

Choir and Music Report

It has been another challenging year for the choir due to the stringent Covid restrictions affecting singing. When church had to close again in January, we continued to livestream a simple service from the building featuring organ music and a hymn. We opened on Palm Sunday and were restricted to no more than 3 choristers for all Holy Week and Easter services. The congregation were not allowed to sing for several more months. We divided our singers into groups and provided music for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. The Archdeacon took our Easter services and gave the congregation permission to hum gently behind masks for the final hymn; Thine be the Glory! We were able to introduce a couple of congregational hymns again by July and re-formed a regular socially distanced choir in the Autumn.

In November we welcomed Becky as our new vicar and had a choir filling the stalls for the first time in 18 months. It was a milestone! We also managed to attend the Cenotaph Service with our friends from St Joseph's and put together a Christmas Carol Service. It was lovely to be singing and rehearsing again, even if we all felt rather rusty.

In the Autumn we managed to re-start Community Choir in a fairly small scale way while we addressed the Covid precautions necessary and learned how to manage the tech and words ourselves without Barbara's marvellous input. All our pianists volunteered their services once more and we felt very happy to join with friends to make music once again.

The Manchester Organists' Association held another introductory session, Demystifying the Organ, organised by Kevin which was well received and a couple of participants have taken up the offer to further their interest and use our lovely instrument for practice.

Anne Allen
Director of Music