

The Choir

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank the choir for their continued support and commitment during an extremely full and busy year. We continue to rehearse on a Thursday evening and lead the worship at the 10.30am service on Sunday, meeting for a short rehearsal at 10.00am. The choir also sings choral evensong regularly on the second Sunday of the month at 6.30pm and choral Eucharist on the first Sunday.

The junior choir meets at 6.00pm on a Thursday. We have recently welcomed Shiloh and Serena to the group and hope that they will gradually take a more prominent part in the services.

In September Jasmine Hutton and Maria Singh moved from the soprano line in the junior choir to the adult choir. It has been really good to welcome, again to the soprano line, Sarah Wilkinson and Nicola Botha (a friend of Jasmine) and Joshua Dowling back to the bass line. Tom Hood and Joe Brooke (former choral scholars) have taken up their places at university but it was good to have Joe and Tom Henderson (another former choral scholar) singing with us again during the Christmas break. Max Gaskin continues to sing, as a choral scholar, on the bass line and we recently welcomed Busola Amusa, also as a choral scholar, to the soprano line. If you know of a fifth or sixth former who would be interested in taking up a choral scholarship then please let me or a member of the choir know. We would particularly like to encourage some more altos. Similarly we are also very keen to welcome adults to all parts of the senior choir.

After two and a half years at Bromley Parish we, very sadly, said goodbye to Alex Fishburn, our assistant organist, at the beginning of September. Alex made a considerable contribution, through his organ playing and singing, to music and worship at the church and he is missed. However, at the same time, it was really good to welcome Jay Chitnavis to the church as organ scholar. Jay also sings tenor so helps out in the choir when he is not playing the organ.

Apart from singing the music to a high standard at the weekly services there were a number of very memorable choral highlights during the year. These included a performance of the Requiem by Durufle on Palm Sunday, the Advent Carol Service and the Festival of Nine lessons and Carols. The choir also made an important contribution to the events marking the 60th anniversary of the rebuilding of the church and sang choral evensong at Bromley and Sheppards College on three occasions. In December we sang Christmas carols in The Glades and raised £433 for The Chartwell Cancer Trust.

The highlight of the year must be our return visit to St Albans Cathedral to sing the services on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd August. After singing the services at Coventry in February this was our second visit to a cathedral in 2017. Everyone agreed that it was a very enjoyable and uplifting occasion. The choir will be singing the services at Durham Cathedral on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April.

The Worship Group

The Worship Group continue to sing and play at the All Age Service on the 3rd Sunday of the month and rehearse before the service. It is really good to have Ovid return to the instrumental group after moving back into the area and to have Jonathan Josh, Jay and Jasmine play on a regular basis. We are always pleased to welcome new singers and players so if anyone feels they would like to take part please have a word with me or one of the members of the group. I am very grateful to the members of the Music Group for their regular attendance, commitment and enthusiasm.

Frank Roddy