



## PARTY TIME FOR ST. MARY'S CHOIR !!

On the first Friday in January, passersby in Croftside may have wondered what was going on as a stream of people – all carrying foil covered plates – traipsed through the door of No. 1. It was the annual Choir Party kindly hosted by Sheila & Philip Arnold. This is always an enjoyable event and this year was special as we invited friends who had been past members of the choir, Steve and Angela and it was the last one with Sue Emerson as our Music Director as, although she is still playing the organ and keyboard and rehearsing the choir before services, she will no longer be taking Friday night Choir Practice and may be having – Shock! Horror! – the odd week off to do her “own thing” and spend time with her newly retired husband, Murray.

We always have a Bring and Share supper and Sheila's table was groaning with a wonderful selection of goodies which we all managed to “force” down with relish. The wine flowed (good for the vocal cords you know) and there was lots of laughter as we regaled each other with choir stories.

We recalled how on a choir day trip to France with our fairly new Vicar – Robin, word went round that he insisted on taking home a “French Tart” – it was for Katharine to enjoy as she was days away from the arrival of Matthew!

Then there were stories of the Musicals we staged many years ago. In one Robin King was playing a roman soldier complete with breastplate and short leather skirt, but Laura thought his legs and face looked rather pale so she covered him with wash-off tan, which upon closer inspection, after application, she discovered

was permanent, so we had a very orange, streaky Vicar for a while.

Sue recalled playing a dove seller in the Temple in one musical, where she had to keep calling out “Plump Doves for sale”, but afterwards someone asked why a Jewish lady in the Temple was selling Plum Duffs – note to self : improve diction!

So the evening went on and a gift of jewellery was given to Sue Emerson from the choir and we sang a couple of carols that we had sung at the Carol Service – sounded really good in Sheila's dining room!!



We do so enjoy singing and the fellowship of the choir and will miss our Friday night choir practice, BUT we are all 100% behind Sue's decision to cut back a bit after 20 years of unstinting dedication to music in St. Mary's church.



We owe you a lot Sue, not least for being so patient with us when the right notes just won't come out. Thank you.

*Sue Ryman*