

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH

REPORT OF THE RECITALS COMMITTEE 2004

The 2004 programme of concerts and recitals followed the successful pattern of recent years, and there were eighteen such events. The Committee Chairman and Director of Music, Henry Fairs, resigned his post at Easter and his successor Tom Corns joined us in June. This Report has therefore been compiled by several Committee Members.

There were altogether ten Tuesday lunchtime recitals, all of a good standard. We particularly remember Jay Flaxman, a young local soprano, now studying full-time at the Royal Academy of Music. David Scally, a fine pianist from Birmingham, gave us an ambitious programme in the church, and Lewis Brito-Babapulle came to us in November as a prize-winning young organist from the Oundle International Organ Festival. We were pleased to find that he was a local boy, having attended Trinity School, Shirley.

As is our experience, the four bank Holiday organ recitals were among the best attended events of the year. Henry Fairs gave an excellent farewell recital, and we very much enjoyed meeting Huw Williams, Sub-Organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, Graham Powell from Limpsfield and Richard Pinel from Magdalen College, Oxford.

The evening concerts began with our own Choir on their traditional Saturday just before Easter when they sang the Masses of Vaughan Williams and Frank Martin, two major works of the choral repertoire. We also had fine recitals from old friends, Anne Marsden Thomas, David Saint (St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham) and Stephen Farr (Guildford Cathedral).

Audiences have mostly been small and, as a result, the Committee's funds have fallen sharply during the year. We have however received donations from several members of the congregation for which we are very grateful, and hope to bolster our funds by extra advertising in 2005.

We would like to thank the Members of the Committee for their help during the year, Peter Spencer, Michael Toplis, Paula Lane, Garvin Shorter, Veronica Mountford, Celia Yeo, Ernest Yeo, and others who help in various ways, Gill Clayton, Alec Thompson and Maureen Woods.

I should note that Gary Skyrme moved during the year to study again in York.

Thomas Corns (Chairman)