

PCC REPORT – Music – January 2016

Highlights

SERVICES

Holy week: Music provided for Palm and Easter Sunday, and for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Eve
Palm Sunday – included a mass setting composed by our Organ Scholar, Kimberley Farris-Manning
Maundy Thursday and Good Friday 2pm both were supported by the Choristers of St John the Divine
Easter Eve had simple congregational music, and the Exultet was sung by the Deacon, Gillian Hoyer
Easter Morning was supported by the Choristers, both organists, and the Pinnacle Brass.
Choral support will continue to early June (with the exception of last week, the 2nd Sunday of Easter)

CONCERTS

The St John's Chamber Singers (an expanded version of the Choristers) with the Victoria Baroque Players presented Bach's St John Passion on Tuesday of Holy Week. Attendance was nearly 400; the concert featured as soloists two of our choral scholars, **Rachel Allen and Alana Hayes**, as well as students from the VCM and UVic, both current and recent graduates. This monumental work was written for Holy Week in Leipzig in 1725, so its presentation here was very timely.

Personnel, scholars, students

Esther-Ruth Teel, one of the young organists mentioned last report, who has been taking lessons from me, practising at St John's, and playing during services from time to time, has been accepted to the organ programme at the University of Toronto in the autumn.

Organ and facilities

Grant Smalley has completed the first maintenance item from his report to the Parish Council in November (the replacement of the Swell motor). This has made a big difference from the organists' perspective: the swell shades now operate smoothly, quietly, and provide a much more effective control of the volume of sound from the Swell pipes.

We have been in touch with Casavant Frères regarding an assessment of the organ; we hope to set up a visit from Casavant's representative as part of a trip he is planning to the west coast in the next few months.

Follow-up on items from past reports and looking forward

ROBES – we were hoping to raise a bit of extra money beyond the donated \$2000 for robes by running a note in the leaflet; unfortunately nothing has come of this. Action on the current donation (e.g. replacement of a number of the worst cassocks) is still pending.

CARPET – is due to be lifted in the Chancel on 28th. The choir is very much looking forward to trying out this new acoustical situation.

HOLIDAYS – I will be away during the month of July, and am currently trying to secure coverage during that time. There will be a Pride Evensong again in July, which the Rev. Patrick Sibley is organising.

CHRIST'S COLLEGE CHOIR from Cambridge will be visiting Victoria and giving a concert at St John's on **July 4th** (they last visited about five years ago, and were keen to include St John's on this tour as well). We will need billets for approximately 24 choristers! I hope to secure these with announcements, word-of-mouth, and notices in the leaflet. More details on the concert will be coming soon!

Respectfully submitted,
David Stratkauskas
Director of Music