

# **Organ Gala and Choir Reunion**

**St. Mary's Church. Hitchin**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**7:30pm**

**Featuring former choirmasters, organists, assistant organists and organ scholars all from St. Mary's.**

There will be a collection during interval which will be split between the Choir Fund and the Dorothy Wells organ foundation. Providing training and support for organ scholars at St. Mary's.

**[www.st-marys-choir-reunion.co.uk](http://www.st-marys-choir-reunion.co.uk)**

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Organ: **Anthony Smith** - A Trumpet Minuet - Alfred Hollins, 1865 - 1942

Organ: **Tim Gray** - Prelude & Fugue in G major BWV 541 - J S Bach, 1685 - 1750

***Paul Linford** – choir member 1975-1983*

Organ: **Tristan Rodway** – Junior Organ Scholar

Organ: **Mike Webb** - Litanies - Jehan Alain, 1911 - 1940

Organ: **James Watson** - Organ Scholar

***Andrew Weight** – choir member 1968-1980*

**Choir:** Silver Jub-Elation - Andrew Weight, b.1958 (Mike Webb organ)

\*\*\*interval 20 minutes\*\*\*

**Choir:** Blessed be the God and Father – S S Wesley, 1810 - 1876 (Mike Webb organ)

***Phillip Parkinson** - choir member 1976-1983*

Organ: **Peter Noyce** - Trumpet Tunes - Jeremiah Clarke, (1674 - 1707) / Henry Purcell, (1659 -1695)

Organ: **Martin Penny** - Chorale (Op 16:2) - Francis Jackson, b.1917

***Dave Allen** – choir member 1960-1970*

Organ: **Rose Norris** – Senior Organ Scholar

Organ: **Roger Harrison** - Master Tallis's Testament - Herbert Howells, 1892 - 1983

***Stuart Alder** – choir member 1985-1996*

Organ: **Iain Farrington** - Live Wire - Iain Farrington, b.1977

**Anthony Smith**

Anthony is a former Head Chorister and Organ Scholar at St Mary's who is now training for ordained ministry in the Church of England at Cranmer Hall, Durham. After Hitchin he spent a gap year as Organ Scholar at Southwell Minster before becoming an Organ Scholar at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he studied mathematics. After this he hung up his organ shoes for a while and became an astronomer at the University of Sussex in Brighton. He began studying theology in 2016.

**Tim Gray**

After university at Durham, Tim studied the organ under Dr Harold Darke at Reading, Peter Hurford at St Albans, and then with Arthur Wills at Ely, before passing his FRCO in 1967. He moved to Hitchin in 1968 combining teaching duties at Hitchin Boys' Grammar School with those of organist and choirmaster at St Mary's. He took up a post at the City of Leeds College of Music in 1975, remaining there for 20 years. In 1977 he became Organist and Choirmaster at St Wilfrid's, Harrogate and was appointed Parish Organist in 1991.

**Mike Webb**

Mike began learning the organ here at St Mary's with David Atkinson, before being tutored by Rob Green in Ripon as part of a degree course. Soon afterwards, he taught in Kenya, during which time he was actively involved in the musical life of Nairobi Cathedral. In France, he studied with Pierre Perdigon in Grenoble and with Jean Galard in Beauvais. He currently teaches French and sport at Langley School in Norfolk, as well as being Sub Organist at Wymondham Abbey.

**Peter Noyce**

A former Choirmaster and Assistant Organist at Lichfield Cathedral, Peter came to Hitchin in 1979 as Head of Music at Hitchin Boys' School and Organist and Choirmaster at St Mary's. His programmes notes were always a source of amusement - for instance "Zadok the Priest - Handel. This piece needs requires no introduction, the organist will play one just the same." Peter left in 1985 to take up a teaching post in Cambridge. His son Jonathan, a former choir member, is a former bassist with the rock group Jethro Tull.

**Martin Penny**

Martin is a concert organist, choral director and teacher. He is based in Hertford where he is Director of Music of All Saints' Church. Martin studied at the St Giles International Organ School building on previous studies at Durham Cathedral and Exeter College, Oxford where he read Mathematics and was successively Choral Exhibitioner, Organist and locum Organ Scholar. He successfully applied this experience in winning prizes for his overall performance and for improvisation at FRCO in January 2002.

**Roger Harrison**

Roger first encountered St Mary's Hitchin as a member of the choir of St. John's College Cambridge which gave a recital here in December 1974. Most of Roger's subsequent teaching career was spent at Aldwickbury School, Harpenden, during which time he frequently accompanied St Mary's Choir under David Atkinson both for services and recitals. Since retiring to Derbyshire in 2014, Roger has played mostly at St Oswald's, Ashbourne, but also at Derby Cathedral. He continues also to sing, and to play and teach the bassoon.

**Iain Farrington**

Iain, a former Head Chorister and Organ Scholar at St Mary's, was Organ Scholar at St John's College, Cambridge, and St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. He regularly gives solo recitals; radio broadcasts and accompanies choirs across the world. His arrangement of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 5 was performed at the Royal Wedding in 2011. He also played the piano at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics with Rowan Atkinson, the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle, watched by a global TV audience of around a billion viewers.