



Norristhorpe United Reformed Church

Norristhorpe Lane, Norristhorpe, LIVERSEDGE. West Yorkshire. WF15 7AN.

Web Site: www.spaceurc.org.uk/norristhorpe/ Chapel Mobile: 0774 520 9270

BRASS BAND CONCERT

On Saturday afternoon, 20th May, 70 people attended a Concert at Norristhorpe URC by The Clifton and Lightcliffe 'B' Brass Band, and organized by Rev Chris Wood. Those attending were entertained through a varied programme of music to appeal to a wide range of taste.



The band of about 20 musicians is led by Alex Smith, a recent graduate of Huddersfield University, who took over the leadership of the 'B' Band only about 3 months ago. The programme consisted of such favourites as a Mary Poppins Medley from the original film; Men of Harlech, Baggy Trousers; American Trilogy; Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Chariots of Fire; Te Deum; I will Follow Him; Highland Cathedral, and, of course the icing on the cake, Bless this House in memory of the late Mary Broomhead. Indeed the link was initially made with the Band because Mary had left instructions for her to be brought into Chapel to a Brass Band playing 'Bless this House'. This became a challenge as we couldn't find a C.D., so Chris approached the Lightcliffe & Clifton band, given that he

originates from Lightcliffe, and they kindly recorded a version at one of their rehearsals. David Crisp was the soloist on the recording, and he attended as a guest of the Band to play this piece of music. There were tears shed by many attending as it brought back many happy memories of Mary, a faithful Elder for many years at the Chapel.

The concert was held together by Brian Nicholson, the Band's President, who gave detailed background information prior to each piece, and threw in some jokes, much to the amusement of those attending. Brian has previously been a Councillor in Mirfield, as well as its Mayor. Brought up in Brighouse, he has known Chris Wood and his family for over 70 years. Indeed, Chris knew his mother as 'Aunty Annie' to demonstrate the closeness of the friendship. Through the Band this has renewed the connection, which meant there was a good rapport between them throughout the concert.

It was clear from the response throughout, and especially at the end, that the audience thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, and were soon shouting for an encore at the end, with the Band duly obliging by offering 'Scotland the Brave'.

Refreshments of drinks and cakes were served at the end of the concert, and many stayed to enjoy further fellowship. There was certainly a buzz around the place which was carried over to the Sunday worship led by Rev Peter Sharp.

We are grateful to everyone that contributed to make the event so enjoyable, including the many volunteers who rallied round in so many different ways. £340.00p was raised through ticket sales, and this has been divided equally between the Band and Christian Aid, the latter because this particular Saturday saw the culmination of Christian Aid Week.

The Band has already been booked for a Christmas Concert on Saturday afternoon, 2nd December

Chris Wood

(Retired URC Minister and Member at Norristhorpe URC)

