

Concerts and recitals through the years

Concerts and recitals have been held in the church probably since Revd Fitz Wygram was vicar, performed by many different local community groups and by young and old alike. Also, over the years, St James's own musicians have put on recitals for various charities and for their own pleasure. There are only a few articles and only from later years.

Celebration of music - 2000

The Apocalypse Singers, directed by Chris Hodges, held a Celebration of Music at St James's on 24th June, 2000. The concert was varied, with the choir, many of them members of St James's, singing Victorian and Edwardian part-songs by Schubert, Elgar and others, expertly supported by Pam Phillips on the piano. In addition, there were harp solos given by Anrea Rowett and clarinet solos given by Martin Hinckley - what a feast! There were also readings by Anthony Bromham. The programme ended with the beautiful, very English yet ethereal work, the Serenade to Music by Vaughan Williams.



Andrea Rowett
Harp



Christopher Hodges, Music Director
Apocalypse Singers



Martin Hinckley
Clarinet

David Brodowski's Concert - 2003



On Friday 28th February, 2003, David Brodowski gave a brilliant concert in aid of the "Opening the Doors" Appeal. He was ably accompanied by our own organist, Christopher Cromar. The concert included Beethoven's Sonata in F major, op.24 (Spring), Cesar Franck's Sonata in A major, Six Romanian Folk Dances by Bartok and the Fantaisie Brillante by Wieniawski.



Songs of Springtime - 2003

On Saturday 15th March, 2003, the Apocalypse Singers, conducted by Christopher Hodges, presented a spring concert in aid of the 'Opening Our Doors' project. Martin Hinckley gave a brilliant performance of the *Five Bagatelles* by Gerald Finzi on the clarinet accompanied by Pamela Phillips. Christopher Hodges, baritone, sang *Earth and Air and Rain* by Gerald Finzi with great feeling, accompanied by Pamela Phillips. The Apocalypse Singers, conducted by Christopher Hodges sang the following songs: *Songs of Springtime: Seven Elizabethan Poems* E J Moeran and *Three Partsongs from Opus 17*, to poems by Robert Bridges Gerald Finzi



Christopher Hodges and Pamela Phillips



The Apocalypse Singers



Martin Hinckley and Pamela Phillips

St James's Young Musicians Recital - 2004

What a wonderful concert the children put on in the church on Sunday 17 October with the help of one or two rather talented adults! From the moment the Travellers Band struck up with Pitoni's Cantate Domino to the finale when we all joined in and sang "Sing Hosannah", it was pure joy. All the performances were of an incredibly high standard. Highlights? Every number was a highlight but 8-year old Hannah Banks's cool-as-a-cucumber violin rendition of Scottish Brawl made one smile from ear-to-ear. Olivia Nettleton and Alexander Lloyd, both age 10 and both on recorder, were similarly unfazed by the large audience; and Olivia's younger sister, Isobel, played a beautiful version of Ekode's Minuet on cello. Alexandra Brown also played a lovely classical guitar solo. But there were bigger people there too - Frances Beaumont produced a lovely sound on her flute as she played Philippe Gaubert's Madrigal and Anusha Leathard sang Ave Maria with a quietly understated confidence.

And who can forget the 42 members of the children's choir under the brilliant guidance of Susannah Nettleton. The Band played three sets of demanding pieces from their repertoire, usually heard at the beginning and end of the informal services on the first Sunday of each month. It provides a special opportunity for youngsters and adults to make music together - with an age range of 6 to 60! Between all these items we heard great performances from a recorder group and string group that were formed specially for this event.

Enormous thanks go to several people. Martin Hinckley, for all his time and devotion in organising the concert, conducting the Band and organising and rehearsing the wind group. Susannah Nettleton, for the choir and string group. Jackie Allen, for the recorder group. Ash Charles, for his ever-present support on keyboard. Also to the other adults who supported in the band, choir and other groups. And most important of all, the youngsters who took part! There were over 120 in the audience, who raised a substantial sum for the Open Doors Appeal, and everyone felt they had been given fantastic value for money.



The recorder group



The wind group



The string group

Recital by St James's Musicians - 2007

Once again, on Friday 2nd February 2007, our local talented musicians delighted us with a very varied programme of music. We are fortunate to have such talent in our congregation and this time there was music from the clarinet, flute, organ, the St James's Recorder Ensemble and various voices. St James's Recorder Ensemble started us off with a superb rendering of *Sonate, Op. 3 No 7* by *Louis-Antoine Dornel* with four movements, *Vivement*, *Lentement*, *Chaconne* and *Gigue*. They are usually a quartet but this evening were a trio (Jackie Allen, Charles Nettleton and Anne Rowett) who exhibited a depth of feeling for the music. The music this evening was interspersed with *Selected Poems* by *Wallace Stevens* beautifully read by Charles Nettleton. This was a new venture in our Friday recitals and added a contrasting and stimulating dimension.

The song *Vain is Pleading* by *Brahms* was delightfully sung by one of our tenors, David Taylor. He has a particularly enchanting way of getting this type of song across to the audience. Frances Beaumont captivated us when she played *Haru No Umi* by *Michio Miyagi* on the flute. Her purity of tone expressed great finesse. *Vainement, ma bien-amee* from *Le Roi Dys* by *Edouard Lalo* was expertly sung by another of our tenors, Charles Nettleton, in French, with great expression. These three items were sensitively accompanied by Ash Charles on the piano.

Ash Charles tastefully played the *Prelude and Fugue in Eb major* by *Bach* on the organ. The musical part of the evening concluded with the *Concertino* by *Weber* magnificently performed by Martin Hinckley on the clarinet, again expertly accompanied by Ash Charles on the piano. Martin gripped the audience with outstanding expertise demonstrating a depth of musicianship and very agile fingers! After the recital there was time for a drink or two and a chat with friends.



Charles Nettleton



David Taylor



St James's Recorder Ensemble



Martin Hinckley



Francis Beaumont

Stainers's Crucifixion - 2013 March

The Crucifixion by John Stainer is amongst the most popular of all English choral works vividly portraying the events of the Passion of Christ. In March, 2013, Concordia Voices gave this stalwart of the sacred repertoire a most profoundly moving and dramatic performance. The choir's musical director, William Petter, conducted with sincerity and empathy, paying careful attention to the pacing and dramatic content of the choral passages. Although the congregation had the libretto in their programmes, the choir made sure that their words were clear with added vitality thus enhancing the listeners' enjoyment and involvement. The organ accompaniment was beautifully played with richness and an apt range of colour by Paul Ayres. William Petter, tenor, and John Murton, baritone, gave energy and depth of feeling to their solos.



Community concerts



The Thameside Clarinet Choir



Noye's Flood



The Greenwood Centre Concert

The above information covers the period from when any records could be found until November 2016. This was when Revd Derek Winterburn became St James's tenth vicar and from this time onwards any new information can be found on the main site.