

Harmonies in Stone: Musicians and Choir in the Chancel at Hillesden Church

On entering a historic church, we may be delighted and inspired by the beauty and artistic excellence of the building. Very often, though, we will fail to note the more detailed features that combine to create an overall aesthetic experience, more especially if they are hidden away high above the floor of the building. Visitors to All Saints Church Hillesden, having driven along narrow lanes across sheep grazed pastures to a remote small village, will find one of the finest examples of the perpendicular style in Bucks. Doubtless they will delight in the restrained elegance, the lightness of the architecture, and the tranquillity of this rural backwater unaffected by the relentless advance of suburbia. But perhaps they will fail to see, high above them, in the chancel, hidden in obscurity, fine examples of early Tudor imagery in stone, a heavenly choir of angels and their accompanying musicians, counterparts to the earthly singers and players who would sound out their hymns and psalms along with the imagined musicians above them.

The Parochial Church Council of All Saints is deeply grateful to Michael Hardy who spent several days in Hillesden Church, capturing images of the stained glass and of the stone images in the chancel of an angelic choir and musicians.

The Choir: Angels Singing from Scrolls



The Lutanist



Portable Organ

The Musicians

