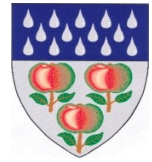




Hyfrydol



No. 99

St Swithun's Choir e-newsletter

May 2022

The program for May

The Covid witch is still hovering, but having worked her way through a generous sampling of the choir, she has either lost her wicked power, or we are choosing to ignore her. The limitations of the past two years are definitely not forgotten, but life is settling back into a more normal routine. The Government and the Diocese require only that we be careful. We still spread over a wider area than the installed choir pews, and those who choose to are still wearing masks while not singing. Perhaps in another year or so life will be as it was in the old days.

There are no "special extra" events scheduled through May. We have five Sundays, each with its own "special" anthem. Only one, John Rutter's version of *The Lord of the Dance*, will be a new one for the congregation. Phillip held this over from Easter so that we might make a better fist of it. Of the other four well-known anthems, John Rutter is responsible for two of them and Malcolm Archer composed another. For the remaining one, Peter Gilkes is scheduled to reprise his Messiah question about the furious nations to fit precisely with the sermon topic for the day – Psalm 2.

Last month, April

April was busy. We presented our Lenten selections from *Messiah* on the evening before Palm Sunday. Special thanks to Peter Hamilton who played non-stop for 90 minutes or more. Handel composed the work for a chamber orchestra. Organists have to double for the whole ensemble and thus have a mammoth task. Thanks to the several friends who augmented the Swiz choir members and gave us 39 voices on the night. We must note again that all of the solos and recitatives were sung by Swiz choir members; Amanda and Belinda, Margaret, Eleanor, Louise, Suzanne and Cathy Sampson, Peter and Phillip, Don and Brian. Andrew del Riccio and Ben Blunt added trumpets as the score demanded, and Stuart Holman provided the narration to make the whole work more meaningful to the near-capacity congregation.

We were all back the following morning with very tired voices to sing *God so loved the world*.

The following weekend began with the Good Friday service; four anthems, including a reprise of Peter Hamilton's *O God early in the morning I cry unto you*, and five congregational hymns.

There was new music for Easter Day: Malcolm Archer's setting of *Good Christians all rejoice and sing*.



After two big weekends, Peter took off for a week on the high seas of Pittwater, leaving Kate Choi to work the organ for our Anzac Day service. And she did a fine job, thank you Kate. There was more new music; Malcolm Archer's setting of Laurence Binyon's famous poem, *For the fallen*. Oliver Kaan played the *Last Post* and *Rouse*, and he also provided the trumpet accompaniment to Peter Hamilton's *Gloria*. We wonder if Peter has ever heard his composition with all of its trimmings.

And finally, we provided a smaller choir to support the congregational singing at the funeral of Barbara Martin. It was an unusually busy month after so much choral disruption over the past two years.



A possible visit to Goulburn

As advised last month, The Cathedral Church of St Saviour in Goulburn is looking forward to welcoming us on the weekend of 24th and 25th September. The Dean is keen that the Cathedral resumes presenting Evensong monthly, and we would like to support that worthy objective. And if we give the Cathedral choir (led by Director of Music Barbara Griffin) encouragement too, great!

St Saviour's Cathedral

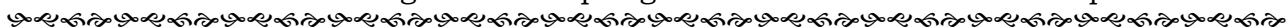
On Sunday we will sing Choral Eucharist at 10 am and Evensong at 5 pm. We will rehearse in the Cathedral on Saturday and then enjoy dinner together at a venue to be recommended by our hosts.



An optional extra is to present a concert on the Saturday afternoon. Obviously this would require us to arrive in Goulburn earlier for rehearsal. We might present excerpts from the Celebration of Psalms, and excerpts from other concerts we have presented for the Swiz Cultural Foundation.

Before committing to the Cathedral, we needed a good indication of who would like to participate. That indication was sought by Peter at our rehearsal on Thursday 28 April. The endorsement was almost unanimous, and included the Saturday concert. Carol's suggestion that it might be an afternoon concert will be offered to the Cathedral, along with an invitation for local participation.

We shall leave it to individuals to arrange accommodation for themselves and anyone they might wish to accompany them. Goulburn has lots of motels and other tourist housing. If the concert idea goes ahead, then 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 should be a wonderful experience.



For the fallen

We presented a new anthem at the Anzac Day service; *For the Fallen*, with music by Malcolm Archer. Laurence Binyon wrote his poem of that name in 1914. It was written in mid-September, a few weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. During these weeks the British Expeditionary Force had suffered casualties following its first encounter with the German Army at the Battle of Mons on 23 August, its rear-guard action during the retreat from Mons in late August and the Battle of Le Cateau on 26 August, and its participation with the French Army at the First Battle of the Marne between 5 and 9 September 1914.

Laurence (born Arthur Laurence Binyon in 1869) was too old at 45 to enlist in the military forces but he went to work for the Red Cross as a medical orderly in 1916. He lost several close friends and his brother-in-law in the war.

As to how it came to be written, he said: "I can't recall the exact date beyond that it was shortly after the retreat. I was set down, out of doors, on a cliff in Polzeath, Cornwall. The stanza *They shall grow not old* was written first and dictated the rhythmical movement of the whole poem."

The full poem, which follows, was published in *The Times* newspaper on 21 September 1914:

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.



**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.



A plaque marks the location at Pentire Point, north of Polzeath, close to where the poem was written.

The provisional calendar for 2022

Day	Date	Time	Location	Service/activity
Sunday	5 June	9 am	Swiz	Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Saturday	11 June	5 pm	Swiz	Evensong
Sunday	12 June	9 am	Swiz	RSCM Music Sunday
Sunday	19 June	2 pm	Swiz	Huguenot service
Saturday	20 August	5 pm	Swiz	Celebration of Psalms
Sat-Sun	24-25 Sept		Goulburn	Concert and two services
Saturday	29 October	5 pm	Swiz	Evensong
Saturday	26 November	8 pm	Swiz	Foundation concert

Hyfrydol

Particularly alert readers may have noticed that this May 2022 issue of *Hyfrydol* is numbered 99. The next issue, June 2022, will be the hundredth. The first came out in May 2013 under the *Sing Joyfully* masthead. The editor is always very grateful for the contributions received from readers. A special call for contributions to the next issue which might reflect upon the past nine years of the choir's continuing and fruitful history is now made. Send them to chideock@optusnet.com.au.

Recent past copies of *Hyfrydol* are available through the Choir page on the Swiz website, swiz.org.au. Open the website, click on the *Ministries* heading and then on the *Choir* heading. The choir page shows the music list for a few weeks in advance. Then, scroll to the bottom of the Choir page and, voila! There is the *Hyfrydol* link!

The last word

Apparently, this notice can now be found in all French churches:

En entrant dans cette église, il est possible que vous entendiez l'appel de Dieu. Par contre, il n'est pas susceptible de vous contacter par téléphone. Merci d'avoir éteint votre téléphone. Si vous souhaitez parler à Dieu, entrez, choisissez un endroit tranquille et parle lui. Si vous souhaitez le voir, envoyez-lui un SMS en conduisant.

Translation:

It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God. On the other hand, it is not likely that he will contact you by phone. Thank you for turning off your phone. If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to him. If you would like to see him, send him a text while driving.