

AGM Recital 2011

Following the AGM on Saturday 12th February 2011 Martin Penny gave an organ recital at All Saints' Church, Hertford. Martin played pieces familiar and unfamiliar, which demonstrated the exceptional quality and beauty of the original work by 'Father Willis' and the differing, thoughtful and respectful yet imaginative ways in which the organ has been developed over the last 100 years. The All Saints' organ was completed in 1899, (£1,240). Willis died in 1901, making All Saints one of the last instruments he built.

Martin introduced the programme in three parts, marking three periods in the life of the organ. Part One, 1899, opened with a loud rousing "Overture to the Occasional Oratorio" by G F Handel. C H H Parry's "Elegy" would have been a very new piece when first played at All Saints. G F Handel's famous "Largo" from *Serse* needed no introduction.

Part Two 1971 marked an overhaul of the organ, and the addition of sixteen new stops, mostly in line with the proposals Willis originally made, completing the choruses of Great and Swell and enhancing the Pedal. Two baroque pieces were played – Praeludium in G BuxWV 148 by *Buxtehude*, and a stately Sarabande with variations (Suite XII) by *Mattheson(1681-1764)*, which was new to most of us, I think.

Part Three 2001 marked a restoration of the organ by the Village Workshop, which included the addition of a Fanfare Trumpet, Clarion (as Willis intended) and 32' Reed. Part Three opened with Hymn Veni Creator by N de *Grigny*. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of J J *Grunenwald* on 2 February, and this was celebrated with a performance of his "Adoratio" – a very beautiful and atmospheric piece.

Martin concluded the programme with his party piece – "Te Deum" by *Demessieux*, which certainly made use of the many sounds of the All Saints' organ!

Many thanks to Martin for his tour round the All Saints' "Father Willis" organ!

Susan Dingle