



THE BUGLE

ST. MICHAEL'S BRASS BAND



MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

The Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your
face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his
hand.

The band has played the beautiful music to these words and we wish
all our friends the sentiments that they contain.



A happy Easter to everyone and
thank you so much for your continued
support





SPOTLIGHT

ON



Sid Tennant's Adventurous Family

Sid is our sprightly 2nd euphonium player. Sid (centre) and his late wife, Evelyn, were married for 66 years and had 2 children Andrea and Paul.

When the earthquakes hit Nepal in 2015 Sid had good reason to be worried, since his granddaughter Anna lives in the capital city, Kathmandu, where she has been teaching in The British School for the last three years.

Many years ago, Sid's daughter, Andrea (above left), was working as a psychiatric nurse and Andrew (above right), her husband, was a laboratory scientist, when they heard about the International Nepal Fellowship. This is a Christian organisation and they found out about it whilst living in Scarborough.

They were inspired by the mission of the fellowship which aims to empower the poorest people of Nepal through health and development projects. They decided they could put their skills to good use by going to Nepal. So, in 1988 the family upped sticks and off they went on what was, no doubt, an awfully big adventure. They lived in Pokhara, just under a hundred miles west of the capital Kathmandu, for five years where Andrew

worked at Green Pastures Leprosy Hospital. Andrew helped to develop the laboratory and began teaching local health workers how to take blood and test for leprosy, a vital skill in a poor country where diseases such as leprosy are still quite prevalent. Andrea worked with pre - school children during their time there.

They lived in Pokhara for four years, during which time Sid and his late wife Evelyn visited. They had an eventful trip, including missing some flight connections in Delhi, Sid even had to help build an addition to the side of the mountain road on their journey from Kathmandu to Pokhara in order for the bus they were on to get round a huge lorry which had broken down. Having arrived at the family home Sid decided to go for a walk across a large grassy meadow, which, after his walk, Andrea told him, was full of venomous snakes!

After six months back in England, Andrea and Andrew returned to Nepal to live in Kathmandu, where they ran a hostel for children. Their own children, Anna and John, went to school and learned the language.

After two years, they again returned to England where Andrew trained for the Anglican ministry. Andrew has been a team vicar in Monton for 11 years and Andrea has changed her career and is now a psychotherapist and counsellor. Their son, John, now lives in Shillong, India with his wife Nateisha and their new baby, Isaiah.

Andrea and Andrew have recently been offered jobs as pastoral carers for expatriate staff who work for the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) and Church Mission Society (CMS) so once again they are off to Nepal. Anna is pleased to have her mum and dad living in the same city once again.

And, then there is Sid who used to play the accordion, has a guitar in the corner of his living room, took up the euphonium in his seventies, and now that he is in his nineties he runs up and down at the Old Vic putting away instruments every week and has his passport ready for his next visit to Nepal. There's no need to ask where the family get their sense of adventure and boundless energy for new projects is there?

If you would like to know more about the work of CMS please let Sid know and he can give you information or you can e mail:-

andreamyoung2@hotmail.co.uk

St Michael's Band Chairman's AGM Report March 2016

It has been a good year for St Michael's Band. I thank all players for being so faithful at rehearsals and so flexible at concerts; also we thank our guests and visitors for help in times of need. We gained more new players, Dave Peachy, George and Maddy Bradley. The Training Band is going from strength to strength, with six regular players, under the positive leadership and teaching of Carol Farnsworth. Thank you so much Carol. And just to say we are very proud of the progress that George and Maddy are making, also Trish West.

Our Band Conductor, Malcolm, has remained cheerful and encouraging, continuing to build our confidence, with enjoyable and sometimes challenging music for us to play. Huge thanks to Kath for librarian work and for all the research and photocopying, much appreciated. Thanks also to Lee, for all she has done looking after our instruments. Thank you to our Web Master, Sid, for keeping us up to date. We get a lot of enquiries, thanks to you, and our website is one to be proud of. Thank you to Pat Ridgway for our house magazine, "The Bugle" and to our brilliant team of roving reporters, Sue and Siobhan, who interview so effectively. We are proud of our newsletter, which reaches so many people.

Our grateful thanks go to both Eddie and Judith, who keep our accounts so faithfully. It's nice to know that we are doing well financially at the moment, and that we can support the Boltones Charity. Thank you to Val, our secretary, for all she does so meticulously for us. Also we continue to thank Jean, who supplies mouth-watering refreshments for us.

My Aunt Charlotte's Christmas Cake

My mother's sister, Aunt Charlotte, lived with her husband, Uncle Tom, and their two sons, cousin Tommy and cousin Sammy in a small, two-up-two-down terraced house, close to Salford Docks. The two boys spent most of their playtimes in and around the Docks and the Ship Canal so it was no surprise when Sammy, aged 17, joined the Navy in 1938.

Christmas 1939



There was no shortage of festive food as rationing hadn't begun and Aunt Charlotte won a Christmas cake at the church social. It was a magnificent work of the Cake Makers' Art; covered in white icing with pink Christmas roses decorating the top, all made from icing sugar. It was sealed in cellophane and placed in a fancy cardboard box. Aunt Charlotte's first words on receiving her prize were "I'm not going to cut this cake 'til Sammy gets home on leave". And I will

tell you now that Sammy didn't get home on leave until 1943 - but that's another story!

