

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

MUSIC REPORT- APCM 2021

On looking at last year's report, I see that I expressed the hope that things would be back to "normal" by the time we had the postponed APCM. Well, I can't really say that they were, but we have definitely had some music during the last year.

Once we started online services, I was able, with the invaluable help of Nick Castell, to work out how we could include music on Zoom, on a regular basis. I can't say that it was always easy, as it was the steepest of learning curves, and there were definitely some techie nightmare moments, but we managed to get into a pattern of sharing music, with the words on the screen, so that people could sing along at home. I soon discovered that there are lots of recordings of hymns etc on iTunes, some not so wonderful, but plenty by cathedral choirs from all round the country. It's also been a chance to widen the repertoire, with new worship songs to be listened to, and often an anthem or some instrumental music at the very end of the service. My thanks are also due to Charlotte, who covered for me most efficiently when we were on holiday.

It was a real joy to be able to have some services in church during the autumn, and though we weren't allowed to have congregational singing, we managed to have a solo singer or instrumentalist at each service. It was lovely to welcome back both Nick and Dan, our brilliant organists, who had been champing at the bit to play the organ again. Sadly, that didn't last very long, but the final thing we were able to do live, was to get the choir together one evening mid-December, suitably distanced, to record carols for the Carol Service, with Nick at the organ. We were so grateful to Nick for bringing his recording equipment and setting everything up for us, and we were very pleased with the results. It was very special to be able to hear our own choir singing some of the carols at the Christmas services, but we really hope that this year we'll be able to do everything live!

I would like to thank those who took part in our live services, especially Nick, Dan, Olivia, Charlotte and Woody, and the choir members who formed a small group to sing at a couple of funerals, as well as the aforementioned carols. I think I speak for all the musicians and choir, when I say that we long to get back to singing in church again.

There have been no safeguarding issues this year.

Janet Sharp
March 2021