

Review of the year 2015

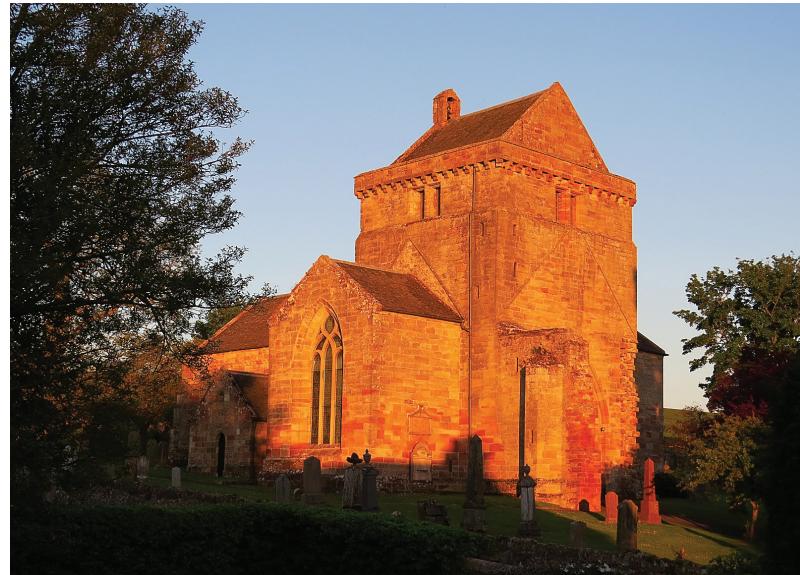
CRICHTON
COLLEGIATE
CHURCH

issue 9 2016

Music at Crichton...

We are fortunate at Crichton to be able to enjoy some wonderful music performed by exceptionally gifted musicians within the beautiful setting of the church. With its spectacular location overlooking the Crichton Glen, with the castle and the Moorfoot Hills beyond, together with the fine acoustic and interior of the church, Crichton never ceases to impress those who come to perform at our concerts.

The Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra began the season with their annual concert featuring the works of Bach, Holst and Stanley. Later in June we enjoyed an excellent performance by the Choir of St Giles' Cathedral, directed by Michael Harris with a repertoire that included works by Tallis, Purcell and Mendelssohn. Afterwards James and Claudine Tate kindly provided refreshments in their beautiful garden. Claudine has been a member of the choir for many years. As part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe



The Roxburgh Quartet returned in September under the umbrella of Midfest, Midlothian's Festival of Arts and Music. With a common vision to share a passion for string quartet with as wide an audience as possible, the Quartet has performed a large repertoire in concerts throughout Scotland. The evening saw another impressive performance with works by Ravel and Dvorak.

The concert season drew to a close with a lunchtime performance by the London based Arensky Ensemble. A string quintet for the occasion, they played Schubert's Quintet in C, arguably one of the greatest compositions in chamber music. This was the first visit to Crichton by the Ensemble, and the church proved to be the favourite venue of their Scottish tour. Their leader, Rowan Bell, who was brought up in the Borders, is a founder member, director and principal second violin of the innovative Arensky Chamber Orchestra. Our thanks to Sally Street and the Bell family for helping to organise this outstanding concert. We hope to welcome them back in the future.



the church played host to the Scottish Plainsong Choir directed by Alan Tavener, Scotland's leading exponent of Plainsong. With a reception beforehand in the garden of the Old Manse, the event recreated a Vespers service as it would have been sung in the 15th century, with Revd. Martin Robson ably assisting in recreating the interchange of monastic and priestly voices. It was an evening that could be approached either as a service, marking the Feast of the Assumption, or as a concert and attracted a number of dedicated Fringe goers from Edinburgh. This was the Trust's first venture into the Fringe and one which proved worth repeating in the future.

Looking to 2016...

The Trust is planning to mark Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday in 2016 by holding a Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday 12th June. This important occasion will feature some of the music, readings and prayers from the Coronation. Refreshments will be served beforehand in the garden of the Old Manse. This will be our flagship event of the year and definitely a date for your diaries.

The Friends

The Friends Summer Concert with the Pathhead Choir in June was well attended and much enjoyed by the local community. This was swiftly followed by a garden party in the lovely, recently restored walled garden of Prestonhall, thanks to the generosity of Jackie Callander. Despite an ominous weather forecast, the sun shone and the large attendance enjoyed walks around the garden and another delicious tea provided by the Friend's Committee and their team of helpers to whom we are most grateful. The event raised a substantial amount of money towards the work of the Trust. The Friend's also ensured that the church was open on Sunday afternoon's during the summer months for visitors to enjoy. Their support in this is much appreciated.



Robert Bell

Bob Bell who had been our beadle since 2002, passed away in September. A familiar face to many, he loved Crichton and enjoyed all the services and events he attended over the years and at which he so faithfully performed his duties.



A Stitch in Time...

Next time you are fortunate enough to find yourself sitting on a pew in the church with a cushion, spare a thought for the story that lies behind them. Since the formation of the Trust there have been a small band of 'stitchers' who have been quietly making the Crichton experience more comfortable. Most cushions are in memory of individuals. The common thread to them all is an expression of affection and affinity for the church both by those involved in their creation and by those who are remembered.



www.crichtonchurch.com

Having trialled the charity support site, Just Giving, for the last two years as an additional option for the payment of subscriptions or receipt of donations, it has become apparent that this method is not proving popular or cost effective. The Trustees have therefore decided to withdraw the Just Giving option from the website. We have, however, retained our PayPal account, maintaining an online payment facility.

Services

There were six services held during the year including Easter Communion, Ascension Day Eucharist, Tyne Valley Parish United Service, Harvest Celebration, Armistice Day Service and Carols at Crichton. In addition there were seven weddings including a French couple who had travelled from Bordeaux. There was an adult baptism of a gentleman from San Francisco with the surname Crichton. There was one local funeral.



Armistice Day 2015

Revd. Neil Gardner, Cadet Jamie Butler and Sir Robert Clerk

Watch this space...

The Trustees are currently exploring the possibility of undertaking the restoration of the church bell. Initial reports on its condition by bell experts suggest that it may well be cracked. Originally cast in 1619 by Patrick Kilgour, an Aberdeen founder, the inscription on the bell indicates that it was re-founded in 1702, thanks to the generosity of Sir James Justice of Crichton. Sir James lived in Crichton House and was principal clerk of the Court of Session. He also gifted two communion cups to the church in the 1700's which are still used to this day.

My personal thanks to everyone for their support and encouragement.

Henry Duncan, Chairman • February 2016