

Musical Notes

'Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
Praise the Lord with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
Sing to him a new song;
play skilfully, and shout for joy.' (Psalm 33, NIV)

Thirteen musicians and singers gathered in Garforth last month to play Advent music; even if I knew, I'm not sure it would be entirely proper to comment on how 'righteous' or 'upright' we were, and no-one remembered to bring harps or lyres, but we managed to sing plenty of 'new songs', as well as older ones! The occasion was West Yorkshire Church Music Network's repertoire sharing afternoon: 'Music for Advent', held on Sunday, 18th October at St Benedict's.

'New' had the obvious meaning of 'just written', – whether it was new words for familiar tunes – Brian Hamill's 'Angels Guardian' – or a hauntingly beautiful guitar accompaniment, written by the singer, for 'Saviour Lord', a hymn composed by pilgrims, and sung on coach journeys en route to various shrines. However, 'new' also had the sense of 'new to me', and as intended at WYCMN events, this swapping of musical ideas was really useful. St Benedict's parishioners provided tea, coffee biscuits and a friendly welcome to all – and I think that all helps to promote good music!

Matt Conroy, a regular participant despite the journey from South Yorkshire, will not be able to offer as much support in future as he has secured a new job in Cambridge – we'll miss him as a highly capable organist and a stalwart of the network.

Details of all the music we played can be found on the website, www.westyorkshirechurchmusic.org.uk and also, information about the next WYCMN event, as details become finalised. It will be in the New Year, and focus on Lent/Easter music. If you'd like to be on the Network email list to hear about future events, please let me know.

Tim Devereux

tim.devereux@ssg.org.uk