Association from 1960-1976, he worked with the director Frank Hauser and young actors including Judi Dench, Leo McKern, Felicity Kendal and Ralph Fiennes.

In 2011, Gerard was presented a Mayoral Certificate of Honour for exceptional service to the city, for a lifetime spent promoting amateur drama.

He leaves family in Wales, Israel and New Zealand.

The memorial will be held at the Catholic Chaplaincy in Rose Place, St Aldates, on September 4 at 4pm.