

## **Italy 2015**

At the end of May, members of the choir joined a Sussex Festival Choir tour to Venice and Florence. Unlike the weather in Salzburg two years ago, the sun shone most of the time – always a sure way to keep spirits up. Another pleasure of these occasions is to meet, and associate with, members of various other choral societies where our Music Director is involved.

The high spot in Venice was singing the Sunday evening Mass in St. Mark's Basilica where the repertoire included Vittoria Missa O Magnum Mysterium and Morley Agnus Dei. The morning service was also sung in St. George's English church.

A concert was performed in this same church the following day, when Ledger Requiem, Tavener Song for Athene and Rutter Sprig of Thyme were added to the programme.

A coach trip to Florence provided the opportunity to stop off in Bologna and an informal concert performance was given in the cathedral at which Ave Verum – both Mozart and Elgar - and Messiah excerpts were included in the repertoire.

Activity in Florence consisted of a service and concert on separate days in St. Mark's Anglican church. Although modest in size, this church is a favourite local venue for intimate operatic performances. Here Haydn Little Organ Mass and Walford Davies God be in my head featured in the service, whilst Purcell Rejoice in the Lord always and Ledger The Risen Christ were added to the repertoire for the concert.

The tour was greatly enjoyed by everyone who travelled. In both locations there was plenty of time for making the most of the sights and playing tourist amidst the many attractions of two of the most beautiful cities in Italy.



