

MUSIC at St. MICHAEL'S

Newsletter July 2018

Welcome: after some years of the church in Bampton being without an organised choir a new initiative was started in March this year to bring singers together to support Sunday worship and mission events. There has already been for some time a small group of musicians leading worship on non Eucharistic, family oriented services. With the singers getting together some have become involved in these services as well.

The singers started with a Passiontide choral Evensong which was well received. Since then we have sung at a Christian Aid fundraising event and been concentrating on music for the 3rd Sundays of the month and benefice services.

After our break for August we have 2 services in September to prepare for – one being St Michael's Patronal festival (Church Birthday) & then start to look at music for the Carol Service.

The format of worship at St Michael's

Of the regular services at St Michael's the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month use a music group comprising of guitars, bass, drums, singers and occasionally Keyboard/organ and flute. We would welcome new members – both singers and musicians.

The Singers lead worship for the Sung Eucharist on the 3rd Sunday of the month and Benefice services which happen on 5th Sundays – some 4 times a year.

Some of us will prefer to stick to 3rd and 5th Sundays, some to 2nd and 4th and some both.

Rebecca was officially appointed as 'Director of Music' at St Michael's early in 2018. Rebecca feels this is a very grandiose title and prefers to be called Music Leader. She views her role as supporting and enhancing worship at all services and widening the variety of music used. She would also like to see music used for mission, perhaps in special events. Alan has a role as chief fixer with the title of Music Administrator, ensuring good quality music copies and, dealing with copyright issues and reminding people of practices!

Children and young people:

Future generations of singers will come from nurturing our children into faith and enjoyment of worship. Rebecca is working with others in the church, through our 'Messy church' initiative and the Primary School to gather a group of children and young people who would like to sing together. Initially we hope to have a group singing one or 2 carols at the annual carol service in December and then perhaps move on to have them singing at some family services.

Rebecca is now DBS checked so approved to work with children.

Practices:

The singers meet most Wednesday evenings in church at 7:30 pm to practice for the 3rd Sunday, Benefice services and any special events such as Weddings, Carol Services etc. We have a break for August.

Practice for the 4th Sunday (Family Service) is at 7.30 p.m. on the Thursday before. For the 2nd Sunday (new Service at 9:30 am) practice may take place on the preceding Friday evening or before the service depending on musicians' availability!

For more information please contact Rebecca Colpus on 01398 331990 or e-mail: rebm29@outlook.com

What is our name?
Our full title is The St Michael Singers (SMS). However we shall usually be called The Singers.

Our Accompanists

We are very grateful to Ann Collins, Maggie Blackshaw and Sue Francombe who are currently sharing this role which is so vital at practices to help the singers learn their parts. We continue to look for someone who would take on this role as a service to the church on a more regular basis and we continue to follow hopeful leads. So keep your eyes and ears open for anyone that might be suitable. At the moment we can afford expenses and even a modest sessional fee.

Membership And Involvement.

Everybody who can pitch a note is welcome to join. The ability to follow a line of music is helpful but far from essential. There is also, of course, a need for more singers. Our full membership at the moment is, believe it or not, 17, but people have busy lives so usually only 9 -10 are available at any given time. If we had even a few more it would be easier to cope with folk being unwell or away and we are working on this.

In the meantime, please do your best to come to rehearsals, even if you can't make the next service. It helps to support the rest of us and, now that we sing at least once a month, we are likely in any case to be looking at material for services which you will be coming to.

The Future:

Establishing the Singers, indeed any church choir, is a difficult task in this day and age. It calls for commitment, not just to singing or playing but to every area of its life and development. So your views are welcome and absolutely vital – positive one are always an encouragement and for things you may not be so happy with it's good to discuss and make changes.

Please don't keep these concerns to yourself - if we share our thoughts we can work together and make the changes that will create the foundations from which the singers can grow and succeed.