

# Dr Andrew Naylor – Organist and Choirmaster

Dear Friends

It is with great pleasure that I have taken up the rôle of Organist and Choirmaster of St Mary's, Walberton. May I thank the Vicar, Church Wardens and PCC for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

Over the last three months I have had the joy of working with Tim, the choir and Gaye. Tim has been immensely supportive – I thank him for giving me the chance to try new things! The choir has been simply wonderful taking on-board lots of new music with considerable skill and always good humour. Gaye has been a pillar of support and encouragement for which I am truly grateful – we have both enjoyed working with one another.

I have been asked to tell you a little about myself.

At the age of five I started learning the piano. It was not until just after my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday I had the opportunity to start organ lessons. I continued with my organ studies at Rugby School, where I had the joy of working with a young, blonde chaplain – yes, this was Bishop Michael! I prepared to take the ARCO (Associate of the Royal College of Organists), but alas my first set of A level results were not adequate to get me in to medical school. I resat these a year later and gained entry in Guy's Hospital Medical School.

In 1978 I was appointed Organist and Choirmaster of Holy Trinity Church, Roehampton. This was a wonderful opportunity to work with an excellent choir. I met my wife to be, Gilly, whilst on holiday on the Isle of Wight, and she joined me at Roehampton as my Assistant Organist.

We married in September 1981. Our daughter Rebekah was born in 1983 and in 1985 we moved South, initially to Cuckfield and later that year to Chichester. It was whilst working at St Richard's that Gilly & I formed Chichester Voices ([www.chichestervoices.org.uk](http://www.chichestervoices.org.uk)). The choir has given me great joy over 27 years and acted as a great leveller whilst working as a GP.

My appointment at St Mary's has brought me full circle back to parish music. I am really looking forward to working with everyone, both musical and not so musical (!), in the furthering of the Gospel in this place and beyond.

More of my thoughts about music at St Mary's to follow. Once again, may I thank you all for your warm welcome.

Working together in Christ.

*Andrew*