

# MUSIC NOTES

## March 2010

March brings us the long-awaited performance of the complete organ works of J.S. Bach by our sub-organist Richard Walker in 16 recitals. This is the first time they have been performed in a single series in Shropshire, and we are delighted that this event is taking place here at St Chad's. Details of dates and times are on the reverse of these music notes.

Richard has planned the series so that each recital has some recognised masterpieces. The few works which are politely described as "early" are spread through the series, and are useful in showing us how good the more mature works really are. Just as our hymn book today is laid out by church seasons, so the 18th century chorales were designed for particular periods of the church year. The chorale preludes are therefore being played as far as possible on the "right" day. This means that music for Lent, Passiontide, Good Friday and Pentecost are played more or less at the correct time, but Christmas music sits slightly uneasily around Low Sunday. There is no way round this dilemma, short of making the recital series last a whole year!

Brochure programmes are available at £5 which give details of the background to the music and short notes for each piece. They also have translations of the German titles of the chorale preludes and a glossary explaining some of the more erudite terms used (such as "invertible counterpoint", or "canon at augmentation") which some of the audience may not have at their fingertips.

There will also be a "taster" session (Wednesday March 17th) in which Richard will give an overall view of the organ works with details of how some are constructed, and pictures of the churches at which Bach worked and the types of organs he played.

As always, we have the bodily wellbeing of our audiences very much in mind, so the Friday recitals will end with the normal lunch, while the Wednesday events will begin with a glass of wine to cover the gap between the 5.00pm Girls' Choir Evensong and the recital.

These events, apart from being a musical milestone, are intended very much as fundraisers for the much-needed renovation of the organ next year, and we look forward to substantial donations from the audiences.

We look forward to your support!

**David Leeke**