



Singing along



I have spent the afternoon listening to the John Williams Film Prom. Music for films is designed to be evocative and compelling, and John Williams is a master of the art. His music is distinctive, immediately drawing you into the mood of the film—whether it's the adventure of Indiana Jones, the wonder of Harry Potter or the threat of Jaws—and this Prom demonstrates the power that music can have.

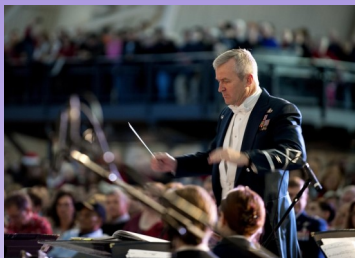
This summer at St Tom's, we've been looking at the Psalms. The Psalms are the song-book of the Bible—hymns of the Israelites sang in the temple in Jerusalem and we still sing today, although perhaps with slightly different tunes! (I'm not sure if the Israelites would recognise Howard Goodall's setting for Psalm 23, 'The Lord is My Shepherd', as used in the Vicar of Dibley!).

Although they were recorded to be sung by the congregation, the psalms contain the honest feelings of

their writers—from despair (Psalm 22 v 1: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*) to absolute security (Psalm 24 v 1: *In you, Lord my God, I put my trust*).

Just as John Williams' music invites you to participate emotionally with the film, the psalms help us to see a godly way to respond to our circumstances and our feelings. King David, who despairs at the start of Psalm 22, knows that God is his strength who will save him from his enemies (v19 onwards) and bring his rule over the unjust nations—a great reminder to us when circumstances seem beyond our control.

The trust and security expressed at the beginning of Psalm 25 leads King David to ask God to teach and guide him in the truth, because he knows that God has saved him. This shows us how to respond to uncertain circumstances—by listening to God's word and following his ways.



**Sarah Francis is from
St Thomas Church, Oakwood
www.st-toms.org.uk**

