



THE COMPANY OFFICE

Clerk Col Tim Hoggarth
Deputy Clerk Margaret Alford
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co-founder
Editors Adrian Davis, Paul Campion
 and Patricia Norland
Designer John Hawkins
PR Committee Maurice Summerfield
 (Chairman)
 Paddy Dunn
 Russell Jones
 Stephen Plumb
 Judith Rich

The Worshipful Company of Musicians
 6th Floor
 2 London Wall Buildings
 (opposite Throgmorton Avenue)
 London EC2M 5PP
 Tel 020 7496 8980
 Fax 020 7588 3633
 E-mails clerk@wcom.org.uk
 deputyclerk@wcom.org.uk
 Web www.wcom.org.uk
 Registered numbers of the Charitable
 funds 310040 and 264303

Diary 2005/2006

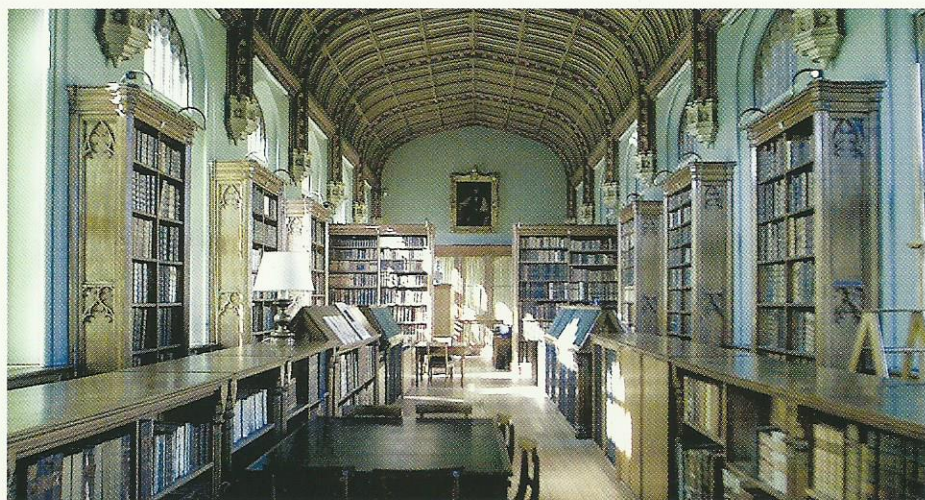
10 November	Installation Dinner: Drapers' Hall, 6.30pm
7 December	Carol Service: St Michael's Cornhill, 6.00pm followed by supper: Tallow Chandlers' Hall
27 January	Livery Club visit, with concert: Royal Academy of Music 6.00pm
9 February	Phyllis Barrett lunch: Armourers' Hall, 12.30pm
6 March	Maisie Lewis Concert: Wigmore Hall, 7.30pm
12 March	Jazz Bronze Medallist's gig: Pizza on the Park, 7.30pm
28 June	Midsummer Banquet: Mansion House, 6.30pm
12 July	Phyllis Barrett lunch: Armourers' Hall, 12.30pm (tbc)

Livery Club activities

The Livery Club visits

Saturday, 21 May 2005

Liveryman Adrian Mumford reports on a memorable day



The photographs of the Parker Library and the so-called Portiforium Oswaldi: copyright: Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College

The Parker Library

Sixty members of the Livery Club and their guests gathered under the neo-gothic gatehouse to King's College – providing welcome shelter from heavy rain – at the start of a busy afternoon in Cambridge led by the Club's President, Andrew Morris.

The first stop – the party having split into two groups – was the Parker Library in Corpus Christi College, named after Archbishop Matthew Parker (1504-1575), former Master of the college. Librarian Dr Christopher de Hamel welcomed us, and gave an immensely engaging and enthused overview of the collection. It was immediately evident that this is a treasure house of Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, and



Robin Orr with Andrew Morris

early printed books.

Parker was an avid collector of books and the library houses one quarter of all extant Anglo Saxon manuscripts in the country including the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, principal source book for early English history, and a book once owned by Thomas à Becket – Dr de Hamel's most prized volume. Parker himself penned *The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion*, and we were privileged to see the original Latin autograph, signed by all Bishops.

Dr de Hamel had generously created a display of rare, probably priceless, music manuscripts: it was fascinating to view the earliest record of polyphony in Europe, the

St Mary-at-Hill, Bach Cantata Series

Tuesday 13 September 2005

The Musicians' Company first visited St Mary-at-Hill, Lovat Lane, to attend a lunchtime performance of The Bach Cantata Series in 1996. This was initiated by Past Master Jonathan Rennert, Director of Music and The Baroque Chamber Orchestra.

His choice on Tuesday 13 September, 2005 was *Cantata 140 (Wachet auf)*. It was first performed in Leipzig in November 1731, a twenty-five minute cantata which was designed as just one element in a four-hour-long Advent Sunday Communion

Service, and is based on a traditional Advent hymn.

Another element was a sermon lasting for a whole hour. I am happy to report that we were spared that part of the proceedings!

Cantata 140 is scored for solo soprano, tenor and bass, who are joined by the alto for the opening chorus and the finale chorale.

Scholars and performers do not all hold the same view as to how many singers and instrumentalists Bach used in performance