

Director of Music Report 2024.

Firstly, I'd like to thank you for the honour and privilege of serving in the area of music at St Michael's. As such, our aim is to glorify God through excellence in music. To this end we are grateful for our roster of dedicated accompanists and choir members supporting the sung worship at our services.

In September we launched our young person's choir and have since grown steadily in numbers, mainly through visits to local primary schools, with more planned in the coming year. We aim to provide a nurturing environment where young people can find encouragement and security whilst developing musical and interpersonal skills as they grow in confidence.

Our trebles enjoy food and games at the WCC on a Friday after which we rehearse in church. We have also given our youngsters opportunities to learn how the organ works and to try out other musical instruments with a mind to inspiring them to take up lessons. At the moment they join us for all Sunday services when the choir sing, and on most of these Sundays they spend time together learning about and meeting with God during the period when the sermon takes place. Many thanks to our team of parents and other church members who help lead this ministry. If you would like to be involved, please speak to me or Dotun.

Training in singing and music theory is ongoing, with trebles working through the RSCM voice for life programme. We hope to fully admit our current 6 trebles to the choir, at the end of this year.

St Michael's continues to host recitals on Sunday afternoons, every other month throughout the year, with music from a diverse mix of artists and instruments, including musicians from within the church family. This term we look forward to welcoming the UK Chinese Music Ensemble and next year a full choir and orchestra with David Boarder. We will also be welcoming back pupils from Bishop's Stortford College next February for Thursday lunchtime recitals.

We have this year enjoyed on occasion, special evening services such as Choral Evensong on Palm Sunday. Looking ahead, we will celebrate Choral Eucharist for Corpus Christi in July by singing Vierne's stunning Messe Solennelle.

For more information on the choir and wider music life at St Michael's please follow these links:

<https://www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk/Groups/310492/Choir.aspx>

[https://www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk/Groups/310530/Music At St.aspx](https://www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk/Groups/310530/Music%20At%20St.aspx)

Please accept our hearty thanks for your trust in leading this important area of ministry and for the many words of encouragement we receive.

We should be grateful for your continued support in prayer, that we may be protected and guided by God as we seek to serve Him well in the church and community.

Finally, it is with delight that we recognise 60 years of dedicated service in the choir by our one and only, Peter Paye. Best wishes and congratulations to him and Madge for staying the course. The door remains open for folk both young and old to come and give choir a go, so please feel free to make the offer to others you think might enjoy and benefit, or go ahead and accept the offer yourself!

Yours,

Nathan