

**“Seven whole days not one in seven”**

**Inspiring people through worship and word to live out God’s love in their daily lives**



## Windmill United Benefice

### **APCM Music Report for the Windmill United Benefice April 2023 – March 2024**

#### **Choir**

The Benefice Choir currently has 27 choristers, who sing regularly in the three churches each Sunday as well as joining together to rehearse on Thursdays and to sing occasional Joint services.

Over the past year, the choir has sung together on Palm Sunday in both 2023 and 2024, Ascension Day, for the Confirmation service at Pentecost, on Advent Sunday, Midnight Mass at Christmas, at Epiphany for Nicholas Calver’s retirement service and on Ash Wednesday.

The choir sang Choral Evensong on Palm Sunday 2024.

In addition to our normal services, the Choir sang for the East Surrey Hospital Staff memorial service and for licensing of Hospital Chaplain Berenice Page, by Bishop Rosemarie.

The choir also sang for East Surrey Hospital’s Christmas Carol service, recorded by Radio Redhill and broadcast on Christmas Eve. We are booked to sing again in December 2024.

The choir contributed to a concert on the Royal Earlswood Estate in December 2023, organised by Roger Hind. We have been asked to sing again in December 2024.

Choristers felt that both Earlswood and the hospital were mission opportunities for us to use our developed skills and music to reach other people.

In October 2023. Some choristers attended a singing day in London, led by John Rutter, CBE. We enjoyed singing some of his music along with about 200 other singers.

#### **Junior Choir**

There are currently three junior choristers. More children would be wonderful and make our practices more fun. Please speak to Ginette if you know any children who may be interested. Aged 7 is a good time to start.

In August 2023, Elizabeth Barrett attended the RSCM Bath Course, which is a full, 7 day, singing week for young people held in Bath. Elizabeth thoroughly enjoyed her week and will be going again in 2024. Bryony Frost will also attend this year. They will be putting on a fund-raising concert to offset some of the costs.

In March, Elizabeth attended a Young Voices festival in Finchley, singing Evensong with other young choristers.

**RSCM Awards** – Elizabeth Barrett gained the RSCM Bronze Award in July 2023. She was presented with her medal at Southwark Cathedral in October, when she was privileged to sing choral Evensong with the cathedral choir. She is now preparing for the Silver Award, which she hopes to take this year.

## **“Seven whole days not one in seven”**

**Inspiring people through worship and word to live out God’s love in their daily lives**

### **The Windmill Songmen**

The Songmen have been well-received in all their performances this year.

In May 2023, they sang at the Coronation weekend celebrations in both Smallfield and Outwood. In September, the men sang at the Outwood Show. In November, they sang suitable songs for Remembrance at a club in East Grinstead and also at WOW in Smallfield. They proved very popular at both events and will be asked back to both in 2024. In December 2024, the men sang a few songs at the Wednesday coffee morning in Outwood.

The group invested in orange ties, which have considerably smartened their appearance.

Men are always welcome. Anyone interested in coming along should speak to Ginette or Peter (ginettenye@gmail.com or 07714403624) The group will start up again in April 2024.

### **Horne Church Band**

The band leads the family services at Horne on the first Sunday of each month. The group has remained unchanged for a year now and consequently works well together. I would like to thank Peter Nye for directing the group.

If you play an instrument and might be interested in joining, please speak to Ginette or Peter Nye.

### **Music at Café Church**

Thank you to Steve and Gill Robinson for leading the musical worship at Café church each month and to Liz Faulkner for singing. The format works well and sometimes the congregation sings in two or three parts, which is fun.

### **Handbells**

The handbell choir has met and rehearsed regularly, building on the repertoire they have previously practised and creating accomplished performances. The team played at the Smallfield Carol Service and at WOW. If you might be interested in ringing, or if you would like the group to perform somewhere, please speak to Charles Sargent.

### **Organ Recitals**

Peter Nye has given some wonderful organ recitals this year, demonstrating how the organ works and playing a range of styles and composition techniques. A good-sized audience has attended each time. Teas, coffees and cake have been served and money raised by donations towards the restoration of Horne’s pipe organ. More recitals are anticipated this year.

### **Petty Cash**

On 1 April 2023, there was £166.24 in the music petty cash. Over the last 12 months we have bought 6 sets of anthems for the choir and 30 ties for the Songmen. Income has been raised by donations from choristers, wedding and funeral fees and contributions from organisations we have performed for. The balance at 31 March 2024 is £111.25

**“Seven whole days not one in seven”**

**Inspiring people through worship and word to live out God’s love in their daily lives**

**Organs**

The pipe organ at Burstow suffers with ciphers and is particularly bad during damp and cold weather. We are indebted to Roger Hind for his ability to manage to play for services whilst avoiding certain notes and registrations. Playing with these restrictions is incredibly frustrating. We are hoping the Diocesan Organ Advisers will be able to offer some help to alleviate at least most of the problems.

The Pipe Organ at Horne has not been used at all this year. It is not in full working order. The electronic organ continues to give great service. The electrical contacts are being renewed this month as a few problems have arisen on the pedal board.

James Wells and Emma Denny continue to accompany services at Outwood. I am grateful for the support they both give to the Outwood choristers. The pipe organ is played twice a month and it currently presents very few problems.

Thank you to Peter for all the accompanying, playing, recording and internet provision he does. I couldn’t do my job without him!

I’d also like to thank all the musicians with whom we work, in whatever capacity, for your commitment, perseverance and enthusiasm. It is a joy to share music with you all.

Ginette Nye

Director of Music, Windmill United Benefice

*ginettenye@gmail.com*

26 March 2024