



**BROADWAY
ARTSFESTIVAL**



St Michael's Flower Festival *Programme*

Saturday 12th to Sunday 20th June 2010



Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose ©Tate, London 2009



St Michael & All Angels'



St Eadburgha's

Broadway Churches

Message from the vicar Revd. Terry Mason

Welcome to our parish churches. We are delighted to be involved in the inaugural Broadway Arts Festival and we hope that you will enjoy the colourful displays of flowers inspired by the story that lies behind the painting 'Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose' by John Singer Sargent. The debut of the original painting made quite an impact, as one critic commented, 'it seemed as though the lanterns in the picture glowed with a light from within.' Today the painting and the story still captivates people's attention. Although time waits for no man there is a deeply profound and timeless quality found in Sargent's depiction of the children's faces as they gaze at the paper lanterns in their hands. Whilst this is not a biblically inspired flower festival, it speaks loudly of the beauty and innocence to be found in God's creation. Remembering Sargent's connection with this village has provided a wonderful opportunity to welcome visitors to Broadway. As you walk around this church perhaps I can invite you to spend a moment or two remembering the story of the Christian faith that inspired the building of our beautiful churches in Broadway and has filled them for centuries with the presence and peace of Christ.

God bless you. Revd Terry Mason.

When *Broadway Arts Festival* asked the leadership to run a Flower Festival in St Michael and All Angels, we took up the challenge wholeheartedly. Revd. Terry Mason felt that it was important that the Parish Church should be fully involved and supportive of the vision of the BAF trustees in staging the inaugural biennial Arts Festival in Broadway.

The Arts Festival is a celebration of the work of John Singer Sargent RA and the Broadway Colony with particular emphasis on his painting, *Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose*, which was painted here in Broadway. Our brief was to follow this theme in staging the Flower Festival.

We have endeavoured to take the visitor into the garden and to reproduce imagined areas of the garden, whilst also including the wider aspects of the Broadway Colony which brought together artists, musicians, needlecraft and writers. Broadway must have been an exciting village in the late 19th century when so many celebrated artists stayed and played and painted and wrote, and played tennis and music and socialised.

Let us take you into church, transformed magically into that imagined garden depicted in the painting, which incidentally, was not one garden but two, as Singer Sargent began his painting in the garden of Farnham House in 1885 and completed it in the garden of Russell House in 1886 !
More of that history later...

Scene 1 'Come into the garden'

Here we have depicted an imaginary entrance to the garden as we enter the church porch. Of course, Carnations, Lilies and Roses are used to decorate the archway over the door and an abundance of vegetation typical of the exuberant country gardens of the nineteenth century. A copy of the painting 'Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose' is displayed, just in case you have forgotten it !

Flower Arranger: Shelley Spencer of The Broadway Florist

The box trees either side of the main entrance are donated to the church in memory of Mrs Dorothy Twidale, a much loved and faithful member of our congregation.

Scene 2 'The Verandah'

All good gardens need an area, shaded and summery with elegant stone pillars; a meeting place when the sun is too bright and a magical location to sit and behold the garden, especially as dusk creeps on and the lanterns are required to be lit. From this vantage point you can take in the vistas and beauty to come as you proceed.....

Flower Arranger: Margaret Deakin

Scene 3 'The Long Walk'

Every garden should give you options so that you can choose which path to take. Today's choice may not be that of tomorrow, or indeed, this evening. As the sunlight catches different flowers and trees so your choice of pathway may change. The Long Walk takes you straight through to the Sanctuary; lined with tall delphiniums it exudes extravagance and elegance and colour. Sargent's extravagant eye for colour meant that the countryside was ransacked for flowers. Chancing on half an acre of roses in full bloom in a nursery garden in Willersey, Sargent said to the proprietor: 'I'll take them all, dig them up and send them along this afternoon.'

Flower Arranger: Wendy Lawrence Cotswold Floral Designs

Scene 4 'The Columns'

Before we move on, let us appreciate the columns decorated with roses, depicting trees with roses rambling through them, lining the pathway.

We take the alternative pathway to the left....

Flower Arranger: Carolyn Gordon-Smith Cotswold Floral Designs

Scene 5 'Did you see my Flora pass this way.... Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose'

These lines from a popular song of that summer became the tag for the painting and we now come upon the children in the garden as painted by Singer Sargent. An American artist, he came to stay in Broadway at the Lygon Arms in August 1885 and to join with the house party of his friend Francis D Millet, an artist and journalist who was renting Farnham House. Here he began his painting 'Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose' with the daughters of artist Frederick Barnard, as his models. He did numerous sketches of Polly and Dorothy in preparation and the work was not completed until 1886 when Singer Sargent returned to Broadway; this time his friends had moved to Russell House. Painted at twilight it is renowned for its colour and light, but it was staged, insomuch as no country garden would be solely carnations, lilies and roses! Flowers were brought in to compose the scene and the use of Chinese paper lanterns, with the girls carefully lighting lanterns, allows the artist to produce extraordinary colours and shadows.

Flower Arranging/Staging: Margaret and Michael Deakin

Scene 6 'The Artist at Work'

Colour was at the centre of Singer Sargent's passion for painting and here we see vibrant colours used in

the flowers to imitate those colours used in his painting.

