

Summer evening delights

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NEWS/COMMUNITY NEWS

THE GAZETTE 17

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MEMBERS of Tyndale Choral Society pictured after their weekend concert at Dursley Parish Church. Picture by Ken Hitchings Photography, Dursley. GSZ1061485

TYNDALE Choral Society gave just the kind of programme on Saturday for a warm summer evening – music immediately gratifying to the ear.

Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine is becoming nearly as well-known as his famous Requiem: a simple melody, beautifully harmonised and given a well-balanced performance with some fine soft singing.

Three works by Mendelssohn completed the first half at Dursley Parish Church.

I waited for the Lord (from the Hymn of Praise) featured Jean Kelly and Anne Shipton as well-matched soprano soloists. Mendelssohn's vocal writing is grateful for both choir and soloists, and, with sensitive accompaniment by Christopher Boodle, they brought out its richness and sincerity.

Jean Kelly was also the soloist in Hear My Prayer, which contains the well-known air O for the wings of a Dove. To both works she brought sensitivity to the words and the soaring musical lines

Between the two Mendelssohn's Sixty Organ Sonata received a fine performance from Christopher Boodle.

The second half consisted of Elgar's musical picture postcards From the Bavarian Highlands with words by his wife, Alice. Again conductor Michael Power drew some fine soft singing from the choir in the central movements.

If the opening 'dance' was a little too sedate until its hectic conclusion, the final movement, The Marksman hit the target! A helter-skelter chase leading to one of those soaring melodies that only Elgar could write.

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