

## Sing For Your Supper

The scene wasn't promising. It was late afternoon on a dank February day and Milton High Street was descending into a deserted sea of grey. The cold bit into the unwary. But at the top of the High Street there was light.

### Let there be Light and Soup

To be more exact there were lights and a wonderful smell coming from the Baptist Church and the adjacent hall. The smell was parsnip soup, one of four soups on offer, to be followed by crusty bread and cheese, all the precursor to a *Songs of Praise* service at six o'clock.

Inside the hall, the air was filled with the competing soups and the sound of cheerful voices of all ages. As the last crumbs were fingered on to tongues and the last soup mopped up, everyone moved into a beautifully warm church; it was packed. For the first time in recent memory, the congregation overflowed onto the balcony. And then the singing began. What singing it was. On a theme

linked to Valentine's Day, with favourites like; *Love divine all loves excelling, When I survey the wondrous cross* and *Jesu, lover of my soul*.

Voices rose to the roof in a medley of praise and joy. Interspersed with piano, guitar, children's activity sheets, a thought for the day and a Bible reading delivered in the broadest Yorkshire accent in the Wychwoods, the songs rang out, turning that dismal scene outside into a haven of warmth and belief.

When the last song had been sung, the singers returned to the hall for a selection of sticky puddings, coffee and biscuits. Looking back on a memorable evening, what lingered in the mind was the vitality and passion of the singing; while Shipton church boasts one of the finest church choirs in the land, it would be hard to exceed the enthusiasm of the singing in Milton on that chilly February evening.

### Bob Forster

*The next 'Songs of Praise' service will be Easter Praise on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm.*

## Shipton Church Choir at Bath Abbey What to Do Over the Royal Wedding Weekend!



If you're wondering what to do over the Royal Wedding weekend, then why not come and hear Shipton church choir on tour?

The choir is singing the services at Bath Abbey on **30th April** at 5:15pm and **1st May** at 11am and 3:30pm, whilst the Abbey choir is on holiday.

If you would like further details, or to arrange to share transport, please contact Bernard West on: 01993 831242.