

Choir Report

Since last year's APCM, the choir numbers have remained constant at nine singers. This situation can be challenging at times, however, especially if some members are unable to attend on a Sunday. But we continue to meet these challenges and remain optimistic that a Director of Music will soon be appointed. However, we are extremely fortunate in having Philip Shrimpton as our Assistant Organist. He faithfully plays for us at our Friday evening rehearsals and, without him, we would find the circumstances very difficult.

Perhaps the situation was made a little more bearable for him and us when, in September, the organ, having had a complete rebuild, and after some strenuous fund-raising, was finally returned to the church. What a joy it is to hear it once again - and all credit to Philip for his commitment to the organ. During the rare occasions when he was unavailable, replacement musicians were found, for which we were grateful.

During the year the choir has sung in various other locations. At St Paul's Cathedral in July, some of our members participated in the ALMA service, where we joined many other singers from the ALMA supporting churches in London under the Cathedral's dome. This is always an enjoyable service where we sing many different types of music, including this year, a Portuguese service setting. We also sung at an evening Choral Eucharist with the London Diocesan choir in February. These services are a fine opportunity to meet singers from other churches and to share experiences. We have also sung at St Mary Magdelene, Windmill Hill, for a performance of 'Messiah' in May and also joined their choir and congregation for the funeral of Les Fish, the husband of Jackie, a former Church Warden at St Andrew's.

In December, we were augmented by our regular 'extras' to sing at the special Service of Celebration to mark the 50 years of ministry of the Rev Olive Cope led by the Bishop of London. Such a joyous occasion. Later that month, we wore suitable festive headgear to sing Christmas carols in the Market Place. The following evening, the Candlelit service of lessons and carols took place, a very rewarding event, as the church is always full. We are really grateful to those who come and sing with us at these special occasions.

In February, we welcomed the Bishop of Edmonton for the confirmation service, which we all enjoyed.

A recent innovation is the opportunity to meet Rev Dr Steve to discuss our ideas and concerns.

Choir singing is very enjoyable, especially when there are plenty of singers. We would certainly welcome anyone who would like to join us. The ability to read music would be an advantage but is by no means essential.

David Hastings

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