

Newsletter



Number 7: Autumn 2008

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to start (and continue) this Newsletter with good news! We have been approved for Gift Aid by the Inland Revenue, backdated to May 10 2008 so we will be making forms available for membership renewal and at fund raising events. The Appeal Fund now stands at £6388, thanks to some well attended events and some very generous donations from individuals. The search has now begun for a chamber organ which would we believe, be a fitting gift from the Friends of the Music to Holy Trinity Church in this, our 25th anniversary year. But will still need a final major fund raising effort! Thanks to some hard work on Jenny Barrie's part, we have received a most welcome grant of £900 from Stratford District Council towards the Grand Piano Fund on which we will concentrate in the Spring.

The weather might have been dismal this summer but nothing dampened the spirits of the Friends as they explored the Knight's Templar Church at Temple Balsall and, closer to home, the history of Holy Trinity Church and the complex heraldry on the three funeral hatchments. The highlight of our visits was to Canterbury on a wet weekend at the beginning of September.

Cathie Penn writes: 'We were lucky enough to be at the Cathedral for the first service of the new term by the choir on Saturday 5 September which is the special day of John de Stratford who held the living of Holy Trinity before going on to be Archbishop of Canterbury in 1333.' Talk to Cathie if you have ideas for next year's weekend away.

We always manage to combine learning and fun as we did when Hazel Tattersall, our resident wine educator, presented a Portuguese Wine Tasting evening. £680 was added to the Appeal Fund and we were especially grateful to the two Friends who sponsored the tapas and the hire of Hall's Croft.

Many friends enjoyed a sociable Skittles and Supper Evening at the New Inn, Willersey. Competition was as intense as ever! A raffle was also held.

The Annual Programme and the Winter Newsletter will give more details of events in 2009.



Programme

Sunday 30th November - ADVENT LUNCH 12.30 in the Parish Centre

Saturday 15 November 7.30pm
Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society with the Regency Sinfonia conducted by Stephen Dodsworth

Schubert: Mass No 5 in A Flat,
Mozart: Coronation Mass

Saturday 20 December 7.30pm
Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society with the Regency Sinfonia conducted by Stephen Dodsworth

Handel: Messiah

Sunday January 25 2009
AGM of the Friends of the Music in the Parish Centre

Please contact me,
Ursula Russell, 01789 204923,
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any committee member.

Organ Recitals

The series of six lunchtime organ recitals which we organised in June and July was a great success because we are fortunate in having such talented musicians willing to play at Holy Trinity. The programmes were very different but each was masterly and engaging and although we were delighted to raise over £1000 for the Appeal Fund, for many of us the real pleasure was to enjoy superb music in the company of Friends, townfolk and visitors to Stratford. We plan another series next year and the sandwich making team will be trying out new fillings in the next few months to please our appreciative customers.

A look ahead to events in 2009 and other news...

On Saturday 31 January – Sunday 1 February the Friends of the Music will be hosting a piano weekend. This event will launch the main appeal for a new piano in the Church and a piano will be hired for the whole weekend to give congregation and visitors the chance to see the benefit of having a good piano in use in both services and concerts. The weekend will feature a masterclass with Christopher Langdown and recitals by Christopher Langdown and Peter Summers.

Concerts in Church

We look forward to concerts in the Spring given by our own choir and also by the Leamington Symphonia, conducted by Jenny Barrie which will perform music by Brahms and Beethoven on Saturday 14th March. **Jenny writes:** 'The orchestra has made a name for itself by playing interesting, challenging music, normally considered too ambitious for amateur players. Biennial foreign tours have visited Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin, Prague, Belgium and this year, (not so foreign) Scotland.

Advent Lunch

Please book early for the Advent Lunch – tickets on sale from Church Shop and Office from the end of October – for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and fundraising. A special Christmas Lunch will be prepared by Hazel Mellor and entertainment provided by the Trinity Waits reading from Thomas Hardy and singing West Gallery Carols. The proceeds of the lunch and the raffle will make a crucial contribution to the Chamber Organ Fund.



Farewells

After many years of service on the Friends of the Music Committee, Anne Grey as Secretary and Phil Hart as Treasurer will not be seeking re-election at the AGM in January.

We will have an opportunity then to thank them for all they have done and for their loyal support of the Friends of the Music from the early days.

Other forthcoming events...

Thursday 23rd April 8pm

Shakespeare Birthday Organ Recital

Saturday 9th May 7.30pm

Concert given by Holy Trinity Church Choir with Orchestra

Thursday 4th June 7.30pm

Concert given jointly by Holy Trinity Church Choir and the Croft School.

Thursdays from June 11 to July 16

Lunchtime Organ Recitals

At 12.45 lasting approximately 45 minutes with retiring collection.

Report from Andrew Jones

Since the last report the main event for the choir has been the highly successful Italy tour. Much has been written about this trip in other publications; suffice to say that the trip brought the choir together like never before, not only musically, but also socially. I felt privileged to lead such a delightful group of people on the trip and I look forward to seeing and hearing the continued benefits of the tour to the music of the church over the next academic year. After the choir's traditional summer break, regular rehearsals and services started again at the beginning of September.



Holy Trinity Choir and supporters in Pisa

We were sorry to say goodbye to the following choir members at the end of the summer term: from the adults Stanley Dickinson who served Holy Trinity Choir both as an organist and singer for a staggering fifty years; Sally Cohen (who has also recorded a long dedicated service to the choir both as a singer and formally as a chorister parent); Audrey Rhodes and Gillian Nussey. We also needed to say farewell to one of our trebles, Fiona Morris, whose family have moved to Worcester. At the start of the new academic year we have welcomed two new choristers, Hannah Parsons and Alex Short and I hope they will have a long and happy association with the choir. Recruitment is an ongoing process, and I am particularly looking to find two more trebles, one more alto, one more tenor and one more bass. Looking ahead, the choir has a busy term with Advent and Christmas approaching alarmingly quickly. As usual, we hope to have a regular social programme for the choir including trips to Drayton Manor and to the Pudding Club in Mickleton. Looking even further ahead, plans are already afoot for another choir tour, in 2010, to New York and Boston. Watch this space...