

Friends of the Music: Holy Trinity Church

Newsletter – Autumn 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

We start this update with a warm welcome to Colin Millington as the new Director of Music at Holy Trinity. We are very much looking forward to working with Colin going forward and are already delighted to share in his enthusiasm for all things musical at Holy Trinity and his plans for the choir.

Looking Back

Our last Newsletter was circulated in April, since when it has been a busy Summer for the Friends of the Music.

Annual General Meeting

Held on 22 June and chaired by the Vicar, the meeting enabled us to report on our activities over the past year and elect the committee for the coming year. The meeting also included the opportunity to recognise the achievements of our young choristers with the distribution of awards and prizes. The meeting was followed by talented performances from a number of the choristers.

Concerts

In addition to our weekly lunchtime Soundbites series, which has continued to attract audiences averaging 100 attendees, the Friends have hosted two very successful evening events. On Sunday 27 April, we re-instated the 'Shakespeare Organ Recital' with Martin Baker giving a remarkable recital. The event also celebrated the re-commissioning of the refurbished organ.

On Saturday 7 June, the Oxford based choir LUCEAT, directed by James Fellows, presented a musical and liturgical reconstruction of the Coronation of Elizabeth I (*Gloriana*). The evening began with the Warwick Minstrels, a group of young musicians playing music of the period. The church was then used to glorious effect as LUCEAT as brought the Coronation to life.

Royal School of Church Music, Residential Summer School

Building on the precedent of the past two years, the Friends were again pleased to provide bursaries for four choristers to attend this week long course which took place in Bath in August. The following comment from Bethany, one of the choristers who we supported, sums up the value of the week:

"It was a week of learning, friendship, and lots of singing with our week culminating with two beautiful services at Bath Abbey. I have always found the Bath course to be an invaluable way to build confidence in my singing and site reading, making me a better singer. So from all four of us thank you for your support."

Piano for the Parish Centre

The Friends of the Music are delighted to have provided funding for the purchase of a new digital piano for the Holy Trinity Parish Centre. The piano, a KAWAI CA 701, will be a great resource for all who use the Parish Centre for making music. Many thanks to Malcom Robinson and Colin Millington for their work on researching and procuring the instrument.

Organ scholar

As the Autumn gets underway it is a joy to welcome Nicolas McNab, a year 13 student at King Edwards School, to Holy Trinity as an Organ Scholar. Nicolas will be installed in the role at the 10.00 service on Sunday 12th October. The scholarship is funded by the Friends of the Music.

Looking Ahead

Soundbites Programme: October – November 2025

Thanks to the generosity of a number of local musicians and the continuing interest and support of students from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire we look forward to welcoming you to the following series of free recitals which will take place in the church from 13.00 – 13.30. Please note that all concerts in November will take place in the Parish Centre. Refreshments will continue to be available from 12.15 pm.

1 October	<i>Alex Wyatt (Piano)</i>
8 October	<i>Jinhe Huang (Viola) and Jiayi Chen (Piano)</i>
15 October	<i>Singer with Bianca Vancea (Piano)</i>
22 October	<i>Sam Weakley (Baritone) and Ella Cordon Vieito (piano)</i>
29 October	<i>Joshua Tan (Violin) and Colin Millington (Piano)</i>
5 November	<i>Otium Wind Quartet</i>
12 November	<i>To be confirmed</i>
19 November	<i>King Edward VI Senior School Musicians</i>
26 November	<i>Fosseway Chamber Orchestra</i>

Further details of the Soundbites programmes are available at:
<https://www.htcfom.co.uk/soundbites>

And Looking Further Ahead.....

Visit to St David's

In Summer 2026 the Choir of Holy Trinity will be singing the services at St Davids Cathedral, Pembrokeshire over the weekend of 28-30 August. The Friends of the Music are looking to organise a related trip to St Davids to support the choir. It is envisaged that a two night trip will cost c. £300 per person for Bed and Breakfast accommodation (either in local hotels or self-catering properties) plus travel. Travel will most likely be by coach. Do contact us if you think you would be interested in joining the trip. *Email: fomhtc20@gmail.com*

Further information on this trip and on related fund-raising concerts will follow in due course.

Thank you for your continued support for, and interest in, the Friends!

Caroline Thomas, Chair.