

Charity Number: 1134595

Jesus said, "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." John 15.16

We seek to make Jesus known in our community, through our joyful, loving service and worship

Parish Review 2018 – Music

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Sub-Group: Chair, Father Shaun Baldwin; Mrs. Susan Cherry; Miss Susan Phillips; Mr. Matthew Cross; Mr. Michael Anson

The preamble for the Music Review section of the parish questionnaire made it very clear that this group's remit was not a review of the existing parish choir, its makeup or future. It is a review of the music ministry of a large parish that has three worship centres. It focussed on the impact music has on our liturgy and worship, and how we might improve on and expand what we have in order to enhance our liturgical and worship experiences, serving God and our existing congregations to the best of our abilities, and attracting more people to encounter and follow the Living God through Word and Sacrament.

Current Patterns:

Broughton Parish has a longstanding and well respected musical tradition, and not surprisingly this subject has attracted a lot of attention, together with a range of comments both inside and outside of the review questionnaire. The parish in all three worship centres holds the Eucharist at the heart of its worship, celebrated in formats ascribed by the *Book of Common Prayer* and in *Common Worship*. The three worship centres also enjoy non-Eucharistic celebrations in respect of Choral Mattins and Choral Evensong as set by the *Book of Common Prayer*, and Celebrations of the Word that follow a pattern that is identifiably Anglican in a *Common Worship* framework. The Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic celebrations are supported by various styles of music in the three worship centres.

St John Baptist parish church is served by its renowned traditional boys and men robed choir that continues to thrive under the leadership of its choirmaster John Catterall. The fine Phoenix digital organ is the main stay of musical accompaniment, and the parish church continues to be blessed by fine organists. *The New English Hymnal* is used. At present, the choirmaster chooses the hymns, though Celebrants alter hymns on occasions. The parish church continues to uphold the Anglican Choral Tradition, especially in the BCP formats of Choral Evensong and Choral Mattins. Few parish churches offer these choral services on a regular basis and at the standards sung by the choir. Choral Evensong uses hymns, responses and chants that can also be sung by both congregation and choir. There is often a choral setting of the canticles and an anthem sung by the choir. Choral Mattins follows a similar format, though anthems feature less frequently. Choral Eucharist is served by congregation & choir sung hymns; the Gloria is sung by the congregation and choir; the Psalm is sung by the choir; 4 or 5 choral settings of the Sanctus & Benedictus and Agnus Dei are sung by the choir; unaccompanied hymns are sung by the choir during the administration of Holy Communion; anthems / motets are not a regular feature. When the choir is absent services are reduced to hymns only, or are said.

St Martin's Chapel is served by a small mixed choir led by the Director of Music (DoM) Susan Phillips. Musical accompaniment is provided by way of a Yamaha digital piano. *Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New* is used. At present the DoM chooses the hymns, with occasional alterations by the Celebrants. Choir and congregation sing simple settings of the Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei. When pianists are unavailable music is provided by CD's.

St Peter's Chapel is served by two pianists, Jean Caffrey and Angela Tranter, supported by a small group of singers. *Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New* is used. The celebrants choose the hymns. Choir and congregation sing together. Simple settings of the Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei are sung by all. When pianists are unavailable music is provided by CD's or by music that is available on a laptop.

Questionnaire Responses:

Given Broughton's musical traditions it was of no surprise that this section attracted a lot of attention.

Here is the breakdown for each worship centre's response to the music review section:

- St John's - Total respondents: 116
- St Martin's - Total respondents: 36
- St Peter's - Total respondents: 12

Looking at the responses to the questions in the music section, when each worship centre is examined individually the outcomes vary, reflecting the differing numbers and views of the respondents. Each question of the music section elicited different numbers of responses. Some respondents answered every question, whilst others chose to answer some, but not all questions.

Looking through the wider lens of the Parish Review, which is the prime purpose of this exercise, here are the collective responses to each question of the Music Section when data from all three worship centres is factored in:

Q.28 The music used at my worship centre encourages and enables my full, conscious and active participation in services. *Strongly Agree*

Q.29 I attend my worship centre because of the style of music that is offered there. *Agree*

Q.30 I prefer a formal, choral style of music in services. *Agree*

Q.31 I prefer a less formal, non-choral style of music in services. *Disagree*

Q.32 I prefer a mix of musical styles in services. 57 said 'yes', 58 said 'no', 39 said 'sometimes'

Q.33 The music used in services helps me to pray and feel closer to God. *Strongly Agree*

Q.34 There is a good balance of congregational singing in services. *Agree*

Q.35 I prefer to listen than to sing. *Agree*

Q.36 There is a balance of traditional and modern hymns and music used in services. *Neither Agree nor Disagree*

Q.37 I would like new hymns and music, including some more child friendly options. 82 said 'yes', 70 said 'no'

Q.38 I would like an additional parish choir that is open to girls and women to be established. 69 said 'yes', 63 said 'no'

Q.39 I would like a parish music group to be established (instrumental & vocal). 83 said 'yes', 49 said 'no'

Q.40 I would like to be involved in the music ministry of the parish and am willing to offer my services. 22 said 'yes', 105 said 'no'

The music review section shows that the music ministry is greatly valued and appreciated across the parish. It is clear that what already exists should not be lost, but alongside this is a desire to refresh and grow the music ministry of the parish.

The parish review survey demonstrated how central and valued music is to the ministry of the parish, to people's prayer lives, and their closeness to God. There are strong affiliations within the different worship centres to particular music styles. However, there is also an appetite to explore a wider range of music in particular services. Any such developments must be led by the Vicar (who has overall responsibility for the worship in the parish), working with his ministry team, the choirmaster at St John's, director of music at St Martin's, and the musicians at St Peter's.

Recommendations:

- **Grow the existing mixed voice choir at St Martin's, under the guidance of the Director of Music, inviting female and male singers of all ages to become involved**
- **Undertake work to establish a parish music group that will be a parish wide resource**
- **Working with the Communications Group, promote and advertise our weekly choral services at the parish church, both within and outside of the parish**
- **Working alongside the choirmaster, explore ways that our traditional choir might be a musical outreach resource and promoter/teacher of the Anglican choral tradition outside of the parish**

Father Shaun Baldwin, Chair