

How will We Manage without Anne?

“I’m not an organist, I am a pianist”

So says Anne Melling who is about to retire, after having played the organ at the church of St Simon and St Jude in Milton-under-Wychwood for over 30 years!

Anne comes from a musical family. She speaks fondly of her family’s music-making during her childhood, a regular form of entertainment before the advent of television. Anne had piano lessons throughout her childhood but never received formal instruction on the organ.



life’s work. As well as playing for Milton church, and in the past helping out at Shipton and Fifield churches, she has taught the piano to scores of children and adults, accompanied the Chipping Norton Male Voice Choir, played for Chipping Norton Operatic shows and pantomimes, as well

as playing as accompanist at the Cheltenham festival.

As to the Organ...

Anne’s first involvement with music at Milton church, after she and David moved to the village in 1978, was to develop a choir, building up over the years to as many as 22 adults and children - the choir stalls would not hold any more. In recent years the size of the choir has shrunk but Anne has continued faithfully. An annual highlight has become the scratch choir coached by Anne, coming together to sing at the Carols by Candlelight just before Christmas. How will we manage without her? Come along and see.

As to the organ - Anne recalls that when she and David arrived at church on Christmas morning in 1983, the vicar greeted her at the door in a panic. He asked her to play the organ as the regular organist had failed to appear. So Anne played for the service, her first time, without any warning or preparation - and she has been doing it ever since. Although a trained nurse, since moving to Milton in 1978, Anne has made music her

Can you Accompany Us?

We thank Anne for her incredible dedication and service over the years and for all the music that she has given us. Not forgetting her husband, David, both as a member of the choir and as Anne’s ‘rock’. We wish them both a happy retirement

We will be marking Anne’s retirement at our service on **Sunday 27th October** so please come and join us.

We are now without a regular organist, although fortunate in having one or two people who can provide us with music on the organ, piano, guitar or other instrument and on an occasional basis but we are looking for additional and more regular help. If you, or anyone you know, would like to have the opportunity to play in church - to provide accompaniment for our singing or to get involved in music in any way we would like to hear from you.

Contact either our vicar Kate Stacey on: 01993 832514 or kate@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk or Liz Watts on: 01993 831759 or elizabethw@bfocus.co.uk

Liz Watts