Flower Arranger: Karen Grant

Note: The paintings displayed may be purchased from the artist. Please contact Karen Grant on 01386 859245 or email to grantkarenggrant@aol

Scene 7 'Chanson de Matin'

Music was very important to Singer Sargent; he was an excellent pianist and he and his friends enjoyed the charms of music to relax after working at his easel. Cool whites and pinks are used to calm and sooth.

Flower Arrangers: Val Charlton and Betty Mylroi

Scene 8 'To sing is my delight'

In the choir vestry and piano corner it seems appropriate to bring harmonies of colour to this design, whilst also displaying the contrast of the strong red rose, Passion.

Flower Arranger: Jean Papandreou

Scene 9 'Screen'

The chancel screen becomes a screen of flowers through which glimpses may be caught of the altar,

now transformed into a private chapel in the garden.

Flower Arranger: Wendy Lawrence

Scene 10 'A Hidden Pathway'

The pathway hidden by the screen is lined with foliage and leads to the Sanctuary.

Flower Arrangers: Jonita Griffiths and Joan Reading

Scene 11 'Sanctuary'

Many gardens of important houses possess a private chapel, a Sanctuary, where peace and contemplation are the order of the day. Here the altar is decorated with cool white and green; a place of Sanctuary.

Flower Arrangers: Val Charlton and Betty Mylroi

Scene 12 'Pulpit'

Retrace your steps out of the Sanctuary and turn left.

Delphiniums are arranged to beautify the base of the Lectern and to lead you on to the Font.

Flower Arranger: Wendy Lawrence

Scene 13 'Font'

Here the water of baptism is depicted in the fountain of flowers cascading from the Font.

Flower Arranger: Wendy Lawrence

Scene 14 'A Dickens of an Illustrator'

Frederick Barnard (1846-1896) was a Victorian illustrator, caricaturist and genre painter. Barnard undertook an enormous task when he was commissioned in 1871 by Chapman and Hall to illustrate nine volumes of the Household Edition of Dickens's works. For his prodigious output of some 450 illustrations over an eight-year period, Barnard could lay just claim to the title of "The Charles Dickens among black-and-white artists". By the end of the nineteenth century, Barnard had acquired an enviable reputation as a portraitist to the aristocracy and the royal family.

He was also the father of Polly and Dorothy, the two girls in John Singer Sargeant's painting.

Flower Arrangers: Lavinia Stephenson and Georgina Adams

An example of the wonderful descriptive talents of Charles Dickens, taken from 'Great Expectations'-

"Mr Pumblechook's premises in the High Street of the market town, were of a peppercorny and farinaceous character, as the premises of a corn-chandler and seedsman should be. It appeared to me that he must be a very happy man indeed, to have so many little drawers in his shop; and I wondered when I peeped into one or two on the lower tiers, and saw the tied-up brown paper packets inside, whether the flower seeds and bulbs ever wanted of a fine day to break out of those jails and bloom".

Scene 15 'Embodiment of Dreams'

William Morris, philosopher, poet, romancer and theorist of the arts, was also an outstanding and influential designer. Under his direction Morris & Co grew into a flourishing and fashionable decorating firm, renowned for its wallpapers and textiles, originating in the Arts and Crafts movement popular in late Victorian 'artistic homes of taste'.

Flower Arrangers: Lavinia Stephenson and Georgina Adams

Scene 16 'Cupboard'

This beautiful piece of furniture really spoke to Carolyn and she could not wait to decorate it !

Flower Arranger: Carolyn Gordon-Smith

Scene 17 ' Time for Tea'

Now after all your exertions, it is 'Time for Tea' or coffee if you prefer. Relax and refresh whilst you sit and enjoy the sights and perfume of so many flowers in this beautiful church

*Flower Arranger & Refreshments Supremo:
Gill Hammond*

Acknowledgements:

The church is grateful to the following businesses who assisted in the staging of the Flower Festival.

Hartwell & Co (Timber) Ltd of Weston Sub Edge,
Cotswold Building Supplies of Broadway,
DUO Flowers of Malvern
Cavendish House of Cheltenham

We also thank the multitude of helpers who have assisted in the staging of the displays, the stewards and those who have supplied and served refreshments throughout the Festival. Too many to name individually.

Also -- Don't forget to visit our 12th Century church of St Eadburgha's which is a short distance along the Snowhill Road. Your Rover ticket also gives you access to the Craft Exhibition to be found there. The Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen are exhibiting a range of furniture there.

In writing this programme may I also acknowledge the historical information taken from 'Sargent at Broadway, The Impressionist Years'

Essays by Stanley Olsen, Warren Adelson and Richard Ormond and Published by John Murray of London.

Margaret Deakin, Flower Festival Organiser

Table of viewing times

Saturday 12th 10am - 5pm

Sunday 13th 12noon - 5pm

Monday 14th 10am - 4pm

Marcel Zidani - Concert 1 - 2pm

Tuesday 15th 10am - 4pm

Iain Farrington - Piano Recital 7pm

Wednesday 16th 10am - 4pm

Concert 'The Music Behind the Painting' 7pm

Thursday 17th 10am - 4pm

Marcel Zidani - Informal Masterclass 4 - 6pm

Friday 18th 10am - 4pm

Saturday 19th 10am - 12 noon

Sunday 20th 12 noon - 5pm

**A Service of Holy Communion
is held at 10.30am**

**on Sundays 13th and 20th June
to which all are warmly welcomed.**