



November  
2011

# Immanuel's GROUND

## Warwick's West Gallery Quire NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2011 — The Turning Year

Radford Semele - Concert 7.30 pm Saturday 3rd December 2011

PLEASE  
SUPPORT  
THE  
CHURCH  
REBUILD  
FUND



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Palm Sunday 2008 - picture by Henry Marriott

Tickets available from James Fleuty, £7 each, Tel: 01926 315 003

Postponed since last October, the Concert by Immanuel's Ground on behalf of St Nicholas' Church rebuilding will finally take place in the Community Hall in Radford Semele on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30 pm. Because one member of the Quire has family associations with the Parish Church, she has very kindly met the cost of hiring the Hall, and the Quire is performing free, so every Penny (or rather Pound!) can be given to the Rebuilding Fund.

The Concert is entitled "The Turning Year", and will feature not only Christmas music of the period 1725-1860, much of it from church composers local to Warwickshire, but also takes a look at other church and secular compositions relating to the changing seasons and country customs. These are supported by Readings and anecdotes from a variety of authors and other sources.

The Concert affords another chance this year to bring out our Mummings play, specially created using material and characters from such existing local scripts as those to be found at Pillerton and Ilmington in Warwickshire, Sulgrave in Northants and Lower Heyford in Oxfordshire.

[More over](#)



### Radford Semele - cont'd

Historically—in the early hours of Palm Sunday 2008, St Nicholas' church was broken into and set on fire. By the time the emergency services were called, it was too late to save anything. All that was left was the shell of the building - everything else was destroyed. St Nicholas' was a Grade II listed church, and the hard-working parish has received an insurance settlement that will go a long way towards rebuilding it. However, their plans involve creating some facilities that will make the church a more usable resource for the wider community - toilets, a small kitchen, and an office. Fund raising towards the additional £90,000 required has reached £73,000, a valiant effort, through a variety of welcome grants, donations and fund-raising events. Please visit the church website at [www.stnicholasrestoration.com](http://www.stnicholasrestoration.com) for an update on work.



Christmas Cards are available for sale at the Concert, and there will be refreshments, so we hope to see as many as possible of you there on the night!

### 2011/12 — Future Events and Concerts:

- Wednesday, December 14th 2011 - Carols at The Punch Bowl, Warwick
- Wednesday, December 28th 2011 - Carols at The Cross Tree Inn, Byfield
- Saturday, January 28th 2012 - Byfield Bowls Club - Exploring new music, both sacred and secular, 1700 to 1850. Quire event only
- Wednesday, March 21st 2012 - Northgate Church Hall - Illustrated talk on the history of west gallery music
- Saturday, April 28th 2012 - Byfield Village Hall - A Day of Music by Local Church Composers, for singers and instrumentalists. Music provided
- Sunday, May 13th 2012 - Bluebell Sung Evensong at Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire
- Wednesday, June 13th 2012 - Evening Festival Concert at Wootton Wawen
- Saturday, September 1st 2012 - Oxford Church Visitation (all day)

Visitors are always welcome at any of these event, but please check the website for times, dates and joining instructions! Practices are at 8pm on 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays in the month, usually (but not always) at Northgate Methodist Church Hall in Warwick. Please let the Secretary or Editor know if you would like to attend (01926 492945 or 01865 865773). On December 28th there is a lunch menu on the website, bookings by December 15th, please.

### Last Summer

Over the past few months the Quire has officially reached its 10th Birthday, and we celebrated in style on July 23rd, taking a charabanc (unfortunately due to inconsiderate new legislation we were not allowed to take a crate or two of brown ale with us) to sing at Long Compton and Brailes, and then on to Broughton Castle where we sang in the Great Hall, some of us meeting Lord Saye & Sele (one or two of us had historical connections . . .) and then for a passing Bride and Groom. Supper was partaken at the 'Bowling Green' at Southam, during which further singing was enjoyed after speeches to mark the occasion.

### Evensongs

We sang for two Evensongs, both very different in character, the first at Idlicote, and the second one for the Flower Festival at Tardibigge (right), in June and July.

