

Musical input into Sunday services has continued along established lines with choir and organ at all 11.00am services and at Evensong. All except the monthly Family Service have sections of the liturgy set to music and anthems. Similar support is provided at a variety of other services throughout the year such as Easter Eve meditation, Remembrance and Nine Lessons and Carols. The choir sings Compline on the first Friday of the month, more frequently in Advent and Lent.

The organ is usually required at weddings and funerals. Choir can be available on request and cd recordings played where appropriate. Help and advice on choosing music is always available.

Planning of a music framework is normally a joint effort between incumbent and director of music, starting with the incumbent establishing the theme of each service, hymns and any special features required. Under past incumbents, the aim has been to produce plans for each month with at least two weekly practices available for each service. A degree of flexibility allows for adaptation as sermons develop. During the interregnum, all planning has been undertaken by director of music, liaising with visiting clergy as appropriate.

This time last year, the choir was "upper voice heavy" having no regular tenor and one solitary bass. Since then, matters have improved in that Colin White is now a "full time" tenor and Keith Beardmore joins our bass whenever his commitments at Welton and elsewhere permit. Whilst this permits a wider range of music, there remains a need for considerable flexibility in the event of individual absence whether through holiday or illness. A further two tenors and one bass would produce a good balance and, allowing for a normal degree of absence, reduce the need for flexibility in planning anthems etc.

After a year off (see 2017 report), the choir took part in the Diocesan Choral Festival at Peterborough Cathedral in October followed by the Coventry Cathedral Festival in November. Whilst our RSCM membership links us to the Peterborough diocese, we enjoy a good relationship with the Coventry and Warwickshire branch whose activities are generally much closer to Braunston.

Both organs are in good order and the provision of a new electrical circuit to avoid overload on the main organ is much appreciated. There are plans to improve the mobility of the Parish Room piano and for the tuning of both pianos.

John Viggars

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