

What does an organist do on holiday?

Lynda Bridges, Musical Director and one of the organists at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, spent 5 days of her holiday in France as the principal accompanist for a choir of 70 drawn from a number of choirs primarily from West London and the Winchester area. There were also at least 12 more Methodist Church members in the choir which included other regular church goers too.



The choir took their own keyboard for the 3 well received concerts in the Perpignan area of the South of France at the end of July and a local French orchestra also played at one of the concerts. Before one of the rehearsals Lynda was invited to try her hand at the Spanish organ, built in 1722 and renovated in 1928, at L'Eglise de St Etienne in the village of Ille-sur-Tet. Whilst enjoying the opportunity

very much, Lynda wished she had her Methodist hymn book to hand to do justice to some of Charles Wesley's hymns. John Sutton, who is the conductor of Hampton Choral Society, Ember Choral Society and the Compton and Shawford Festival Choir, was the conductor for the three concerts which included Vivaldi's Gloria and The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins. Although The Armed Man is becoming an important part of the repertoire of many choirs in England, it is believed this was its first performance in this part of France.

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