

Our Place

St Benedict's Parish Church Newsletter: A Place to Grow

Music to our ears



Every Sunday the Parish Music group makes itself heard and for a group that is only a year old the complexities of the harmonies performed are a credit to the

group led by Nicki Allan. In truth, the group has been building for many years but just not in its current format. Nicki herself has been involved with music for St Benedict's for 30 years on top of her professional music career and teaching at the Royal Northern College of Music.

The group meet fortnightly on either a Wednesday or Friday from 7:30 to 9pm and it has never been a more exciting time to get involved. The group enjoy the challenge of working as a team to perform not only on a Sunday but also at big set piece events in the church calendar and even at the odd external event like last years fund raiser for Garforth flood relief.

The positive, joyous effect of worshipping through music and performing amongst friends has seen the group grow. Any budding musicians or singers are encouraged to speak to a group member after Mass or contact Nicki via allannikki@hotmail.com, all are welcome. The group have recently mastered Celtic alleluia harmonies, the Lords My Shepherd and Panis Angelicus. They will shortly be working on an original new Kyrie composition by Paul Chamberlain and various harmonies for the Christmas carol concert, but don't just hear it, be part of it!

www.nickiallan.com

Dates for your Diary

December 7th
Reconciliation
Service

December 8th
Immaculate
conception

December 8th
Parish Pantomime

December 12th
Evening of
recollection

December 17th
Parish carol service

December 19th
School carols in
church

December 25th
Christmas Day

January 7th
Feast of the Epiphany

February 11th
Faith and Light Mass

February 14th
Ash Wednesday

Christmas at St Vincent's

St. Benedicts Parish has long been involved supporting activities at St. Vincent's. At the support centre, a team of paid staff and volunteers provide practical assistance including learning opportunities, counselling, debt advice, migrant support, immigration advice and emergency food. At Christmas, the every day work continues, but a new focus emerges - making Christmas a better time for those who are struggling. Christmas hampers to provide families with a hot meal, toys for parents to give a gift to their children and a shared meal for those who would be alone on Christmas day are all provided with love. Christmas continues to be a time when everyone is welcome and everyone is valued. Last Christmas, a staff member said, 'I watched a young mum arrive destitute having found out she had no income until the new year. She left with presents for her three children and food for over Christmas to see her into the new year. Most importantly,

she left with a renewed faith in humanity; it's what Christmas is all about.'

If you are interested in being a part of the Christmas preparations at St. Vincent's, or if you feel called to start the new year volunteering at the centre, please contact: Victoria - victoria.proust@stvincents-svp.org.uk or Julie - julie.linley@stvincents-svp.org.uk.



Our Church - the building tells our story

The Shape of the Church - a tent of meeting

St Benedict's Parish community undertook a journey for four years praying, meeting and raising funds to build a new church 25 years ago that would reflect the teaching and theology of the second Vatican Council. The result that we worship in today was designed to reflect that teaching of the Church as a 'pilgrim people', 'a communion', 'a light for the world', 'reading the signs of the times' and being 'alongside people' wherever they are.

The architect, Vincente Stienlet, choose the biblical image of a tent of meeting as his inspiration to symbolise that we are a 'pilgrim people'; always on the move and ever open to God's calling, not static but recognising the church is always called to reform, to change and to grow.

