

David and Nicola Hooke and the Asaph Christian Trust

During our morning worship service on Mothering Sunday, the 26th March, the congregation was pleasantly surprised to hear a hidden bright new trumpet descant accompanying hymns with the organ. Playing unannounced, this turned out to be a very talented musician friend and colleague of Robert Evans, one of our organists. It was none other than David Hooke, from The Asaph Christian Trust (ACT), who is pictured right with Robert, also a member of the Trust.



We were also delighted again to hear him during our Easter Morning Worship Service, this time accompanied by his wife Nicola, soprano and flautist, who sang the ‘Alleluia’ from the third part of Mozart’s solo motet *Exsultate, jubilate*. They are pictured together below, and, on the following page, with other members of the ensemble.

Who best to describe themselves, so the following is reprinted, with permission, from one of ACT’s promotional leaflets:



1.

“The Asaph Christian Trust has a passion for providing churches with professional quality musical events that are designed to appeal to the wider local community while clearly communicating aspects of the Christian faith. The charitable trust was founded in 1997 in order to facilitate this vision.

“ACT has the voluntary support and guidance of committed trustees and the musical direction of David Hooke as the trust's principal contractor and facilitator. The Trust's vision is to further its work through key partnerships, in the UK, France, Italy and Western Asia.

“As well as being an accomplished musician David is the founding Musical Director of

Adoramus: a large scale Christian choir and orchestra.

“Our outreach events have included:

- Four Asaph Ensemble visits to Normandy, providing concerts in thirteen towns and villages working principally in partnership with the Liebenzeller Mission.
- An annual summer concert series based at High Beach church in Epping Forest, attracting many passers-by who would not normally attend a church.
- Two classical concerts per year in Western Asia given by an Asaph Ensemble or connected associates.
- Meditative music for a Bible exhibition based at a church in Normandy France during the summer season.
- A concert as part of a church's Passion for Life outreach during the Easter period.
- A weekend of concerts for churches in Rotherham.

“Asaph concerts provide music in a range of styles from Baroque to contemporary using different ensembles which range in size. Events can include the use of visual media, can be introduced by a compère and are able to cater for audiences both large and small. Our programmes can be tailored to suit particular requirements. New programmes are always in the process of being created.”



L to R Paul Sharman, Nicola Hooke, Robert Evans, April Fredrick and David Hooke

We look forward to the Hookes returning to perform in our church again in the future. Additional information about ACT and Adoramus and how to join or support them can be found on their websites at <http://www.asaphchristiantrust.org> and www.adoramus.com

Editor