

Faringdon Singers Musical Director's Report, 2013-2014.

1. Friday 13 December 2013 at St Mary's Church, Uffington.
Concert for Advent in aid of Save the Children and St Mary's Church, with Anna Lockett (Harp) and Gabriele Damiani (Organ). The programme included Advent carols, hymns and organ music. Special items were a carol (Still, still, still) composed by John Ridgway, *Laudi alla Vergine Maria* by Verdi, for ladies' voices, and "A Ceremony of Carols" (with harp accompaniment) by Britten, with soloists drawn from the choir. Other harp solos were "Etude de Concert" by Marcel Tournier and "Glenlivet", arr. Kim Robertson.
2. Sunday 15 December 2013 at Blessed Hugh Catholic Church, Faringdon.
A similar programme in aid of Oxfordshire Mind, but with John Ridgway as accompanist. The Advent hymns were less well-known than the usual Christmas Carols, but in my view provided a welcome change.
3. Saturday 22nd March 2014 at All Saints' Church, Faringdon.
Come and Sing Faure's Requiem and Handel's Messiah (Part 2), in aid of the Barber Rooms Appeal. The Organist was Roy Woodhams. Four soloists were brought in for the occasion: Martha Woodhams (Roy's daughter), Vanessa Woodward, Jonathan Todd and Benjamin Beurklian-Carter, all of whom contributed greatly towards the success of the event.
4. Thursday 10th July 2014 in Faringdon United Church Hall.
Although this concert, in aid of the church refurbishment fund, proved difficult to arrange, it was ultimately successful and well-appreciated, held in our usual rehearsal venue, with Dan Hornby as our guest accompanist. Some thought that a larger hall would have been better, but it was good to give a concert actually on the premises of the church we were supporting. The "meat" of the programme was in the first half, with Purcell's "Welcome to all the Pleasures", "Three Songs of Courage" and "Three Songs of Praise" by Dyson, and Three Dvorak Bagatelles, played by an instrumental group brought together by John de Wit. The second half consisted of Gilbert and Sullivan choruses, readings by Meg Greenwood, and Songs for Choir and Audience from Maureen's inexhaustible "News Chronicle Song Book"- still plenty more where those came from! All soloists were "volunteers" from the choir, with special thanks for "Effects" by Carl Oberman!
5. Saturday 12th July 2014 at St John the Evangelist, Carterton.
Chris Morgan was the inspiration for this concert, in aid of the churches of St John the Evangelist and St Britius, in this excellent venue. The programme was a repeat of that just described.

Finally, a word of thanks to all who went out of their way to ensure the success of these concerts: to the choir and the committee, particularly Maureen; to Sophie for managing the library loans over the last 6 years, and for all who have helped in the smooth running of our concerts.

On other matters, we shall continue to recruit, but only where spaces are available. The choir has sung well over the year. I want to continue to encourage full attendance and prompt starts at rehearsals. Finally, I want you to listen more to each other to ensure a good blend of sound and, in concerts, to focus maximum attention on the conductor – eyes up from the page, please!

Terence Carter
2nd October 2014