

Stamford Bridge Singers

20th March 2022 Children's concert and Choral Evensong Dunnington

After over two years without singing as a full choir, the Stamford Bridge Singers made a welcome return to performing in public on Sunday in the beautiful and welcoming church at Dunnington.

Under the leadership of Stuart Nettleship the choir with several new faces entertained the young and the young at heart audience with some well-known favourites. The very first song to be sung was 'The teddy Bear's Picnic', which did delight the two youngest members of the audience. Who knew that 'I do like to be beside the Seaside' actually has a verse to it! And there was a very moving four part version of 'Fields of Gold'. The choir pieces were broken up by some poetry thanks to Barbara, a solo electric piano piece, played with great style by Nicholas, the accompanist, a lesson in musical terminology, provided by Evelyn as well as GNU sung by Stuart and finally a rousing piece for all to join in with Flanders and Swan's Hippopotamus song.

The choir and audience were then treated to a well-deserved Dunnington tea and cake, before switching into liturgical mood for Evensong.

The introit was a setting of the Lord's Prayer in Stuart's evocative arrangement of a well-known Thomas Tallis tune. The canticles were sung to Stanford in C and the responses were also by Thomas Tallis. Fiona was the soloist in Howard Goodall's setting of psalm 23, probably better known as the theme from the Vicar of Dibley and the anthem was very apt for the times : Gustav Holst's setting of Clifford Bax's words Turn Back O Man. This anthem, written soon after the First World War and published during the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1919 continues with: "... forswear thy foolish ways" but ends on a triumphant, optimistic note : " Earth shall be fair and all her folk be one"

For many in the choir this was a big step to get back into singing and performing live again. There were certainly some tired voices after the Evensong, but a real sense that Stamford Bridge Singers are back and doing what they really enjoy – singing together.