

2022 Annual Parish Report – Music

My first four months at St. Paul's have been quite an exhilarating whirlwind. Stepping into this position has been a breath of fresh air that I didn't realize I needed, and I finally feel as if I'm starting to settle in and learn the St. Paul's routine. However, before digging into program specifics, I would like to offer thanks to the people and staff of St. Paul's. Your warm welcome, encouragement, and continued support make this a special place. I also give special thanks to Linda Laughton, our previous music director. Linda created an incredible foundation for me to work with and, without her efforts, I would not be able to do all that I am able to now.

The first half of 2022 was one of transition marked by Linda Laughton's retirement as Director of Music and following interim period with Celia Bane. In general, this period went rather smoothly, and I was able to take the reins in August with no problem. In my time at St. Paul's, I think one of the greatest highlights was our Advent Lessons and Carols service. Here, both our Choir and Handbell Choir were able to truly shine as liturgical leaders and hopefully gave everyone glimpses of what is to come with future music.

Looking ahead to next year, one goal is to increase choir membership to 20 regular members. In the fall of 2022, we had a former choir member return to the group and had one new member join bringing our number to 13 regular members. With our handbell choir, we are hoping to increase membership as well. We currently have eight regular ringers and one substitute. However, growth of the handbell choir comes with the challenge of a limited number of resources and bells for people to ring. The ringers have been discerning ways we can tackle this challenge in the future.

With 2023 having arrived, there is a sense of renewed energy around our program. We continue to strive toward excellence and develop ways to enrich our worship. In the future we'll explore redeveloping the youth and children's music program and opportunities for outreach through music in the community. If you have any questions about the music program or wish to support or join, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Submitted by Matt Hill, Director of Music and Organist