



April 23rd 2010, St George's Day - A Tribute.

The bells were ringing joyfully when The Crusaders came to St Mary's church in Black Torrington, and what an enjoyable evening was spent, spontaneous laughter echoed through the church as the various acts were performed by an enthusiastic bunch of local talented amateurs. Ken Tyrrell very ably narrated and linked the various acts, some were serious and some not so; and Kathy Roberts and Morag Lobley were terrific on the piano and keyboard.

Some of the Primary school children and one dressed as St George, told us about his history and his exploits. William 1st - 1066 was read by Kathy Roberts, followed by Henry V's Agincourt speech read by Peter Hine, complete with a splendid St George bow tie. The Queen Elizabeth 1st Armada speech was delivered by Lynn Tyrrell, beautifully dressed in a full costume, which she had hired from the Northcott Theatre, it drew gasps from the audience. She walked slowly down the aisles whilst Morag played Greensleeves, it felt as if the first Queen Elizabeth was with us.

Robert Browning's "O to be in England" read by Gerry Smithers, G.K Chesterton's "The Rolling English Road" read by Gerry Matthews and "High Flight" read by Benjie Inniss followed. After the serious stuff the evening became more lighthearted, with some of the eccentricities of being English being explored- talented Bill Smithers gave an uproarious rendition of The Stately Homes of England, complete with dressing gown a la Noel Coward; then Joyce Hursey told The history of Aprons, with help from Hester. This was followed by Janet Lane Fox who very ably gave us The Warning- When I grow old and wear purple. Next Kathy and Morag played a duet in an English County Garden and caused great amusement when there was a final drumming of the bass notes of an indeterminate length neither player wishing to give way to the other. Sue Plummer then read Albert and the Lion, which caused great amusement and laughter. Lynn Tyrrell returned as Joyce Grenfell and her piece- Children; again there was much merriment and laughter, then Betjeman's poem was very ably read by Rebecca, Holly, Hannah and Lyndon. Interspersed with all the readings etc were well known songs for audience to participate in and a rousing rendition of Land of Hope and Glory complete with flag waving. The evening finished with National Anthem being sung. Refreshments followed to round off a very enjoyable evening, being English.

With talent both young and older, £360.79p was raised for St George's church in Baghdad. It was a very worthwhile evening.