The cake, encased in its own cardboard "bomb shelter", was put on the top shelf of the cupboard at the side of the chimney, safely awaiting the sailor's return.

1940

At Christmas in that following year, Salford docks got the first of what we called "The Blitz". Aunt Charlotte's house was shattered and, along with all her other possessions, the Cake was safely rescued and rehoused a few streets away, but still near to the docks.

1941

Aunt Charlotte again bombed out and the Cake was once more retrieved from the rubble.

1942

Stray air raids continued to drop bombs on Salford and unbelievably Aunt Charlotte's house again became a victim but our great fortune was the recovery of our now famous Christmas Cake totally intact. Aunt Charlotte was convinced that the Cake was a bad omen and was never to enter her house again. So, she gave it to my Mother!



I remember the day that Cake was placed on the table and the dilemma Mother faced. Would it be edible? Was it safe to eat? It was three years old by this time. We couldn't remember ever having seen such a thing of beauty and there wasn't a mark on it.

The box was a bit tatty but the roses on top of the Cake hadn't lost their colour or been damaged in any way. Taken out of its cellophane wrapper and placed on a plate, it looked wonderful.

Mother got a knife and took the first attempt to cut into it but it was impossible.

The icing was rock hard so it now required a more serious approach. The Cake was placed on a chopping board and a heavy hammer and chisel from Dad's workshop were brought into play. At last the Cake emerged from its shell and it was so moist and fresh, we couldn't believe it was



three years since it was baked. We savoured every morsel and ate every last crumb. We were so glad that Sammy was still away at sea!

We had such small sweet rations during the War so we broke up the solid icing sugar into small pieces and put it into little bags. Every day we would take out a piece to suck and it lasted longer than any gob stopper I could remember. Not that I used my sweet ration on gob stoppers..... Grace Barnett MBE

AND ANOTHER GEM FROM GRACE.....

The Yellow Wellingtons



One of my work colleagues, her sister and 5 yr old niece went shopping in London with the prime object of buying a pair of Paddington Bear wellingtons.

They successfully purchased a pair which her niece insisted on wearing immediately. They went into Harrods - a very posh shop - and entered the crowded lift and found themselves crushed at the back. Suddenly a woman hit out at a man, shouting at him and demanding that he be arrested.

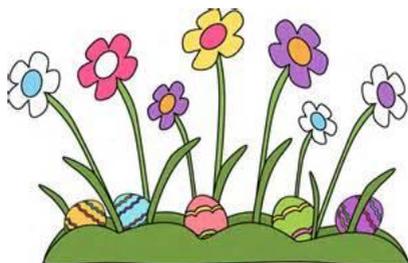
The lift attendant called for help and the man was marched off, with the woman closely following. The lift attendant told my friend to go as it wasn't a nice thing for a child to see so they made their way out of the store. The two grown-ups said what a strange thing it was, the way the woman had attacked the man when the child spoke up and said, "She wasn't a nice lady - she trod on my yellow wellingtons so I pinched her bottom!"

The three shoppers hastened to the manager's office to explain that it wasn't the poor man who had pinched the lady's bottom but the child in revenge for stepping on her new yellow wellies!

Grace Barnett MBE

Also noteworthy is the great atmosphere and good humour here. We are St Michael's Band and it is gratifying to know that our list of Friends is growing. We have had plenty of engagements, our Alkington Community Centre Concert was superb and we did well playing carols at Tesco over Christmas. We look forward to further successes this year.

Pat Barr



WAYS TO IMPROVE BAND!

- Everyone should play the same piece.
- If you play a wrong note, look at your partner.
- Carefully tune your instrument before playing. That way you can play out of tune all night with a clear conscience.
- Take your time turning pages.
- The right note at the wrong time is a wrong note (and vice-versa)
- If you are completely lost, stop everyone else and say, "I think we should tune".
- A true interpretation is realised when there remains not one note of the original left.
- A wrong note played timidly is a wrong note. A wrong note played with authority is an interpretation.
- When everyone else has finished playing, you should not play any notes left over.
- Never, ever look at the conductor. He might mistake it for interest and try and put some real music in the piece.

Anon. (NOT written by a St. Michael's band player)

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Thank you to everyone for your help and encouragement in making our concert at Alkington Community Centre in support of the BOLTONES so successful. We will be holding another concert at this venue on:-

Saturday 12 November 2016 8- 10 pm

Put the date in your diary now so you don't miss it!

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 10th April: St Michael's Church Parade Service 10am for 10:15-11:45

Mon 2nd May: May Day Jubilee Park Bandstand 11am for 11:30-2pm.

Sat 11th June Support Grace for Failsworth Carnival TBA

Sat 2nd July: St Peter's School Summer Fair at Kirkway Alkington. 10:30am for 11am -1pm.

Sat 9th July: St Michael's Church Summer Fair at the School, Boardman Fold Rd. Alkington. 1:30 for 2pm till 4pm.

Sun 14th Aug: Queen's Park, Heywood 1:30 for 2-4pm

Sat 12th Nov: Band Concert at Alkington Community Centre, Hardfield Rd. 7:30pm for 8 till 10ish

Christmas Dates at Tesco: Wed and Thurs 14th and 15th Dec from 6:30-8:00pm Wed and Thurs 21st and 22nd Dec from 6:30-8:00pm