

St Michael the Archangel Music Report 2021

Well my friends, it is a little more than obvious that I won't have much to comment on this year. Sadly, the circumstances of the pandemic have caused what is – whilst understandable and accepted – a chaotic and frustrating impact on our fellowship and worship.

However, there are some good things to have emerged from the situation. There is the fact that whenever I have been able to amass the choir after a lockdown period, they have responded with exuberance and enthusiasm. Each and every-one of them has had their issues to contend with yet, they have been there. I can tell you now that they are all champing at the bit to resume their choral duties and I also cannot wait for us to be back together to sing Gods praise.

On a less happy note, you will all be aware that owing to developing ill health, Les Reed has had to bring his time of singing in the choir to an end. It was with great sadness that I received the news from him and – although I know it probably won't happen – I assured him that he would be welcomed with open arms whenever he felt able to come to church. Les has been a stalwart of St Michaels choir for many years and since my appointment as Organist & Choirmaster, he has been a tremendous help to me with his knowledge of past traditions and material.

I am hoping that by the time you get to read this report, we will be looking forward to getting our worship and fellowship back to normal. We may also be preparing to welcome a new Team Rector but, I would like to offer and register my sincere thanks and gratitude to Jane, Sue, Helena and Jack for holding us together. It cannot have been easy and Jane in particular – I think – has done a tremendous job given the fact that she hadn't long been in Post as Team Vicar.

Finally, I was so very happy to be appointed to the post of Organist & Choirmaster at St Michaels. That has not and will not change. The joy that I feel when playing the organ and hearing the choir perform has not lessened in any way. I look forward to continuing to try to enhance your worship and to supporting the clergy in their ministry.

I remain yours

Derek..