

DRAFT REPORTS

Polyphony Choir Report

Since the last AGM we have been delighted to welcome Berni and Madeleine as sopranos (as well as our 'original' Madeleine and Christine as 'returnees'!) and Veronica into the altos.

As a Parish Group we enjoyed a very happy outing in June to sing Mass at St. Swithun's, Southsea, followed by lunch together and an afternoon in Portsmouth. Our annual end-of-year Choir Party in July was, as always, huge fun, and our post-Christmas 'Drinks 'n' Nibbles get-together' back in January a welcome relaxation after the festivities.

In addition to the musical 'highlights' of Christmas and the Triduum, the Choir has continued to sing diligently on the first Sunday of most months and on the great feast of Christ the King. In May we were delighted to be involved in one of the First Holy Communion Masses and, in June, the Confirmation Mass. It is a privilege to be part of a parish community that has so many people working together to produce such wonderful liturgies.

Later this year, we have our annual Christmas Concert of Carols & Readings on Sunday 17 December at 14:30, and look forward to welcoming you to the traditional 'beginning' of Christmas at St. Bart's. In 2018 we are hoping to have a Concert featuring Vivaldi's Gloria, and aim to open up our Tuesday evening practices to anyone who wishes to come along and sing at the event.

The success of the Choir has always been largely down to our monthly rather than weekly (as in many other parishes) sung Masses. This enables our weekly Tuesday practices to give time to assisting those who don't read music and yet still wish to sing; it is also, of course, a reflection on the commitment of our members and the happy and on-going support provided by the clergy and people of the parish. Thank you all.

We also thank Antony Matthews, our organist, for sharing his amazing musical capability with us, and note with huge regret his departure in July after a change to his contractual obligations elsewhere. We wish him every success in the future.

New members are always welcome on Tuesday evenings at 20:00 in the Choir Gallery (enter by the side door in Ellison Road). To find out more, please visit the Choir's Web site **www.polychoir.co.uk**, or don't hesitate to contact Tony on **020 8647 4435** or by email at **director@polychoir.co.uk**.

Report given by Tony Price

Director of Music Report

As director of Music I wish to thank Jane (Plainchant Choir), Rosemary (Hymn Choir), and our parish organists Bob Foster and Louis Pearson for their continuing contribution to our parish music.

In addition, I am happily able to welcome organist Tony Riccio to the music team, principally as organist to our Saturday evening Masses two or three times a month.

I have noted in the Polyphony Choir Report the 'retirement' of the Choir's organist Antony Matthews. This leaves a huge gap for a capable organist to fill, and I hope anyone who knows someone who may be able to fill the role will put them in touch with me: **020 8647 4435 or director@polychoir.co.uk.**

It is currently my intention, if parishioners support it, to put together a Choir of Young People ahead of Christmas 2017 with the initial intention of leading the singing of carols at the Christmas Vigil Mass.

I am currently considering a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria in May 2018 and, if it goes ahead, I intend to open up the early part of Polyphony Choir Tuesday evening rehearsals to all and any who would like to participate in the performance.

Finally I would like to convey my huge appreciation to Father Deo, Father Innocent, Deacon Ged, MC Jed, all others associated with the liturgies at St. Bart's, and the parish as a whole for the wonderful support that music in our parish receives.

Report given by Tony Price