

MUSIC REPORTS 2017 PARISH AGM

Director of Music Report

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, and thank him for his willingness to contribute to the liturgical music at St. Bart's.

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**.

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

Report given by Tony Price

Hymn Choir Report

The Hymn Choir continues to sing at the 11:30 Mass usually on the 4th Sunday of the month. We sing mainly traditional well-known Hymns and the English Chant Mass. This is the Mass that is found in the Mass books and is the Mass that the Bishops wanted everyone to learn.

We also sing at the Palm Sunday Mass at 11:30 and join together with the Plainchant Choir. This went very well this year.

The aim of the Hymn Choir is to lead and encourage the congregation to sing. We usually have about 15 or 16 members turn up to sing each month. We would be very pleased to see more singers, there is no practice, just come up to the gallery about 10 minutes before Mass begins. Anyone welcome.

I would like to thank Tony Price for all the help he has given us this year. I would also like to thank Fr Deo and Fr Innocent for intoning the parts of the Mass required and for all the support they have given us.

For a list of the dates we are singing, please look on the notice board at the top of the stairs to the gallery or on the Parish Web site.

Report given by Rosemary Clark

Plainchant Choir Report

The Plainchant Choir sings at the 11:30 Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month, September to July inclusive. An exception is the 2nd Sunday of November when we sing the Requiem for Remembrance Sunday.

On Palm Sunday we are joined by the Hymn Choir for the 11:30 Mass which begins in the hall with the Blessing of Palms and Procession. We thank Rosemary for playing the organ at this Mass and also for filling in on last November's Remembrance Service. Unfortunately, there was a late start to the Palm Sunday Mass due to the over-run of the previous two Masses. Perhaps due to the full Passion reading a shorter homily could be given to alleviate the logistics of car parking between the Masses. Most of the 11:30 congregation went straight to the Church as they were so late being able to park and missed the Blessing of Palms and Procession.

We would like to thank our Priests for their support for all the music at St Bart's but especially for their singing of the Latin responses. The Latin leaflets used at Mass have been a great success and the congregation are now sometimes out-singing the choir! This year we have introduced Missa XVII Advent and Lent and Missa XI Orbis Factor. The singing of the relevant Marian Anthem is now the norm for the conclusion of most Masses. We aim to continue singing, where possible, Latin Hymns and Chants at the Offertory and Holy Communion. Some of these are in the hymn book.

We are always keen to welcome more people to join us in the gallery to lead the singing. We practice, at 19:30 for half an hour, once a month on the Tuesday before our Sunday sung Mass. This is just before the start of the Polyphony Choir practice. If you cannot initially commit to coming to the practice you are still very welcome to join us in the gallery on the Sunday.

I wish to thank the choir, our organists Tony and Rosemary and especially the congregation for their support of the Latin in the Holy Mass.

Report given by Jane Windsor

Polyphony Choir Report

Since the last AGM we have been delighted to welcome Berni and Caroline as sopranos (as well as Madeleine and Christine as 'returnees'!) and Veronica into the altos. As I write, I am able to look forward to Molly joining us as we prepare for Christmas.

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 everyone to the traditional ‘beginning’ of Christmas at St. Bart’s.

After Christmas we will start learning a new Mass, the Mass of St. Christopher (Op.96) written by James Lyon in 1937. **It is short and relatively easy, and I intend to open up the early part of prior-timetabled Polyphony Choir Tuesday evening rehearsals to all and any who would like to come along for a short while and see how we learn our music, and experience the Choir without any other commitment.** I am currently tentatively considering a performance of Vivaldi’s Gloria in 2019. 2019 will see the Polyphony Choir celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its formation.

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 and very much hope to welcome him back occasionally 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