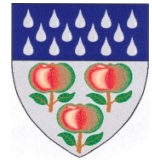




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No. 101

St Swithun's Choir e-newsletter

July 2022

The program for July

Our July program has no special services listed. But the Psalm Celebration in August looms large on the rehearsal schedule.

Last month – June

June turned out to be busier than we had expected. On the first Sunday, we joined hundreds of choirs around the Commonwealth in singing the anthem *In our Service* composed especially to celebrate the seventieth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

There was the funeral for our good friend Ian Bullock who worked quietly and consistently in the background for Parish, and particularly choir, events.

Then we sang an Ascension Evensong for a generous congregation. It was good to sing the Brewer canticles again after a break of three years.

Phillip announced to the choir that Salisbury has re-issued its invitation to be Choir in Residence for a week in July next year. The committee held its first meeting.

We sang for the Huguenot congregation at their annual service in the presence of the Patron of the Huguenot Society of Australia, His Excellency M. Jean-Pierre Thébault, Ambassador of France to Australia. As well as *La Cévenole* which we now sing as the introit every year at this service, we sang the hymn *We Praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator* to an arrangement of the hymn tune *Kremser* by Peter Hamilton.

There was another funeral, this time for Russ Roberts, a long-time parishioner. And a third, for Peter Harrison, another long-time parishioner who actually came with us to Dublin in 2017.

And we attracted a new chorister – Paul Green, who has joined the bass line. Welcome Paul.

The Foundation concert for 2022

In October we shall present our annual fund-raiser for the Swiz Cultural Foundation. The main item on the program will be Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. Copies of the piece will soon be distributed and rehearsals will follow shortly afterwards. Readers, and choristers, can familiarise themselves with the work on You Tube. It runs for just under 30 minutes.

Some useful part-learning links for choristers are:

http://www.cyberbass.com/Major_Works/Britten_B/britten_ceremony_carols_satb.htm, and: [Ceremony-of-Carols \(learnchoralmusic.co.uk\)](http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk/Ceremony-of-Carols)

Peter Gilkes will run a couple of learning sessions on Saturdays in July; from 1 to 5 pm on the 16th and 30th.

Psalms

Peter Hamilton has assembled a selection of Psalms which we shall present in August. Only two of them are sung to 'Anglican chant'. The program will consist of

- 6 hymns
- 5 choral anthems
- 4 chanted psalms
- 4 spoken responsories
- 4 readings

We have already begun rehearsals with Psalm 150 to a setting by Louis Lewandowski, a Jewish cantor and composer of synagogue music.

Goulburn

We have a confirmed gig at St Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn on the weekend of 24 and 25 September.

On Sunday we will sing Choral Eucharist at 10 am and Evensong at 5 pm. In between the two services, on the Sunday afternoon, we shall present a concert program, details to be advised. We may expect to rehearse in the Cathedral on Saturday afternoon and then enjoy dinner together at a venue to be recommended by our hosts.

St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn

We shall leave it to individuals to arrange accommodation for themselves and anyone they might wish to accompany them. An inspection of various websites suggests a variety of accommodations are available, some quite close to the Cathedral. Some of us might like to travel down on Friday and return on the following Monday. A long weekend in the Southern Highlands in Springtime will be a wonderful experience.



The Swiz organ

St Swithun's was host to members of the Organ Music Society of Sydney on the Queen's Birthday holiday in June. First, a report on the occasion by Don Mayes:

The Organ Music Society of Sydney held its Queen's Birthday Organ Ramble at St John the Evangelist Church, Gordon, and at Swiz, on Monday 13 June. This gives the Society members the chance to hear significant pipe organs, and to play them.

The morning was spent at Gordon, where the Church recently installed a 4-manual organ. This impressive instrument was introduced by their new organist, Gareth Baard. He demonstrated the many and varied stops before opening up the console to anyone present who wished to play it.

The afternoon session was introduced by Peter Hamilton at St Swithun's. Peter prepared a helpful sheet for all attending, and included a brief history of our organ, and a full page specification sheet which is reproduced here, on Page 4. What an impressive list of stops!

Peter introduced the organ, then gave a recital which demonstrated the stops and the range of the instrument. A number of those present then accepted his invitation to play.

In his introduction, Peter disclosed that this year marks his fiftieth year as an organist. Congratulations Peter. We look forward to your next fifty years.

Don Mayes

This is the information given to the forty or so society members who attended. Peter Hamilton's description of the organ may be of interest to some readers.

Welcome to all Organ Ramblers!

St Swithun's welcomes members of the Organ Music Society of Sydney to hear and play the organ which accompanies its RSCM-affiliated choir of about 40 singers.

Neil Cameron wrote a comprehensive article in The Sydney Organ Journal (Autumn 1999 Vol 30 No. 2). His main points remain pertinent:

- The acoustics of the church are appalling. Norman McPherson, despite being a prominent architect and the church's organist, designed a building which is "dead" acoustically – quite inappropriate for both speech and music.
- Between 1975 and 1985 the church acquired two second-hand pipe organs: the 1920 W L Roberts organ from the Methodist Church at Mosman, and the 1906 C Richardson organ from Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Dubbo.
- After some controversy the parish agreed to proceed with the construction of an organ using material from those two organs (supplemented by other new or second-hand pipes and parts). Brown and Arkley were contracted to create a new instrument from these disparate sources.

