

Annie's news 2019



I was delighted to see that this year the Post Office stamps are all nativity scenes!

Christian Music Ministries

This year has been filled creatively for me with Roger's **Torn Curtain**. This musical had been out of print since 2000 because of changes to the Anglican liturgy. After much deliberation, we split **Torn Curtain** into two: now we have two distinct works, both of which we are delighted with and recommend highly.

Firstly we launched a choral setting of the Holy Communion in March – and have been so pleased at how flexible and full of worship it is; we have now celebrated the work with five different people presiding – Rev Rob Fieldson at Barnt Green, Rev Eddie Smith at Pleshey Retreat House, Rev Barbara Carpenter at Lee Abbey, Rev Canon Peter Moger at Scargill – and even Roger leading it as an Agape meal at Brunel Manor in November - and each has been fresh and different. You can watch the communion launch day on YouTube by following this link:

https://youtu.be/YZqT2O6IE_s

And a longer version with readings and sermon is available here:

https://youtu.be/dAmMyS_ZTkc

Having separated the Communion setting from the original **Torn Curtain** musical, we now re-visited all the remaining songs,

Tim Jones, Chris King, Helen Pollard and myself all creating new backing tracks. Roger added three new songs at the end, including the lovely solo *Precious and honoured* (sung by the wonderful Jonathan Veira; he also sings 'It is a thing most wonderful' on the CD). After months of work, we premiered the musical **Torn Curtain** at Tamworth on 12 October – a wonderful day, with supporters coming from all over the UK to sing, play and watch the new musical. Roger wanted to narrate, so I had the privilege of conducting the large choir and orchestra. You can watch the premiere here:

<https://youtu.be/s1G5NqJZYAs>



In a random act of creativity, with only days to go, I wrote an Overture, quoting from 8 of Roger's 'songs of ascent'. It delighted the choir and showcased the orchestra, which was marvellous.

<https://youtu.be/xelnBCfMkGk>

When not up to our ears in **Torn Curtain**, our diary was filled with music weeks, weekends, **Worship Works** and **Spirit Works** events, and I had the opportunity to conduct CMM musicals in Hinckley, Basingstoke, Weston-super-Mare and Bridlington.

CMM Choir

It's been another very good year with CMM Choir, with exciting performances of **From Pharaoh to Freedom** in May, June and July. We are currently performing **Simeon** in local churches and a Retirement Village both sides of Christmas.

CMM Choir will be celebrating **25 years** in 2020! We are planning a programme of

favourite songs chosen by past conductors and current choir members.



If you have ever sung in CMM Choir – perhaps when we were launching a new Roger Jones musical in the past – please do come to our bring-and-share **Afternoon Tea** and **25th birthday concert** on **Saturday 11 July** at Christ Church, Burney Lane, B8 2AS. Hundreds of people over the years have been members of this lovely choir fellowship and we hope to see as many of you as possible on 11 July. Please contact events@cmm.org.uk to let us know you are coming.

Personal news

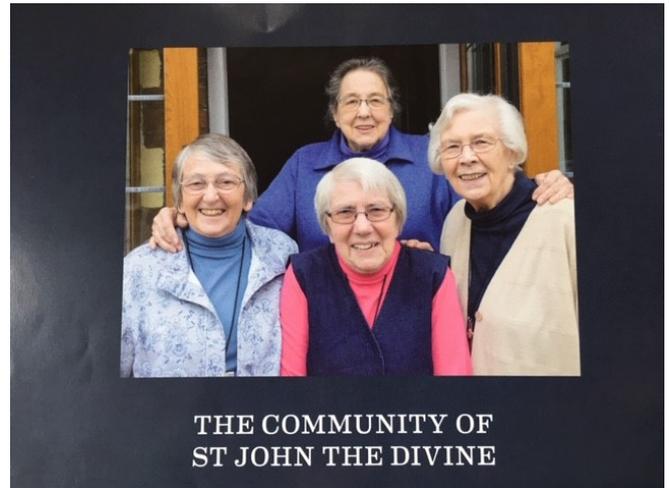
I feel I am in the very fortunate – and no doubt quite rare - position of having the perfect work/life balance – a job I love and find fulfilling with like-minded colleagues, and the time to do the things that energise me – playing viola with The People's Orchestra (we celebrated our 7th birthday in April) and twice-weekly ballet classes. Six of us from the Friday class are having an extra half-hour with Karen Kelly straight afterwards in order to work at two dances – to Game of Thrones and an Alexis Ffrench track. I am slowly getting better and better ...



Christmas



I will be staying with the Sisters at St John's House again this year to play keyboard for their Christmas Eve service. We are all looking forward to the *Call the Midwife* Christmas special, as these are the real Sisters who lived and worked in Poplar in London's East End back in the 50s and 60s.



THE COMMUNITY OF
ST JOHN THE DIVINE

I will be spending Christmas day with John and our friends Jacky & Nathan Hawkins, and on Boxing Day I will be going to Dunster to stay with Dad & Gay for a few days; we will be joined by my brother Ian and his fiancée Kae for the usual family quizzes and games.

Whatever you are doing, I wish you a Happy Christmas and a fulfilling new year.

Annie x

Christian Music Ministries

24 Spadesbourne Road, Lickey End,
Bromsgrove, B60 1JP
01527 576 440
office@cmm.org.uk
www.cmm.org.uk