
ALAN HARWOOD:
IN MEMORIAM

On Sunday 15th July a choir of 22 singers gathered to honour the memory of Alan Harwood, Director of Music at St Martin's 1997-2003, on the fifteenth anniversary of his death. Many of them had sung under his inspiring leadership. Music for the service was based on the plainsong 'Ecce sacerdos magnus' (*Behold a great high priest*), a text commemorating a confessor bishop – such as St Martin of Tours, or St Swithun of Winchester whose feast day it was. The mass setting was by Guerrero, the motet by Victoria. Though written over 400 years ago it perfectly fits and

enhances the liturgy that we are fortunate to enjoy at St Martin's. As Fr David reminded us in his homily, "If there is no music there is no mystery; if there is no mystery there is no God; if there is no mystery there is no faith."

We also sang a couple of Alan's descants and his beautiful communion hymn 'Here, O my Lord'. The service ended with a brief ceremony around his memorial stone in the north aisle and my setting of 'God be in my head', written in memoriam. Afterwards we enjoyed an excellent lunch at The Market Place: Alan, the most generous of men, was a firm believer in the ministry of hospitality.

Nicholas Hale