

Presentation to Bill & Jean at the Harvest Supper

Charles Murkin

The Harvest Supper held this year on the 23rd September was one of the largest social gatherings, with all ages and sections of the congregation well represented. The fact that it was the last parish social event with Bill and Jean Kemm before their retirement was undoubtedly the reason.



St John's Hall was carefully laid out, utilising even the stage to provide seating accommodation for more than 150 people. The catering arrangements were well thought through so that everyone had the opportunity to partake of a drink, a baked potato with a variety of fillings and a selection of puddings – and all with no waiting in long queues to be served.



Richard Toyn, Churchwarden, thanked Bill on behalf of the parishioners for all of his devoted 14 years of service, which had been given with hard work and friendship to everyone.

Janet Bird, Lay Reader, spoke of the way in which Bill had led the worship in the Church using his deep knowledge and study of the Bible.



As a result of donations totalling well over £3000 that had been made by parishioners, members of the local community and many who have been touched by their ministry, Richard was able to present to Bill and Jean with a laptop computer, a colour laser printer, a digital camera, a large watercolour painting of the Church, a hedge trimmer and

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a new dog basket, together with a large card containing signatures of well wishers. A cheque for the balance, to buy some garden furniture, was also given.



Bill thanked everyone for their support and help over the years. They had enjoyed their time here, but he felt the time had come to hand over to a younger incumbent. He hoped that anyone in the vicinity of their new home in Nutley, East Sussex would feel free to drop in and see them.

Members of the choir, under the baton of Christopher Benham sang two anthems and two madrigals, which were very well received.

Richard thanked everyone for the effort that had been put in to make this such a memorable event, especially the catering team who had produced such an excellent meal.



Charity Concert 7th October

About fifty people came to All Saints to hear Alex Ashworth, baritone and Christopher Benham, piano give their second recital in aid of Aschiana.

Alex had come to us straight from his teaching work in the Iceland Conservatoire; he has sung solo parts with the choir over several years and so was singing to appreciative friends rather than an unknown audience.

He chose a varied programme; the main items were Schumann's *Dichterliebe* (poems by Heinrich Heine) and *Let us garlands bring* - a group of Shakespeare poems set by Gerald Finzi in 1942. Probably the best known are "Come away, come away death" and "It was a lover and his lass".

Alex opened the first half with two operatic arias and the second with *Caro mio ben* which he took slowly, and his voice poured out with great beauty. Like a number of other singers, Alex is finding good songs in the shows and he finished his recital with *Some enchanted evening* and *I got plenty of nuttin'*.

A contented audience was also able to see a DVD of Aschiana and its work, partake of food and drink and to buy jewellery and handicrafts made by Tibetan refugees in Nepal.

In total approximately £600 was raised; thank you to everyone who helped us

John and Fiona Earle