

Harp Concert



Just 30 people, mainly from our congregation, enjoyed an absolutely fascinating concert of harp music in church on Saturday 3rd December in aid of church funds.

Not only was Margaret Watson an excellent musician, she was also extremely entertaining, explaining many of the intricacies of the instrument. Her repertoire was wide, from Bach to Glenn Miller, and she threw in some Christmas carols too.

At the start of the interval most people were so interested in examining the harp up close and bombarding her with questions that they delayed having the wine and nibbles!

We are ever so grateful to Margaret, a churchwarden herself, for performing completely free of charge.

It was unfortunate that the date proved to be a problem for so many people; we would hope to get her back again, perhaps on a summer's evening.

Rod Clarke

January Services and Events

Sunday 1	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Family Communion
Friday 6	20.00	Epiphany — Holy Communion (Said)
Sunday 8	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Holy Communion
	15.00	Christingle
Sunday 15	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Café Church
Sunday 22	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Family Communion with Baptism
Sunday 29	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Family Communion

Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill to all people.

Welcome 2016 has been an eventful year for our church and it is good to end on a high note with the announcement that Lynn Hellmuth will be our new Priest in Charge.

We look forward to welcoming her in due course. And now for those New Year resolutions. How about writing something for The Listening Post? I look forward to hearing from you.

Linda Charlton (Editor)

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Christmas Message

In his little book 'Being Disciples' Rowan Williams reminds us that discipleship is about how we live. It's not just about what we believe or how much we know: it's a state of being. Discipleship is about being with Christ.

One of my favourite verses in the Bible is 2 Corinthians 5:19: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself." The need for the world to be reconciled to God and his ways has never been more urgent.

And that's where we come in. To live the Christian way of life is to

share with Christ in the business of reconciliation – whatever that means in our own lives and situations.

The celebration of Christmas is that defining moment when Christ comes into the world, but not just into the world. He comes into our hearts and minds and calls us to share with him in the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

May you enjoy a Happy Christmas and resolve to journey with Christ in the coming year.

Rev John Richardson

Our New Priest in Charge

On Monday 28 November, we held an informal supper in the Church hall. This was an opportunity for various members of St. Mary's to meet the Bishop's proposed candidate. On Tuesday afternoon, the two Church representatives (Sara and Dan) and the Archdeacon and Area Dean held an interview with the proposed candidate.

As a result, we are delighted to announce that the new priest-in-charge of St. Mary's will be Lynn Hellmuth. Lynn is currently the Vicar of St. John's, Stoneleigh, and consequently she is very familiar with the area, with the situation at St. Mary's, and is also already known to some members of the congregation.

As she explained when we first met her, Lynn had heard about the sudden resignation of Andy Cain and had prayed for our Church and for all concerned. She was very happy as Vicar of St. John's, but she increasingly felt that she was being called to come and take up a position with us and be our shepherd.

On mentioning this to the Archdeacon and Area Dean, they



were both very excited about the proposition, and they think that we are very fortunate that Lynn has felt called to be with us.

As for the time scale – Lynn has to give three months' notice at her current Church. Then, after a short break and subject to the successful outcome of health and safeguarding checks, she will begin her ministry with us. We do not yet have a definite date for this, but it will probably be sometime in April.

We thank God for an answer to prayer, and we look forward to working with Lynn as our new priest-in-charge.

Sara and Dan - Churchwardens

St Mary's Choir

It's the most wonderful (and busiest) time of the year for the St. Mary's Choir. Our service of Nine Lessons and Carols is perhaps our biggest 'sing' of the year.

As per tradition at St. Mary's we will be singing Christmas carols and popular choral works by candlelight, to be followed with mince pies and mulled wine in the hall.

Andrew Carter's *A Maiden Most Gentle* in particular has become a favourite for the choir over recent weeks. We can only hope that the sopranos can survive the last page of music for lack of breath!

The service will take place on Sunday 18th December at 6pm, and open with Max Reger's very fine Christmas organ piece, *Weihnachten*. Listen carefully to the final bars to pick out one of the most distinctive Christmas

melodies in existence. J.S. Bach's chorale prelude on *In Dulci Jubilo* will close the service.

We hope that you will enjoy the musical celebrations of Christmas just as much as we have in preparing and performing them.

We also hope that some of you will consider joining the choir in the coming year – after all, there is no better New Year's resolution than to sing some of the best and most beautiful choral music with your friends at St. Mary's.

We will be having open rehearsals throughout January and February 2017 and we warmly invite all, regardless of experience, to give it a go.

The choir rehearse in the church at 7.30 – 8.30pm every Thursday.

Michael Burt
Organist and Choirmaster

