



March
2012

Immanuel's GROUND

Warwick's West Gallery Quire NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 21st March 2012 at 7.30 pm

Illustrated Lecture at Northgate Methodist Church, Warwick

GLORY BEGUN BELOW

A History of West Gallery Music in and around Warwickshire

'The men of grace have found
Glory begun below.
Celestial fruits on earthly ground
From faith and hope may grow'.

Illustrated by the Quire with musical examples (as well as giving an opportunity for the audience to sing), this Lecture will trace the development of 'West gallery music', in the years following the stifling of church music by the Cromwellian destruction of most of those organs used in town and country churches. The Midlands, and especially Warwickshire, had a number of local church composers, all of whom played their part in creating new music with which to glorify God, by way of psalm tunes, anthems, and more latterly, hymn tunes.

Come and find out how psalms were sung before the rise in popularity of the church bands (instrumentalists and singers), the music of these bands and their artisan composers, some from Warwickshire discovered in The County Record Office in Priory Park, Warwick, how it reflected social conditions and how some of it is still to be found in various modern hymn books. West Gallery Music is an oft forgotten but important piece in the jig-saw puzzle of church music.

Hosted by the Northgate Wesley Guild, guests are always welcome to this series of evening talks and lectures for the small charge of £1 for coffee and biscuits. This lecture will be in the church rather than in the Hall, and the heating will be on early, so you will still be warm with a comfy chair! No need to book in advance, just turn up!



Sunday 13th May 2012

Bluebell Evensong at Baddesley Clinton

Immanuel's Ground has been invited to sing Evensong at the Church of St Michael at Baddesley Clinton on Sunday 13 May, at 3.00 pm in the afternoon. >>over>>

Editor:
tel. no: 01865 865773
Email: info@immanuelsground.com
[immanuelsground.com](http://www.immanuelsground.com)

You have received this occasional Newsletter from Immanuel's Ground in order to keep you abreast of the Quire's activities, and because you have given us your email address for contact purposes. If, however, you now no longer wish to be kept informed in this way, please email the Quire's Webmaster at edwin@immanuelsground.com and your address will be removed from our list.



<< *Baddesley Clinton, cont'd* << The 16th Cent. church stands in the grounds of the Tudor moated manor house now owned by the National Trust, and is located NW of Warwick, North of Rowington Green, off Rising Lane, and 15 miles SE of Birmingham, on the A4141. [Post Code B93 0DQ and Grid Reference SP199714]. The snowdrops are already flowering in the churchyard, to be followed by daffodils, primroses and bluebells, an ideal spot for a picnic lunch between a visit to the House in the morning, and Evensong in the afternoon at 3 pm.



2012 — Future Events and Concerts:

- **Saturday, April 28th 2012 - Byfield Village Hall - A Day of Music by Local Church Composers, for singers and instrumentalists. See above for details.**
- **Sunday, May 13th 2012 - Bluebell Evensong, Baddesley Clinton. See above.**
- **Wednesday, June 13th 2012 - Evening Festival Concert at Wootton Wawen**
- **Saturday, September 1st 2012 - Oxford Church Visitation (all day)**
- **Friday, December 28th 2012 - all day Carols at the Cross Tree Inn, Byfield**

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 Alison (01926-812767) or the Editor know if you would like to attend. For the December 28th Carols Day there will be a lunch menu on the website; bookings by December 15th, please.

Saturday, April 28th 2012 - Byfield Village Hall - A Jubilee Day of Music by Local Church Composers, for singers and instrumentalists. Music provided.

Saturday 28th April sees the eighth in our annual days of singing and playing music from our repertoire of local church composers, held in the Village Hall at Byfield from 10 am until 4.30 pm. A small charge of £8 is made to cover the cost of the Hall and for music, and please bring a plate of food to share with others for mid-day. The local pub, the Cross Tree Inn, does great grub and has real ale, for either lunch time or afterwards – or both! An application form is appended to this newsletter. We frequently have to limit numbers to about 80 people; the usual 'w.g.-type' instruments, so players of heavy brass or chordal instruments, come and sing lustily and with good courage ! The more the merrier; last year we had over 18 Tenors, and the year before over 20 Basses – wonderful for special anthems in this year of Jubilee !!

Radford Semele

A fortnight before Christmas the Quire visited Radford Semele for a Christmas Concert, given in aid of the St Nicholas' Church Restoration Fund. Entitled 'The Turning Year' the programme looked at both Christmas music from the 'west-gallery' period, and other church and secular compositions relating to the changing seasons and country customs. These were supported by Readings and anecdotes from a variety of authors and other sources. As is becoming our custom, our locally-based Mummers Play had a seasonal outing, and the evening raised a welcome £500 towards the rebuilding costs of the Parish Church.



Retiring after having been Secretary of the Quire since its inception in 2001, Ian Meddoms has handed on his responsibilities to several others! During that time, as the Quire grew in strength both numerically and in competence, he responded to the increasing needs for good publicity, and management of quire events both sacred and secular, to the extent that we now have a secretarial team covering Publicity, Gigs and Events, and the actual weekly arrangements for practices and meetings. Supported at all times by his wife, Barbara, we shall miss his constant encouragement and attention to detail. Although other duties at Northgate Church are now taking his time, he remains a staunch member of the Bass line-up !

Where was this photo taken?!



Mid-Shires' Quires' Day

The Eighth

Saturday

28th April 2012

at 10.00 am



The Mellstock Quire, sketch from Thomas Hardy's notebooks; by courtesy of Dorset County Museum.

Immanuel's
GROUND

hosts a day of

West Gallery Music

exploring psalms, hymns and anthems from the mid-shires

The day will also include suitable music
to celebrate

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Byfield Village Hall
Northants

NN11 6UT



MID-SHIREs' QUIRES' DAY 2012

SATURDAY 28 APRIL

7

Immanuel's Ground, Warwick's West Gallery Quire, extend a warm invitation to join them in a day of regional West Gallery music. The cost will be £8 per person. A book of music and light refreshments will be provided, but please bring a savoury or sweet dish, (cold food only and ready to serve) to the shared lunch.

The day's singing and playing will be held at Byfield Village Hall, Northants., NN11 6UT, between 10.00 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., doors open at 9.30 a.m. Byfield is on the A361, midway between the M40 (Junction 11) and the M1 (Junction 16). Numbers are limited to 80 people, so please book early to ensure a place, and to enable the production of music books, return your booking form no later than 14 April 2012.

Name: Tel:

Address: E-mail:

.....

.....

No. of places required @£8 per person..... Total £.....

Please give names of all those for whom this booking is made:

..... Voice (SAT or B?) or instrument (please indicate)

..... Voice (SAT or B?) or instrument (please indicate)

..... Voice (SAT or B?) or instrument (please indicate)

..... Voice (SAT or B?) or instrument (please indicate)

(B) clarinet part book required: YES / NO

Please complete and return this form, together with a cheque made payable to Immanuel's Ground, to:

Sheila Macadam, 30 Eynsham Road, Botley, Oxford, OX2 9BP

Tel: 01865 865773 (shelwin8@tiscali.co.uk)

(If you require a receipt, please enclose an s.a.e.)