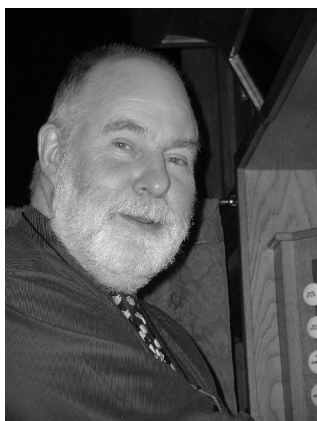


Brian Bromley – Organist Emeritus



On Sunday 20th December Brian stepped down from the post of Organist and, in recognition of sixty years service, became Organist Emeritus.

Luckily for us, this means he will still be playing as and when he would like to. He had been intending to retire in the summer but had generously felt that he wanted to help with the transition of Director of Music from Chris Benham to Martin Penny.

Brian Bromley has been associated with All Saints' since he joined the choir as a probationer at the age of 7. He still is a busy teacher of Piano, Voice, Organ, Maths and English as well as a popular recitalist.

He trained with W.J. Comley, who served the church as organist for 50 years, and then with Harry Gabb (St Paul's Cathedral) and Martindale Sidwell (Trinity College). Having gained his Associateship of the Royal College of Organists, Brian succeeded Comley as Organist of All Saints' in 1966.

By then he had served as organist of several churches, including St Gabriel's Cricklewood, where he played the post-war neo-classical Walker organ. He was fortunate to also gain many insights into baroque performance practice from Joseph Henriksen. These influences came to fruition in an imaginative and sympathetic restoration and enhancement of our organ in 1971.

As Director of Music, Brian strove to achieve a balance between the authentic performance of early music, much of which he introduced to the choir, and the enjoyment of music. He resigned in 1975, feeling that after ten

years further improvement would only come from an injection of fresh ideas. He served a further term from 1978-1981. He has remained an active member of the choir and frequently gives recitals here and elsewhere.

Brian is an outstanding performer of both romantic and baroque music. He has a particular affinity with the German Romantic School (Mendelssohn, Schumann, Liszt, Reger, and Brahms) and the music of J.S.Bach. He has also been a tireless champion of the choral music of the English Tudor and Baroque periods, especially the music of Purcell.

He has arranged numerous concerts and events at All Saints to raise money for various musical and other projects. The Church positively rumbled as he played the "Dam Busters March" with one of the RAF Bands! Meticulous planning has gone into sponsored musical days involving youngsters giving their first public performance to experienced musicians, and spanning 12 hours or more with an excellent mix of music.

Brian even became a "World Record Holder" when he organised a 36 hour marathon organ recital from 9am Easter Monday to 9pm Tuesday (8th & 9th April 1969) It was part of the fund-raising for the work on the organ in 1969/71. Brian and his deputy (Brian Sawyer) played in relay through this period. This included improvising very quietly during a Wedding on the Tuesday afternoon. It was reported in both the Daily Telegraph and Daily Mirror. The marathon was started and finished by His Worship the Mayor of Hertford - one Cllr Donald M. Graves! The record was finally beaten, only recently, in April 2009 when a single player managed 36hrs & 3 mins.

We look forward to much more of Brian's playing, in both services and recitals. He is a fine musician and we are lucky that he is part of the family of All Saints.