

## Williamwood Music - Spring 2012

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Hello there!

I hope you are enjoying 2012 and the joys that are unfolding as we travel through spring and head towards our celebrations of Easter and the Resurrection.



Before I go on to tell you about all the news in our branches of our Music Ministry here at Williamwood lets first remember what it means to participate in Praise:

*Praise means “to commend, to applaud or magnify.” For the Christian, praise to God is an expression of worship, lifting-up and glorifying the Lord. It is an expression of humbling ourselves and centering our attention upon the Lord with heart-felt expressions of love, adoration and thanksgiving. High praises bring our spirit into a pinnacle of fellowship and intimacy between ourselves and God — it magnifies our awareness of our spiritual union with the most high God. Praise transports us into the realm of the supernatural and into the power of God. “Blessed are the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance” (Psalm 89:15).*

In all we do in our music at Williamwood we do it to praise God, whether it be the Choir leading our worship, different styles of anthems that through their music let the texts speak to us, the Williamwood Singers, or voluntaries from the piano and organ which help us to meditate and enter into a closer time with God. Please pray for our music ministry so that it continues to develop and grow, effectively lifting praises to God.

### **WILLIAMWOOD SINGERS ARE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD!**



This year sees a special milestone in that the Williamwood Singers reach their 25th birthday.

They will hold an anniversary concert on Thursday 19th April 2012 in the Church.

*Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to you,  
Happy birthday to the Williamwood Singers!  
Happy birthday to you!*

For the concert in April, the girls will be choosing their favourite pieces of music from the **hundreds** of items we have sung over the years. They hope for a large turnout of their friends and supporters from Williamwood and beyond for what promises to be a great evening of music.

Have you ever been in the Williamwood Singers? Do you know someone that sang with Norah?

Have a look at the Singers website page online at <http://williamwoodmusic.com/music-groups/williamwood-singers/>. We have pictures of the Singers throughout the past twenty five years and should you recognise yourself please get in touch with Norah Gray.

It would be great to have a special 25 year reunion of current and past members (there are even boys in the group at the beginning!!)

### **Williamwood Church Adult Choir**



Our choir have been very busy since our festive activities - we took part in our annual Lessons and Carols, sang with the Williamwood Singers and some extra singers at Watchnight, led Make Way for Christmas at an evening service and were delighted to lead the singing and contribute a beautiful John Rutter anthem at our first Carols by Candle-light service.

So, after such a busy time we were back singing from the 8th of January and have shared our music ministry in anthems and other items at each of our morning services. We hope that the wide variety of our anthems shows just how much "church" music there is out there, and that we are adding to our acts of worship.

Look forward to the final part of our session (February to April) we have a few "irons in the fire" to bring to you in our services of worship. We team up with Ailie Ferguson to sing Mendelssohn's beautiful Hear my prayer & O for the wings, and for communion we sing some of traditional texts in James MacMillan's St Anne's Setting from CH4. We sang this last year and it added so beautifully to the service we thought we'd try it again.

With eyes fixed on Easter, we are preparing an item called "Be joyful together" which is a delightful adaptation of a chorus from Bach's Cantata 15 "Denn du wirst meine Seele". Hopefully our ministry Student Ann McCormick will join us by playing the flute part, adding to the joyous mood of the piece, especially for Easter Day.

On Easter Sunday also, we invite **YOU** to "**Come and Sing**" with the Church Choir the **Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah**. Immediately after the Benediction is pronounced those who wish to sing should come to the front so we can really sing of the Glorious Resurrection.

### **Williamwood Church Music Group**

Well, I'm really pleased to report that we now have a Church Music Group!!! We consist of some singers (both male and female), a few guitarists and a flautist. We don't have the need for regular percussion, but when the need arises Kirstin Ferguson steps in!

We meet a few times each month for around ½ an hour after the church service to learn songs suitable for use in church. The Guide Thinking Day service is hopefully going to be the first time we publicly lead some singing, we hope and pray that our practise time has all been worthwhile. As we continue to meet, develop and expand our repertoire we hope to contribute to services more often, perhaps helping to introduce some of the gentle and contemporary songs that are available.



### **MUSIC MAKERS!**

Simply in this issue of Inspire I speak to parents, grand-parents and those who bring children and young folks to church. To date our efforts, to reach out to youngsters (p1-p7) by way of music makers, has not worked. We occasionally get a handful of girls staying behind after church, but some Sunday's we have no children at all.

Ailie and I know that our Williamwood Kids love to sing - this was very apparent when our Sunday School presented the Nativity.



Music Makers is not a choir, or music group. It aims to be a fun time while we learn some songs and use musical instruments.

We meet in the Church on the 1st and 3rd Sunday after morning worship. We are finished by 1pm.

Please encourage your child(ren), or children you know, to come along for some fun and music.

So, in closing all I wish to do is commend our musicians here at Williamwood to your thoughts and prayers, especially thinking of Norah, Mairi and the Girls in the Williamwood Singers as they prepare for their 25th annual concert. Please also remember the Choir who lead us Sunday by Sunday, our new Church Music Group and the children of our church as we try to make a real go of "Music Makers".

If you are interested in joining any of our groups please do come along and try them out. Look out for weekly notices of dates the Music Makers, Music Group and other events take place.

Visit us online at [www.williamwoodmusic.com](http://www.williamwoodmusic.com), where you can also listen to our Sunday services - click the "on-demand" page for details.

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