

Oxford Male Voice Choir in Shipton Church

140 people were welcomed to Shipton church by the vicar, the Rev'd Kate Stacey, on the evening of 8th September to hear a concert by the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir. The Choir was originally formed in 1928 by Welshmen who had come to Oxford to

find work in the car industry and some of their present number are descendants of those pioneering spirits. They performed under the musical direction of Helen Swift and were accompanied by her husband, Jonathan French.



Miss Swift changed from Musical Director to Soloist again. The Choir's closing set consisted of *Alexander's Ragtime Band, The Rose, Rhythm of Life, and Amen*. For their well-deserved encore the Choir, accompanied by Bernard West on

the church organ, invited the audience to join them in singing *Cwm Rhondda*. The church dates back the best part of a millennium: I suspect its acoustics had never before been tested so thoroughly or so enjoyably.

Cwm Rhondda Raises the Roof

The first half opened with a set of four traditional Welsh airs and then Miss Swift entertained the audience with a delightful solo performance. The Choir's second set started with *An African Prayer* and finished with the rousing *When the Saints*. There was then an interval, during which refreshments were served.

A rousing rendition of *Jolly Roger* started the second half, followed by the old time favourite *Unchained Melody, You'll Never Walk Alone* and *Morte Criste*. Then

A Great Success

It was a splendid evening that raised £1,252 for the church. Thanks are due to all who helped and particularly to Shipton and Milton Post Offices who sold so many tickets and James and Peggy Walmsley who organised the refreshments. And a special "thank you" is due to the two ladies from Manchester who found the concert on the Shipton website and came and joined us for the evening.

Peter Hills

Beautiful Bunting for Hire

Anyone who joined in the Diamond Jubilee celebration tea at the New Beaconsfield Hall cannot have failed to notice the wonderful bunting that added the final, perfect touch. This bunting was handmade by members of Shipton WI and is now available for hire. It is the perfect way to add a touch of class to any

celebration. We also have a newly made, wooden easel, just perfect for displaying seating plans and a supply of 60 cups, saucers, dinner and tea plates, pudding bowls and cutlery. If you are interested in hiring any or all of these items please give me a ring on: 01993 830306.

Margaret Hartley