

**What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!**

Words by Robert Herrick, Music by John Rutter

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Music Ministry would like to welcome two new members, Monica, and her sister, Helen. They both began singing with the choir for the Christmas 2016 season. Both Monica and Helen are a very valued addition to the choir. The other members that sang for the Christmas season included Lynn, Lydia, Genette, and Annette.

The handchimes have continued playing on several occasions during the year. February 28, which was the third Sunday in Lent, the handchimes played during the processional hymn, There's a Wideness in God's Mercy. The Fifth Sunday in Easter, April 24, the handchimes played during both the processional hymn, Praise the Lord, ye Heavens Adore Him, and the recessional hymn, I know that my Redeemer Lives. Trinity Sunday was another occasion when the handchimes played a bell ostinato, with the processional hymn, Holy, Holy, Holy. On October 16, during the Bishop's visit, the handchimes accompanied the Offertory hymn, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling. The handchimes accompanied the opening hymn of the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, December 11, Once in Royal David's City. Many thanks to Helen and her daughter Erica, Genette, Keyana, Georges and Lynn, for participating with the handchimes during 2016. A special thank you to the youngest member of the Music Ministry at St M's, Erica, for her role.

The Music Ministry at St. M's provides praise music for almost all the services during the year, including the Healing Services that occur throughout the school year; the Praise team is very fortunate to have several members that participate. The praise team also inspired the congregation with the Theme Song for this anniversary year, Take Us to the River. Alaina often plays flute, drums or sings; Lydia, Angie, Kelly and Lynn are the regular members of this team. The choice of praise songs is a team effort, and everyone participates in giving suggestions. This year, two members of the praise team also sang solos, Lynn and Angie; Panis Angelicus for Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve. In addition, Lynn sang Gesu Bambino, for both of these Christmas services. Both Lynn and Angie worked very hard to prepare for these events; it is not easy to sing solos!

The Choir sings during the different seasons of the year. This year, the Choir sang a special service of Antiphons for Maundy Thursday. In addition to that, the Choir sang four anthems, There is a Redeemer, One Bread, One Body, Jesu, Jesu, and Thou Who at Thy First Eucharist. On Easter Sunday, the Choir presented two anthems, Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet, and Jubilate Deo, in addition to singing a postlude called, Hallelujah. The month of December is always a busy time for the Choir. They sang for the Service of Nine and Lessons and Carols, as well as for the Carol Sing, which precedes the Christmas Eve Service. They presented two anthems for those services, Laudemus Te, and Dans Cette Étable. It was during this very busy time that our two new members, Monica and Helen, sang with us. The choir also sang many descants, responses, and other special music during the year. Many thanks to the choir members for all of their hard work and effort, Lydia, Genette, Bernice, Annette, Lynn, Pat and our two newest members, Monica and Helen. They are a small group, but quality is always just as important as quantity.

Many thanks to Lynn who prepares all of the Power Points and files music for the entire year. This includes Healing Services and other special events. This is an indispensable part of Praise, Choir and Handchimes.

The Music Ministry is truly blessed to have a group of dedicated people who enjoy praising God thru music. They reveal the meaning of the words of John Rutter's anthem, "What sweeter music can we bring, Than a carol, for to sing. The birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn C. Bontemps, Organist/Choir Director