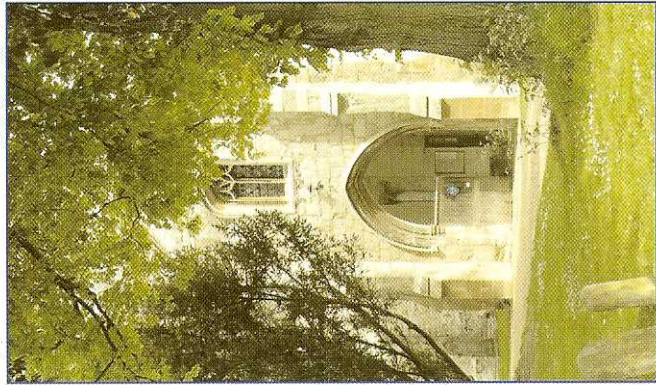


The Ashwell Music Festival

The Ashwell Music Festival which takes place in Ashwell Parish Church, a Grade One listed building from the 14th and 15th centuries, was started by Canon Jack Catterick in 1953. Since that time the Festival has grown from the original conception of a summer school for young people, to involve professional musicians, some with national and indeed international reputations.

As a consequence, much as we would like to retain free entry to concerts relying on donations to cover costs, sadly it is no longer a viable option. Even so, we believe that we offer unbelievable value for money, making available performances of a high standard on your doorstep without the aggravation and cost of travelling into London, as well as paying London prices.



We are also offering two concerts free, relying on your generosity to cover costs. One of these concerts, by young musicians from local schools, maintains Jack Catterick's original aim.

Should we be fortunate enough to make any profit, this will be devoted to improving facilities for concerts.

For this year, The Friends of St Mary's who organise the Festival have, with help, purchased some chairs which we hope will be available in time for this year's Festival.

*Eric Shegog
Festival Committee Chairman*

St. Mary's Church Ashwell in North Hertfordshire

"So I went to Ashwell ... we first saw its gigantic fourteenth century church tower dominating all.

... And the church inside, white and spacious and East Anglian, with arcades like a cathedral, clear glass everywhere, uneven floors and splendid chancel, was worthy of the best of English villages".

Sir John Betjeman
Poet Laureate and lover of churches

Ashwell is an attractive village with a mix of housing styles from the Middle Ages to the present day. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book and in the 14th century was one of Hertfordshire's four largest urban centres.

The springs, which rise adjacent to the High Street, are a Site of Special Scientific Interest and feed into the River Rhee, a tributary of the Cam.



St Mary's Church is known internationally for the graffiti on an interior wall of the tower. One is written by a victim of the Black Death in the 14th century. The other is a drawing of St Paul's Cathedral which was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666.

The tower was extended in the 15th century to commemorate the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. Its spire at 176 feet is the highest in the county.

Ashwell: 4 miles East of Junction 10 of the A1
off the A507
or 8 miles South West of the A10 off the A505

Photographs by Peter John Gates FBIPP

5rd Ashwell 3 Music Festival

Saturday 20th to Sunday 28th May 2006

53rd Ashwell Music Festival

Saturday 20th to
Sunday 28th May 2006

All Concerts are held in *St. Mary's Parish Church, Ashwell*

Saturday 20 May 10 am

Ashwell Primary School
Crickcrack Productions

Story telling for children aged 6 years to 11 years
... and the young at heart ... with music.

Saturday 20 May 7.30 pm

London Oriana Choir

Songs of Slavery and Freedom. A thrilling evening of
spirituals and famous opera choruses - Steal Away, Go down
Moses, Hebrew Slave Chorus, Easter Hymn and many other
favourites from this superb London Choir.

Sunday 21 May 7.30 pm

The Fine Arts Sinfonia of London
Conductor Michael Nebe.

Leaders Peter Fisher/Martin Smith
Mozart's Divertimento, Vivaldi's Concerto for two cello in
G Minor, Bach's Suite No 2 in B for flute and strings,
Elgar's Serenade for Strings, Barber's Adagio, Britten's
Simple Symphony.

"... stunning playing ... great virtuosity ..." Semana Musical,
Alicante, Spain.

"the Fine Arts Sinfonia must now belong among London's
finest ensembles" Croydon Advertiser

Tuesday 23 May 7.30 pm

The Young Musicians

Pupils from Ashwell Primary School and Knights Templar
School, together with St Mary's Church Junior Choir

Followed by COMPLINE sung by the gentlemen of
St Mary's Choir

Thursday 25 May 7.30 pm

Emily Rowley Jones and Friends

An evening with Emily Rowley Jones and David Stout
accompanied by Isabelle Thwaite; three of our most talented
young musicians singing solos and duets by Bizet, Mozart,
Handel, Gershwin, Rogers and Hammerstein and others.
This will be a musical treat!

Followed by COMPLINE sung by the gentlemen of
St Mary's Church Choir

Saturday 27 May 7.30 pm

Terry Lightfoot and His Jazz Band

The Special Magic of Louis Armstrong
Terry, one of the great trad jazz men, has played with
Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald and James Last.

Sunday 28 May 6.30 pm

Festival Evensong sung by Ashwell Parish Church Choir
Music by Monteverdi, Howells, Ireland, Bairstow

Conductor:
Christopher Bucknall BA(Hons) ARCO
St John and St Andrew Church, Chelsea

Organist:
Paul Bryan FRCO, GRSM, ARCM

We are grateful to the following
corporate sponsors:

North Herts District Council

Farrows Farm

P J Gates (Photography) Ltd

Mrs Judy Catterick

Mrs Glenys Travis



BOOKING FORM

HOW TO BOOK

Regrettably, we can no longer attract sufficient sponsorship in an increasingly competitive environment to offer all the concerts free, depending solely on donations. There are, however, two concerts which are free when we hope you will give a generous donation and gift aid it if you pay tax. The Friends of St Mary's which is a registered charity can then reclaim tax (currently 28p in every £1). Details will be available.

ENTRY TO EVERY CONCERT IS BY TICKET ONLY
(please enter the number of tickets in each box)

CONCERT	NO. OF TICKETS
CRICKCRACK PRODUCTIONS CHILD	£2.50
ONE ADULT PER FAMILY FREE	
LONDON ORIANA CHOIR	£10
FINE ARTS SINFONIA OF LONDON	£10
THE YOUNG MUSICIANS	
EMILY ROWLEY JONES & FRIENDS	
TERRY LIGHTFOOT & HIS JAZZ BAND	£10
FESTIVAL EVENSONG	[NO TICKETS REQUIRED]

BY POST: Please send the booking form and a cheque (payable to Friends of St Mary's Ashwell) or cash for those concerts where payment is required, together with a **stamped addressed envelope** to Mrs E ten Hove, 11 Angell's Meadow, Ashwell, Baldock, SG7 5GS.

Further information 01462 743251/742746

Please also enter your own details below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____