Parish of
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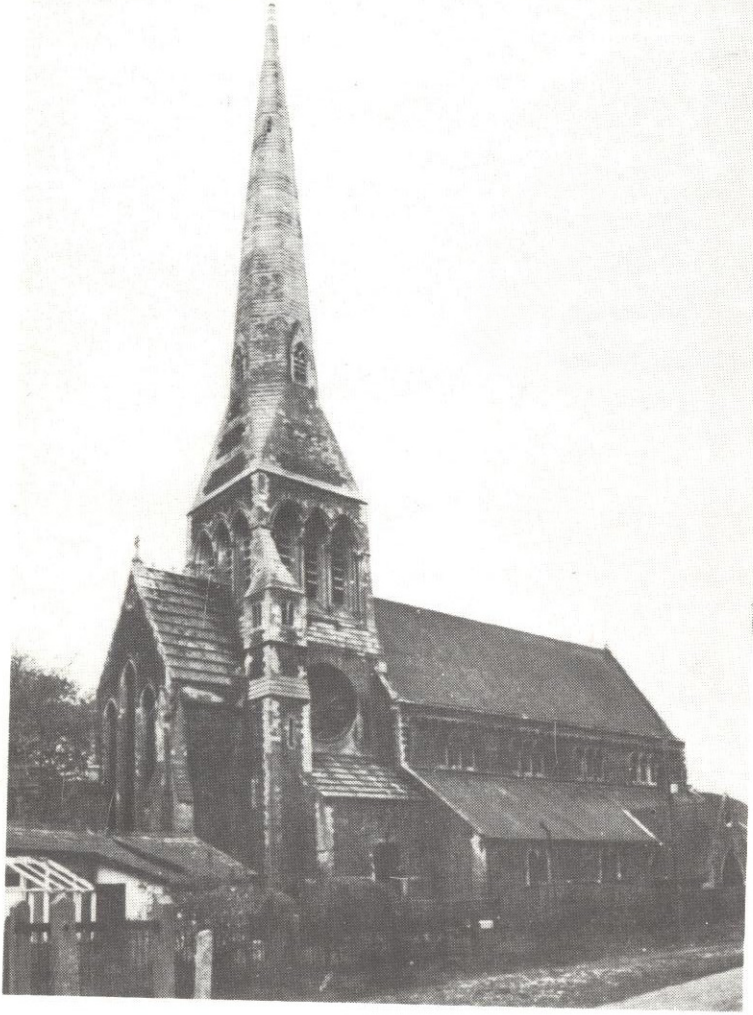

All Saints' Church, Cwmavon

Programme : 10p

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VICAR'S LETTER

May I welcome you to All Saints' Church for this concert given by the Morriston Orpheus Choir. I know that many of the parishioners have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of Saturday, 2nd December, and we are indeed grateful to the officers and members of the Orpheus Choir for being so willing to come to Cwmavon to give this concert in aid of All Saints' Restoration Fund.

The Church has been recently restored and we are glad to be able to make it available for a cultural event such as this evening's concert. The Church has, through its long history, been involved in the cultural and social life of the community in which it has found itself, and has offered facilities for the expression of the human spirit in art and music, which are gifts given us by God. The Parish is pleased that we are once again able to use All Saints' for such an evening as this.

I would like to thank the Parish Appeals Committee for seeing to the arrangements for this concert; to the Morriston Orpheus Choir for their attendance here this evening; and to all of you for your support and the contribution you have made to the Renovation Fund.

I am sure that this concert, given by one of the great Welsh Choirs, will long be remembered in Cwmavon, and I trust that you will all have an enjoyable evening.

Yours sincerely,
Alun Evans.

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CWMAVON — DECEMBER 2nd, 1978

CONCERT by the MORRISTON ORPHEUS CHOIR

Conductor: Leighton Jenkins Accompanist: Doreen Williams Organist: Shawn Sweeney
Soloists: Ambrose Thomas, Garfield Jones

PROGRAMME

PART ONE

"God Save The Queen"
(Choir only)

"Roman War Song" (Rienzi) ..... Wagner
"Slaves' Chorus" (Nabucco) ..... Verdi
"Pilgrims' Chorus" (Tannhauser) ..... Wagner
THE CHOIR

"Selected Item"
AMBROSE THOMAS

"Goin' Home" (New World Symphony) ..... Dvorak
THE CHOIR

"Selected Item"
GARFIELD JONES

"Gwahoddiad" ..... arr. J. T. Davies
"Llef" ..... arr. Mansel Thomas
"Morte Criste" ..... Emrys Jones
THE CHOIR

PART TWO

"Y Delyn Aur" ..... arr. Pughe-Evans
"Diolch i'r lôr" ..... T. G. Jones
THE CHOIR

"Selected Item"
AMBROSE THOMAS

"Steal Away" ..... arr. Jacobson
"Lily of the Valley" ..... Emrys Jones
(Soloist: Ben Edwards)
"Ride the Chariot" ..... W. H. Smith
THE CHOIR

"Selected Item"
GARFIELD JONES

"The Crusaders" ..... D. Protheroe
THE CHOIR

"Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau"

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HISTORICAL NOTES

By the mid-19th century, Cwmavon had become one of the leading industrial centres in Wales. Showing commendable vision, the old English Copper Company, owners of the Cwmavon Works complex, were instrumental in raising funds for a chapel of ease to the old Parish Church of St. Michael's, where services were conducted only in Welsh. John Prichard, who later designed St. Catharine's, Baglan and restored Llandaff Cathedral, was chosen as the architect of the new church, named All Saints and built at Ynys Afan. The chosen site was formerly a grange or farm run by the lay brothers of Margam Abbey, referred to in the Abbey Deeds in 1260.

Among the Company's officials present at the Foundation Ceremony of All Saints in May 1855, and at the Consecration Service on June 10th 1856, were the Governor, Sir John H. Pelly and Lewis Hazelwood. The new church is built largely of local stone and is dominated by a graceful 180ft. spire. The cost was £6,000. The bell installed in the belfry was made in Cwmavon Works, at a cost of 60 guineas, and the organ was a gift of a gentleman associated with the Copper Works.

From time to time, the church fabric has suffered from the ravages of time, repairs being effected in 1910 and in 1949, when over £1,000 was raised by parishioners. In 1976 the church was closed for nine months whilst renovations were carried out at a cost of £11,500. The concert this evening will be recorded as an event which helped to meet this cost.

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