

# Review of the year 2019

CRICHTON  
COLLEGIATE  
CHURCH

Issue 13 2020

## CONCERTS AT CRICHTON

**2019 was the busiest and most successful year yet for concerts, both choral and orchestral.**

The **Glasgow Chamber Choir**, one of Scotland's finest amateur choirs, made a welcome return visit in June, performing *Summer Songs and Sonnets* under their musical director Michael Bawtree, including works by Mathias, Stanford and Williams.

great Renaissance composers – William Byrd. The poignancy of his position as a devout and lifelong Catholic at the time of the English Reformation, explained the apt concert subtitle of *Singing in Secret*. The programme was deeply moving and as ever, beautifully sung by the nine strong Consort led by their musical director, Rory McCleery. A week later, we were delighted to welcome a choir from the district of Heinsberg in Germany, Midlothian's twinning partner. Despite



Maestro Alberto Massimo



Junger Chor Hünshoven

Theo Boomers

Later in the month, Maestro Alberto Massimo and the **Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra** made their annual visit, presenting a *Summer Baroque Concert* with works by Boyce, Avison and Stanley. In August, the church became an Edinburgh Festival Fringe venue for two concerts. The **Marian Consort** performed *A Glory to our Race*, and a *Nightingale to Our People*, featuring music from one of the

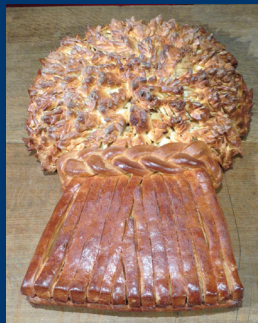
heavy rain curtailing some of the day's planned events, the **Junger Chor Hünshoven**, a non-professional church choir, aged 16-55, gave an enthusiastic and memorable evening concert with a programme of contemporary church music as well as gospel and popular music. Our thanks to Provost Peter Smaill and members of Midlothian Council for organising the visit. Our concert season concluded

in September when the church hosted two concerts during the **Lammermuir Festival**. Started ten years ago, and held predominantly in venues across East Lothian, the Festival now has an enviable reputation for outstanding musical events. The Crichton Trustees and Festival artistic directors, Hugh Macdonald and James Waters have long expressed a desire to use the fine acoustic of the church and its setting in the Tyne valley, as an ideal location for the Festival. This was finally achieved when Quatuor Mosaïques, one of the world's leading period instrument string quartets, performed the first concert, with works by Haydn and Beethoven. Then, a few days later, the internationally acclaimed Dunedin Consort, performed Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 together with works by Handel and Vivaldi. Both concerts were sold out and lived up to the Festival's aim of delivering *Beautiful Music in Beautiful Places*. We look forward to their return in 2020.



# SERVICES

The services began with an evening Communion on Easter Day conducted by Reverend Dale London. The choir and congregation of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lutton Place in Edinburgh made their regular visit for an Ascension Day Eucharist in May. The local Tyne Valley Parish held a United Service in June. In October, there was a Harvest Thanksgiving service with a traditional display of produce including a harvest sheaf made by the local bakery, Albert Wahlberg & Sons.



The Service of Remembrance held on Armistice Day was conducted by the Very Reverend Dr John Cairns. It was also the final time we were privileged to have Sir Robert Clerk Bt. OBE, in his official capacity as Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian, lay a wreath on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen. Sir Robert is due to retire from his post in 2020.

Carols at Crichton, with around one hundred and twenty attending, was held in December on the second Sunday in Advent. We are grateful to Reverend Robert Simpson for so ably leading this service.

The funeral of Leslie Andrews took place in October. His grandfather, William Findlay had been the custodian of Crichton Castle in the 1950's.

There were four weddings held during the year and one christening.



*The Very Reverend Dr John Cairns and Sir Robert Clerk*



## OF INTEREST...

Meriel Tilling was a recent visitor to the church. An artist and skilled embroiderer, she created the pulpit fall in the church in 1987. Her design is a colourful interpretation of the building and the surrounding rural landscape. Her speciality, and testament to her ability, is the intricate gold thread work of the cross. She and her husband lived for many years in nearby Fushiebridge.

### [www.crichtonchurch.com](http://www.crichtonchurch.com)

Information regarding upcoming events is available on the website and sent out via email. Please keep us up to date with your contact details. The Trustees are working to ensure that we are fully compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations.

## The Friends

The Friends' Committee organised two excellent visits. The first, in May, was to Johnstounburn House near Humbie. Those who braved the wet weather were treated to a tour of the beautifully restored garden followed by a talk from the head gardener and a delicious afternoon tea organised by the Friends. We are grateful to Charles and Ruth Plowden for their generous hospitality. Then in September, we were given a tour of Newbattle Abbey in Dalkeith, with its fascinating history as a Cistercian monastery, then stately home and now adult further education college. The Friends presented the popular annual Pathhead Choir Summer Concert in June. The choir continue to use the church for their weekly choir practices. The regular Sunday openings and Midlothian Doors Open Day welcomed local visitors as well as those from around the world.

We were sorry to learn that a number of long standing Friends had passed away. Crichton resident, Daphne Hamilton, died in March and her memorial service was held in the church. Donald Hardie, who had shown a keen interest in the activities of the Trust, died in July. Iain McCarter, one of the founding Trustees, and our Clerk of Works during much of the restoration work, died in August. We remember them with fondness and are so grateful to them for their faithful support over the years.



**My personal thanks to everyone for their support and encouragement.**  
Henry Duncan, Chairman • March 2020