

St MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL. TEIGNMOUTH MUSIC REPORT 2019/20

Dear friends,

My report this year is obviously going to be rather short and with little content. The current situation has meant that, since March, we have been unable to experience worship in our usual Sunday morning services of joy and uplifting faith. Praising our Lord with the singing of hymns and settings as part of our worship has been sorely missed by the choir, by all of you I am sure and most certainly by me. However, there are some positives to report, not least the increase in members of the choir and the quality of their leadership. Although we have not been together as a choir for some months, I have kept in contact with the choristers and am pleased to report that all but one will still be with us when we can resume. Unfortunately, and I have to say from the choral sound of the choir sadly, Les Reed informed me a few weeks ago that – due to his increasing inability to walk - he will no longer be able to attend choir. Personally, I am going to miss him, not only for his beautiful voice as a guiding light and voice of reason. Les is so much like my own father in his singing and his outlook and I know that the choir as a whole and I send him – and Pam – our love and best wishes. Pam and Les will be with us occasionally as and when the situation and their health permit.

All of my plans for the choir have had to be put on hold and as such, do not need to be mentioned here but, suffice to say that I am working with the Leadership team within the current guidelines to bring back music and the choir as soon as we can. We already have organ music with Cantors/Soloists in our two Sunday services and hopefully, a small choir will be allowed in a few weeks. Of course, everyone's safety and good health must and indeed is, of the primary concern of everyone involved in making these decisions.

Sadly, we were unable to celebrate Easter properly this year and as I write this report, I do not know what we will be able to do for Christmas as regards services but, I can assure you that Jane, Sue and the rest of the leadership team and I will be working to ensure that whatever we can do musically, will be done to enhance your worship and lift your spirits. I hope that with Gods love and help, 2021 will once again, enable us to rejoice in the gift of music in our regular worship as well as the chance to enjoy organ and choir recitals as well as Choral Evensongs.

On behalf of the choir and myself, I wish you all health, happiness and Gods blessings.

Derek
Organist & Choirmaster.