



June
2011

Immanuel's GROUND

Warwick's West Gallery Quire

NEWSLETTER

Summertime Evensongs

1. IDLICOTE Sunday 22 May 2011
2. TARDEBIGGE Sunday 26 June 2011

IDLICOTE, Warwickshire - Sunday 22 May

The church of St James the Great at Idlicote is tucked away at the head of the village, off the driveway to the 'Big House' and is listed Grade 1. It was neglected by the Victorians to a very large extent, and as a result retains the furniture and fittings which make up so much of the history of the west gallery period and where it is a joy to sing music of the time in a country parish church—high double-decker pulpit with Rector's and Clerk's desks immediately below, Rectory and Manorial box pews, and space for the congregation on an open box pew with benches facing the pulpit.



Two-decker and
Rector's &
Clerk's desks

During our practice in the church the previous Wednesday evening we had been met by a lady parishioner and her three dogs. As we left and walked with her down the gravel path beside the Big House she apologised "sorry I came to meet you with the dogs, but they are always useful in making up the congregation". Come Sunday we carefully inserted some 30 of us into the space under the gallery (we might have taken over the gallery itself had it not been for the harmonium bolted to the floor in the middle of the quire pews). The band overflowed into the passage leading from the north door, the church mouse scuttled under the pews, making for a hole in the wainscot under the Clerk's bench, and a few parishioners turned up early to sit expectantly under the pulpit. We need not have worried about the dogs, for in the next quarter of an hour well over 45 other people arrived from the depths of the countryside, so many in fact that they had to overflow into the chancel, and thus we numbered some 80 in all for service.

The Service of Evening Prayer followed the usual familiar words from the Prayer Book, using metrical words to the Cantate Domino (tune: Psalm 98) and Deus Misereatur (tune: Fish Street), the psalm for the day being Psalm 108 to the tune 'Milford'. The quire sang as the Anthem Joseph Key's *Easter Anthem*, and the hymns (in actual fact metrical psalms) were to the tunes Wareham, Old 100th and Hanover, all taken from the WGMA Psalter *Praise & Glory*, and the Evening Hymn (Tallis's Canon) in its proper place after the Sermon, taken from *The Singing Seat*. The Bridport Responses were also used—and what an experience, to lead as Cantor from the Clerk's desk!



It was a moving experience for many, with one lady visitor taking fond memories of it back with her to Istanbul. After the service refreshments were laid out in the Lady Chapel, and we were able to talk to members of the congregation, all of whom were most appreciative that so many had turned up to make the occasion so joyous. We have been invited back for Evensong in another of the churches within the same benefice.

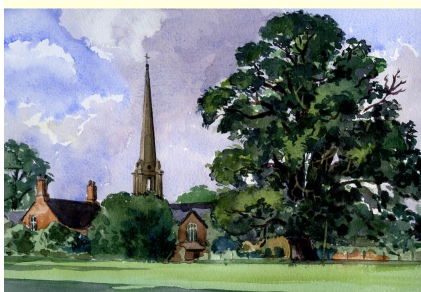


TARDEBIGGE, Worcestershire

Sunday 26 June at 4.00 pm (not 6.00 pm as previously stated)

Flower Festival at St Bartholomew's Church

Tardebigge Church—from a painting by local artist and illustrator Rob Adams



On Sunday 26th June we visit the galleried church of St Bartholomew at Tardebigge, near Bromsgrove, and as part of their Flower Festival we shall be giving a short Recital during the afternoon. This, in part, will be an Open Rehearsal using the music for the Evensong we shall be singing at 4.00 pm. We look forward to renewing friends and acquaintances there.

There has been a church on this most picturesque site since 1138, St Bartholomew's having been built anew in 1776 following the final collapse of the tower of the old church on September 3rd 1775. Its tall spire can be seen as a local landmark for many miles around. One of the reasons for holding the Flower Festival is that the church was built of a very soft sandstone, and consequently the stonework is in constant need of renewal and repair.

Our Evensong service promises to be quite different to that at Idlicote because of the Georgian atmosphere of the church. The music will include well known hymns in the west gallery style, and the *Nunc Dimittis* is by William Jackson of Exeter. William Billings's *Easter Anthem* comes from 18th century New England, as does Justin Morgan's tune 'Pleasant Valley' which we use for one of the settings of part of Psalm 119. Entry to the church and Flower Festival is free of charge on Sunday, but of course begging bowls will be much in evidence! Cream teas and refreshments will be available.

Mid Shires' Quires' Day - April 2011

Well over 60 people attended our Seventh annual day of West Gallery music with a Midlands' flavour held in Byfield on April 30th. Workshop leaders included Tony Singleton (Kent), Ken Baddley (Bedford) and Fynn Titford-Mock (Stream of Sound), as well as resident leaders Sheila and Edwin Macadam. The choice of music included many new local composers — William East (Waltham), Edmund Creek Hore (Lower Heyford), William Millard (Woburn), John Munden (Brixworth) as well as Joseph Nicholds (Cosely, Staffs.) and John Nicholls (Tipton), the last two being Fynn's special research project for his Masters Degree at Newcastle-upon-Tyne University.

All were agreed that the choice of music this year had an added flavour to it, making it a very "singable" occasion, not least because there were included three settings of Psalm 128, the wedding psalm, in honour of Prince William and Catherine Middleton's wedding the previous day. The next Mid-Shires' Quires' Day will be on Saturday 28th April 2012.

SUMMER & AUTUMN DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

We are 10 years old this year!! The Quire will be visiting Lower Brailes and Long Compton to sing during the morning and Broughton Castle in the afternoon of Saturday 23rd July. Details on website.

Wednesday 28th September. Open practice evening 8pm. Come and join us for some Harvest and Christmas music as we practice for the Radford Semele concert (See below). Please email Editor if you intend coming so that we have enough music!

Saturday 15th October. Evening Fundraising Concert in aid of the rebuilding of St Nicholas' Church, Radford Semele, Warwickshire, after its total destruction by arson. This will take place in the Village Hall at Radford Semele.



Radford Semele, before and after the fire



St Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge

Flower Festival

Saturday June 25 and Sunday June 26, 2011



Beautiful flower arrangements

Plants for sale

Musical entertainment

Delicious refreshments

St Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge

Flower Festival

Saturday June 25 and Sunday June 26, 2011

Church will be open from 9am

Theme: Our Local Community

Both days:

Come and see the wonderful arrangements by local groups and businesses, all displayed in the attractive St Bartholomew's Church

Sample delicious refreshments

Saturday:

Buy your own plants in the Plant Sale from 10am

Make sure you arrive early to avoid disappointment!



Sunday:

Enjoy music from 'Immanuel's Ground'

This 'Quire' from Warwickshire sings sacred and secular music from the Georgian era and harmonies from colonial New England, with members dressed in costumes of the time. Exact times to be confirmed.

4pm: Sung Evensong by the Quire to close the Festival

Entry fee £2 on Saturday (children free) Donations requested on Sunday

St Bartholomew's Church, Church Lane, Tardebigge, Bromsgrove B60 3AH
8am Morning Service • 9.30am Worship for All • 11am Parish Eucharist to celebrate the Patronal Festival of St Bartholomew's • 4pm Sung Evensong (Immanuel's Ground)