- Despite its interesting pedigree and the building's poor acoustics, the organ is effective in supporting congregational singing, in accompanying the choir, and for the voluntaries that precede and follow the morning services.

Since that article was written, several changes have been made to the specification:

- The Swell Closed Horn was replaced by a Trumpet.
- A Tromba 8' was added to the Choir division.
- The Pedal 2' Flute was discarded.
- Because the Pedal Bourdon 16' is "tubby", the Pedal division lacked a soft 16' register. Hmm. The pipe chamber was already chock-a-block. (Indeed I have not seen a pipe chamber with a higher ratio of pipes to cubic metres.) Given there was no room in the pipe chamber for any more large pipes, an electronic 16' Violone was added, its volume adjustable by the Swell pedal.
- That proved so successful that an electronic 32' Contra Violone was recently added – its volume is also adjustable by the Swell pedal, so it can provide the gentlest presence or a robust bass according to need.
- The Swell division lacked a soft reed. But there was no room in the Swell box for another rank, and none of the existing ranks deserved to be sacrificed. Ian Sell proposed adding an electronic Oboe 8'. He then advised that, for very little extra expense, another 3 electronic stops could also be provided. So three more gaps were plugged: a soft Suabe Flute 4' was added to the Swell; and to the Great were added a Harmonic Flute 4' and a large Open Diapason 8'.

Peter Hamilton



Organists are in the news this edition.



We all know how very co-ordinated these folks need to be with their hands and their feet!! You will of course recognise the grandad in these shots. The 3-year old is August Alexander Mayes.



The provisional calendar for 2022

Day	Date	Time	Location	Service/activity
Saturday	20 August	5 pm	Swiz	Celebration of Psalms
Saturday	10 September	5 pm	Swiz	Evensong
Sat-Sun	24-25 Sept		Goulburn	Concert and two services
Saturday	29 October	7 pm	Swiz	Foundation concert
Saturday	26 November	5 pm	Swiz	Advent Evensong
Sunday	18 December	9 am	Swiz	Lessons and carols
Saturday	24 December	10 pm	Swiz	Christmas Eve
Sunday	25 December	8 am	Swiz	Christmas Choral Communion

Add to this schedule possible carols on Bannockburn Oval, lessons and carols at local nursing homes and a lunchtime concert at RNS Hospital at dates and times to be fixed.

And for 2023

Mon -Sun	10 - 16 Jun		Salisbury	Choir in residence
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Stop list of the Swiz organ

Great 16' Bourdon 8' Open Diapason No. 1 8' Open Diapason No. 2 8' Stopped Diapason 4' Principal 4' Harmonic Flute 2' Fifteenth II Sesquialtera IV Mixture 8' Posaune	1	M E D D D E O O O O	Pipes by Fincham Pipes from ?? in England Pipes by Giesecke & Sohn
Swell 8' Violin Diapason 8' Lieblich Gedact 8' Salicional 8' Vox Angelica II 4' Gemshorn 4' Suabe Flute 2' Fifteenth II Mixture 16' Bassoon 8' Trumpet 8' Oboe Tremulant	2	D M O D M E O O O O E	Pipes by Hill (from Manly Presbyterian Church) Pipes by Laukhuff Pipes by Laukhuff Pipes by Hardy (from Young Anglican Church) Pipes by Laukhuff
Choir 8' Chimney Flute 8' Dulciana 4' Coppel Flute 2' Fifteenth III Mixture 16' Dulzian 8' Cremona 8' Tromba	4 3	O O O O O O O O	Pipes by Stinkens Pipes by Palmer Pipes by Stinkens Pipes by Tamar Pipes by Tamar Pipes by Stinkens Pipes by Laurie Pipes by ?
Pedal 32' Contra Violone 16' Sub Bass 16' Bourdon 16' Violone 8' Principal 8' Bass Flute 4' Fifteenth 4' Flute III Mixture 32' Contra Fagot 16' Trombone 16' Dulzian 8' Fagot	2 1 2 5 1 5 1 3 3 4 3	E M M E M M M M O E O O O	Only the lowest 24 notes are electronic Only the lowest 12 notes are electronic Only the lowest 12 notes are electronic Pipes by Stinkens

The numbers in the 2nd column indicate derived / borrowed / related ranks.

Key: M = pipes from Roberts organ in Mosman
 D = pipes from Richardson organ in Dubbo
 O = pipes sourced from elsewhere
 E = electronic stop

The organ has the usual unison couplers, and 24 divisional and 9 general combination pistons.

Celebrating the Psalms



Featuring 20 of the 150 psalms in

- 6 hymns
- 5 choral anthems
- 4 chanted psalms
- 4 spoken responsories
- 4 readings

with St Swithun's Choir directed by Phillip Linquist

Saturday August 20th at 5pm



St Swithun's Anglican Church

2 Telegraph Road Pymble

Free. Followed by refreshments. All welcome!

WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY CHOIR
WITH WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY
PETER ELLIS

SOPRANO
SARAH TOTH

MEZZO-SOPRANO
CELESTE HAWORTH

TENOR
JOSHUA OXLEY

BARITONE
TEDDY TAHU RHODES

Elijah

MENDELSSOHN

2PM SUNDAY
3 JULY 2022



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