

CHAIR'S REPORT
The Past Year

The trust has been busy this past year in raising funds to extend the scope of the Organ scholarship scheme and to start a scheme for more senior choristers to become Choral Scholars. The hope was to form a 'youth' choir to start a regular Choral Evensong service every Friday at 5.15 pm. In the end the trust was awarded a significant grant by the Ouseley Trust to fund these two schemes for two years. Together with support from the RSCM Pipeline scheme, there is funding in place to support the training of 5 organists and 6 choral scholars. Two of the recipients write of their experience below.

The trust and the church are very keen to establish these Scholarships on a more permanent basis. And there is an urgent need to extend the Choral Scholarship scheme to be able to offer the opportunity to more choristers as they move out of the treble line. We are seeking support from grant giving bodies and from people who are keen to support the development of young people. If this strikes a chord with anyone reading this newsletter, please get in touch with me at roger.sleigh@btinternet.com.

We welcomed the BBC into St Wulfram's in September 2016 for a live radio broadcast of Sunday Worship. Despite the many wires and microphones, the choir pulled it off superbly.

October saw the choir in residence for a week at Canterbury Cathedral, and drew much praise for its musicality and discipline. Plans are well in hand for the 2017 residency at St Davids Cathedral. Other Cathedral visits during the year included Manchester, St Alban's, Derby and Leicester.

Through the Trust, the choir has undertaken a number of outreach evensongs in neighbouring churches. These include St Chad's Welbourn, St John the Baptist Colsterworth and All Saints Hough on the Hill. These visits not only publicise the work of the Trust, but provide our neighbours with a taste of a large and successful choir together with giving our choristers the experience of singing in a variety of parish settings.

The St Wulfram's choir goes from strength to strength. As well as establishing the Youth Choir and a new regular Friday service, the numbers of trebles have increased to the extent that Dr Tim Williams can run separate boy and girl treble choirs. Our choristers work through the graded exams set by the RSCM, and we recently celebrated the Award of 3 Gold Standard Medals to choristers. The tally of Bishop's and Dean' awards is most impressive. It's not only the number of trebles that is increasing, the altos, tenors and basses are also increasing.

Looking Forward

The growth in choir numbers, the extension of the repertoire and the growing scope of the locations that we wish to sing in all contribute to pressures on the budget for music, robes and travelling. The trustees continue to seek

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Radio 4 Sunday Worship broadcast



The choir at Canterbury Cathedral

funding to support this, and are most grateful to those organisations and the many individuals who respond to these requests.

ST WULFRAM'S CHURCH CHOIR

Life as a Choral Scholar

Being a Choral Scholar has given me a lot of new opportunities. I have been attending Youth Choir services on a Friday, Youth Choir practices on a Monday, as well as Sunday services. These activities have opened to me a variety of different music styles and composers. I have learned a style of singing and choral music called 'plainsong' which we use for most of our singing for Friday services. Another style of music I have been taught is 'fauxbourdon' which means false bass in French. I have become more confident at singing as a part of the choir, and I feel I have increased the quality of singing. I have enjoyed many pieces that we have learned since September, most notably A Little Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott, and Beati Quorum Via by CV Stanford.

Being a Choral Scholar has given me a lot of confidence as a musician. I feel much more comfortable with my singing voice, and I know that I have improved my knowledge of music. It has led me to choose to do GCSE music at school. The bursary has been a big help towards the cost of music tuition. I am very grateful to The Philip Lank Trust for the opportunity to be one of the first Choral Scholars at St Wulfram's.

James Grainger

Life as an Organ Scholar

As an Organ Scholar at St Wulfram's Church I have many opportunities to develop my music skills. The organ is an incredible instrument, I love the fact that it has different layers of manuals and lots of different stops you can experiment with. I have learnt many things such as how to accompany the choir in hymns, anthems and in different types of services. Playing such pieces at the right speed is vital and it is important to listen well and play at the same time. Also seeing different aspects of the church, how the service flows from an organist's perspective compared to a chorister's. One particular skill I have learnt is how to improvise, this is necessary when the clergy are moving from one place to another and preparing a certain part of the service. Recently I have learnt to play a magnificent piece by Stanley called Voluntary IX as a voluntary played at the end of the service, and for the Grantham Music Festival. Lots of different organists play at St Wulfram's and I often have the opportunity to page turn for them and see the different techniques that they use and how they approach a piece which is very interesting. Playing the organ helps with my sight-reading in general and on other instruments as I have to coordinate three lines of music. When we visit other churches every organ is different and it is really interesting to discover how each organ works. I really enjoy playing the organ and I feel very privileged to play such a wonderful instrument in a great church like St Wulfram's.

Matilda Johnston



Three of our RSCM Gold Award Holders

Dr Tim Williams

Our congratulations go to St Wulfram's Master of Music Dr Tim Williams on the Certificate of Special Service awarded to him by the Royal School of Church Music for his 'significant contribution to church music at St Wulfram's'.

This is evidenced by the remarkable number of choristers successful at all levels, including the highest of gold in the RSCM awards scheme, in addition to the broadening of services to include a regular Friday choral evensong.

20th Anniversary of girl choristers

20 years ago St Wulfram's started to admit girls into the choir. This year on Saturday 15th July we shall celebrate the occasion with several activities in which past and present choristers can participate, culminating in a Festival Evensong at 6 pm. Full details are on the trust web site. Please come and enjoy the occasion with us.

The Philip Lank Trust. Registered Charity No. 1135362
www.planktrust.org.uk
Chairman: Roger Sleigh. roger.sleigh@btinternet.com