



Music Report

A regular column from St Faith's Director of Music, Robert Woods

3. The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end

From September the choir will begin to regularly sing the office of compline on the: Third Friday of the month at 8:45pm, following choir practice. I'm sure many of you will know the service, however I'm sure there are those who do not yet know.

The office of compline is the final church service of the day in the Christian tradition of canonical hours. The word compline is derived from the Latin word completorium, as it is the completion of the working day. In many monasteries who still regularly sing the canonical hours it is the custom to begin the "Great Silence" after compline, during which the whole community observes silence throughout the night until the morning service the next day.

Why bother? Well, this is a question I have had to ask myself a few times, but answers have always come quickly to me. 1) We come together to worship God, even if it is late on a Friday evening; even if we are few in number, God himself is there. 2) Plainsong is a great way of developing tuning, communicating and singing among both choir members and the congregation. For those who feel uncomfortable about singing, this is a great way of gaining confidence and experience! 3) Tradition has always been an important identity to many, including myself. I was always drawn to God through the simple power of this short sung service (around 12 minutes!)

The singing of compline will only add to the choir's other regularly sung services: for those who do not know the choir now regularly sings evensong on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30pm. If you would like to become more involved with either the choir, or as a congregation member with an interest in music and music choices, my contact details can be found on the website. We always welcome new members and ideas of how we can develop our worship together! Amen.

Robert Woods

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