

KEEPING MUM 2005 British black comedy film, directed by Niall Johnson

To Keep Mum - expression meaning to keep quiet about something, not to tell anyone (other similar expressions - Mum's the word meaning, I won't tell anyone, or please don't let on about this)

To Keep Mum - can be interpreted as having one's mother stay either in the home, or nearby. To keep her with one, as opposed to sending her away.



Walter Goodfellow, the vicar for the small English country parish of Little Wallop, has allowed his marriage to Gloria go stale and he is so detached from his family, that he is totally unaware of the appalling state of affairs within his own family. His 17-year-old daughter Holly continually brings home the most unsuitable boyfriends, his son Petey is very afraid of going to school, and Gloria is considering leaving her husband. The problems upsetting the family begin to mysteriously fade away with the arrival of Grace Hawkins, the new housekeeper.

A delightful comedy, both light and dark, that can but have one chortling, chuckling, to the point of hooting... the phrase, "Shall I put the kettle on?" will never again sound the same.

The trailer : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYswra3H1Oo>

The Characters:

Reverend Walter Goodfellow : a clumsy but well-meaning vicar who is respected, admired and appreciated (if slightly bullied) by his parishoners. He is shortly to attend a convention in Cornwall and has been asked to address his fellow vicars. In order to impress his peers, he is trying to write the perfect sermon. This activity is becoming obsessional.

Gloria Goodfellow : mother of two children ; leads (in her opinion) the moronically boring life of a country parson's wife. Refusing to do more than the minimum in helping her husband with his religious business, and out of desperation for affection, she toys with the idea of running away the American golf pro who gives her private golf lessons.

Holly : the teenage daughter. Uncontrollable, she has a string of different, but equally inappropriate boyfriends, swears continually and is generally obnoxious with her parents.

Petey : a bit of a wimp, this young chap suffers such terrible bullying at the hands of a nasty bunch of boys in his school, that he hardly dares to even approach the school any more. Suffering from crippling timidity, he is incapable of voicing his misery so his mother only has an inkling of the problem.

Lance : lecherous American golf pro, always on the lookout for a pretty face and what he hopes will go with it...

Grace : new housekeeper for the Goodfellows. A darkly mysterious Mary Poppins character, she manages to pull the family life back together. She is (or seems to be) a charming, efficient, and kindly old lady. But she has a dark and ancient secret.