

St Margaret's Choir

The choir have had a busy year as usual, involving two full choral services every Sunday apart from four weeks in the Summer and the Sundays after Christmas and Easter. Even then there is usually a hard core of the choir who are happy to turn up and sing an anthem and support the congregational mass setting.

This year we have enjoyed two 'away days' (I usually try to have one each year). First was a day out in September on the Settle/Carlisle railway, arranged by Catherine Cheater. When she wrote to the cathedral to ask permission for an informal 10 minute sing, they at once wrote back and suggested we sang evensong before we went back. So I got to play and direct (with Anthony Gray's help) an evensong in the cathedral for the first time since I was there doing evensong every day as Assistant Organist in 1973!

On March 1st this year we went to Harrogate to sing Solemn Evensong and Benediction at St Wilfrid's alongside Anthony Gray's choir there. An ambitious programme of Gibbons and Whitlock, Gray and Rathbone was sung, as well as a plainsong Psalm and three hymns, and again AG and I alternated 'grinding' and 'waving' duties. And what glorious and inspiring churches they both are, with encouraging acoustics to boot!

We have also produced a CD of some of the choir's repertoire plus some organ music.

Christopher Rathbone, Director of Music, March 2020