

## **SAPLC Music Report 2024 to 2025**

### **April – November 2024**

Live music was provided for all services during these months despite the continued absence of a Music Director. Contributing musicians included Madge Wollard, Emily Bowden, James Caroe and the church's own music group, namely John Booler, Mary Mitchell plus other musicians. In addition, Simon Dumpleton was able to return and play on several occasions too.

Early in 2024 the decision was made to readvertise the post of Music Director, and in the autumn Elizabeth Bentley (Liz) was appointed and she commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025. Liz is an accomplished musician, and she has played for us on the organ, Clavinova and even on the Bösendorf piano for the Good Friday service. It is anticipated that she will take advantage of the offer of organ lessons to consolidate her skills in due course.

Mary Mitchell  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### **December 2024 – April 2025**

The busyness of Advent and Christmas meant an incredibly deep dive into the musical life of SAPLC. I have accompanied congregational singing on the piano and organ every week bar one, and enjoyed being part of the church family, gradually getting to know and worship alongside new friends.

The choir met to rehearse on a weekly basis during December and sang at the Christmas Carol Service. It was a challenging time, especially as a flu like virus swept through our group, but it was brilliant to see the kindness and adaptability of everyone. The choir not only enhanced our Sunday morning worship during December, but also provided the gift of support for me: as a lifelong Anglican, I found many of the Methodist hymns chosen by service leaders to be unfamiliar, and I was grateful to have the choir singing alongside me.

In addition, the choir practiced weekly regularly during Lent and sang at the Palm Sunday and Easter Day services.

Thank you to Mary Mitchell and Kit Swanson who have shared directing the choir, and to all the singers for their time and commitment.

Looking into the near future, I would like more collaboration with all service leaders, when selecting music for Sunday worship, sufficiently far enough in advance for me to practice and become familiar with hymns and songs which are new to me (and maybe to the congregation,

in which case there is a need to teach this, prior to singing) Moreover, it would be great if I could have more involvement in the choosing of hymns.

Looking a little further ahead, are there any musicians in our church family who would like to join the band? I see new faces regularly, so please do come and say hello and let me know if you and your instrument/voice would like to be involved. This would also give us an opportunity to explore further “Singing the Faith”. It’s a fabulous hymn book which incorporates much of the best of the old, but also a great selection of modern and diverse hymns which would enrich our inclusive church’s worship, and it would be fun to learn some of these together to introduce to SAPLC.

With love and thanks for the warmth of your welcome during the last five months.

Liz Bentley  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2025