Friends Newsletter – Issue 3 – October 2011

Friends of

Dear Friend,

From the South of Hampshire up to the North East and Darlington, with our next gig in June. Another amazing concert which I was unfortunately unable to make. So here is a review from Robin Barrett, resident drummer.

After an eight year absence, in June this year One**Sound** made a welcome return to the north-east and descended upon Harrowgate Hill Methodist Church, Darlington for another weekend of fun, fellowship, worship and of course hours of rehearsing – all in preparation for our performance at Bondgate Methodist Church on the Saturday evening, down the road in central Darlington. Many thanks to all involved for another successful One**Sound** weekend.

Sadly though, having reached the tender age of 26 back in April, Darlington was my last event as a One**Sound** member and after ten long years I suddenly had to contemplate life without these four weekends a year where I would sometimes have to travel hundreds of miles to places I'd never heard of in a car packed with drums and sleeping bags, to sleep on a cold church hall floor and live without a shower for more than 72 hours. Fortunately for me though, these weekends were spent with the greatest group of friends I've ever had, and it has been an absolute privilege to be part of such a fantastic group of people for so long. My memories of my times with One**Sound** will literally live with me forever.

It was not only Robins last weekend but our resident chaplains James Pritchard, who has been an amazing chaplain for the last seven years. Here is his final good bye, as he reflects on his time as chaplain of MAYC Orchestra and Singers/ One**Sound.**

Wow, what a privilege

For about the past seven years I've acted as chaplain to One**Sound** (and its previous incarnation MAYC Orchestra & Singers). As chaplain my role has had different facets but has mainly focused on the pastoral care of members and staff and the spiritual focus/development of the group. Being in such a role has not always been easy; we have had some sad and painful situations to deal with as well as some amazing highs! My highlights have not been the big concerts and the amazing performances (although they are great!) but rather it has been seeing young people grow and develop, it's been working with young people whose faith is so vibrant and dynamic. I've loved seeing people wrapped up in worship and wrestling with doubts and questions, with great honesty and integrity.

Over the years I've seen many things; slept on more church floors than I care to remember; I've negotiated with property stewards; been amazed at the generosity of people as homemade cakes have appeared; I've pulled my hair out; danced around madly at the back of a full auditorium; I've sat and listened; I've pondered and prayed.

Throughout my time with One**Sound** I've always felt I've gained far more than I've offered, the enthusiasm, commitment, dynamic faith of many of the members and friends of One**Sound** has been an inspiration to me personally and in the rest of my ministry. On more than one occasion the members of One**Sound** have often brought me to tears… in a good way (those around for my final weekend will have seen that more than others!) There have been some very difficult periods and in amongst that I hope I helped us to keep faith. One simple song we've often used in our 'Closer' prayer sessions is 'peace, perfect peace' which talks about seeking God's peace in our hearts, minds and lives. So as my time as chaplain has drawn to an end my prayer for One**Sound** (and their friends) is that you may know God's perfect peace, and the hope, love, and joy that comes from faith in God. Thank you for letting me share in the life of One**Sound**, and may God continue to bless you and others through you too!

O & S Music: (Incorporating 'OneSound' formerly MAYC Orchestra and Singers)
Registered Charity No. 1121823. Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No. 6051704.
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Future Events

Woodlands Christian Fellowship, Bristol
Concert: 14 April 2012
Worship: 15 April 2012 – More details to follow soon
More details to follow.

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Circuit
Concert: Saturday 9 June 2012
Worship: Sunday 10 June 2012

Interview with the new chairman

How did you come to be involved with OneSound?
I joined the MAYC Orchestra and Singers in 1990 and enjoyed my time as a member immensely until it was time to move on 10 years ago. During my time in the O&S I organised the Ireland tour in 1997 and became the chair of the then support group for the last couple of years before I left.

What made you go for the chair position, and what excited you about working with us?
One**Sound**, like the O&S before it, is an organisation that relies on the God given gifts of its members to minister to audiences and congregations around the country and in my opinion and experience is unique in the way that it does so. For me, 10 years older, although maybe not too much wiser, the opportunity to re-engage with the organisation at such an exciting time in its development was one that I had to explore.

What do you think is the best thing about OneSound? The enthusiasm of the membership in their support of One**Sound**'s ministry and the opportunity they have to genuinely affect people's lives. Oh and they're very good to listen to as well!

Tell us about what's exciting/in the pipeline for OneSound in the future
The board are working with Matt to develop his vision for the future of One**Sound** and to explore where God is leading us as an organisation in the future. We are looking into developing regional training choirs that would ultimately work as feeder organisations into One**Sound** We are also starting advance planning for the 40th anniversary celebration of the O&S /One**Sound** in 2014. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive and committed groups of friends and families around us and we look forward to your continued support in the future. I look forward to being able to meet with many of you at our future concerts.

Unfortunately we just had too much to put in this issue of the newsletter, so the chairman interview had to be cut short. For the full article, go to www.onesound.org.uk.

Thanks for your support…

Support us →In Prayer
As ever, we would value your prayers for the above events, and would also ask you to join us in praising God for what he has done in One**Sound** in recent months. In particular:

Praise:

- for Revd James Prichard who has served One**Sound** as our Chaplain for 7 years, many thanks
- for the new Chairman, Jonathan Mortlock and for the new board member, Vicci Mitchell-Luker
- for the support of so many friends, members and churches allowing the work of One**Sound** to continue

Pray:

- that the One**Sound** weekends this coming year -2011-12 -, in Braunton, Bristol & Aylesbury will be a blessing to the members and audience that attend
- for continued wisdom and guidance as the board seek to shape the future of One**Sound** and develop its ministry
- for an increase in new members at each event
- that One**Sound** will continue to support members in encouraging each other to use their gifts within the group and to live for Jesus in their lives beyond One**Sound**

Support us → In giving financially
To keep One**Sound** going forward in spreading God's word we need your help financially, money donated contributes to the costs of hosting events and paying our staff costs, subsidising the cost of membership

or just seeing that the group goes from strength tostrength throughout the coming years. Please find information attached as to how you can make a one-off
donation or give regularly.

Be inventive
We are trying to think of inventive ways to support One**Sound** and hope you can help us. So how about you as friends:

- Have a cake stall at church and donate the money to One**Sound**.
- Do a sponsor walk, swim or run for us
- Let us know if you do anything inventive to support us.

Once again - thank you for your support, and we hope to see you at a concert sometime soon! And make sure to let us know if you are so that we can meet you and organise for you to meet some current members face-to-face!

Best wishes,
Joe Shaw and Ruth Anderson (and the rest of One**Sound**)