



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Test Valley Brass Proms Concert is a stunning success raising over £2,000 for the TVB and St. Mary's Church Andover**

*The concert, 'Rule Britannia!' exceeded all expectations with a phenomenal performance including Test Valley Brass, bagpipe, organ, cello with piano, Harmonium Singers, oboe solo and trombone quartet, all in collaboration to raise needed funds for St. Mary's Church SMART campaign.*



***Caption:** Test Valley Brass Concert Band*



***Caption:** Test Valley Brass Proms Concert in aid of St. Mary's Church of Andover, Hampshire SMART Campaign*

**ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE, UK – 30th September 2012 – [St. Mary's Church Andover](#) and [Test Valley Brass](#) (TVB), announce that TVB performed 'Rule Britannia' at the proms concert located at St. Mary's Church of Andover on the 29th of September in support of the **St. Mary's and Andover Rebuild Together (SMART)** campaign. The evening provided rip roaring music and entertainment that exceeded all expectations. Over 150 people attended the event that featured professionals and local talent who all came together to help raise funds for St. Mary's Church SMART campaign. The concert helped to raise over £2,000 with donations still coming in.**

"The concert included 'Pomp and Circumstance, Jerusalem and Rule Britannia' where the audience was delighted to join in, wave flags and sing along," said Alec Grimsey of Test Valley Brass. "Test Valley Brass also performed the piece 'Highland Cathedral'; which was made famous by the film 'Four Weddings and A Funeral' which highlighted the talents of fifteen-year-old Dermot MacDonald on bagpipe.

"The proms concert was simply outstanding, never before can I remember where the audience has had so much fun and enjoyment while raising funds for such a wonderful cause," said Peter Heslop, Chairman of Test Valley Brass. "Test Valley Brass takes great pride from their active role in the community, and are only too pleased to help raise funds for such a magnificent cause."

"We are greatly encouraged by all who came to the concert to help us raise funds for St. Mary's and Test Valley Brass, but also in support of the wonderful instrumentalists and singers, as well as all the volunteers who have worked countless hours helping to put the event together," said Reverend Canon John Harkin, Vicar of St. Mary's Church and Area Dean of Andover Deanery. "To keep St. Mary's safe, warm and secure we have had to borrow money to enable many areas of the church to undergo essential repairs including a new heating system, repair of the organ, and repairs to several parts of the roof from which lead had been stolen, and the funds raised will help to pay back some of those loans. We are also looking to improve the seating and the sound system to enable us to make it a better venue for events. The acoustics in this church, are absolutely wonderful for concerts like these."

**- more -**

St. Mary's and Andover Rebuild Together (SMART) campaign was developed by church and community leaders after the repeated theft of lead and subsequent damage to the interior of the church and its pipe organ. The campaign has been created to go further than the simple repair of the church building, but to adapt the facility into an innovative multi-function building that will incorporate a place of worship, and a function area for community events like the recent antiques valuation day, community concerts, dinners, and 'musician of the year' competitions. Already money has been borrowed to enable many areas of the church to undergo essential repairs including a new heating system, repair of the organ and to several parts of the roof from which lead had been stolen.

**Editor's Note:** The following high-resolution images can be downloaded by clicking on the "Click Here" links below:



**Caption:** Bonus Quartet – Trombone Quartet



**Caption:** Dermot MacDonald on Bagpipe



**Caption:** Harmonium Singers



**Caption:** Harmonium Singers



**Caption:** Test Valley Brass Concert Band



**Caption:** Test Valley Brass Concert Band



**Caption:** Audience enjoying the TVB concert



**Caption:** Thomas Wharton on cello

### **About Test Valley Brass**

The Test Valley Brass Band is made up of two bands, the Test Valley Brass Senior Band and the award winning Test Valley Brass Youth Band. Test Valley Brass enters a number of contests throughout the year, and on these occasions a contest group is formed drawing players primarily from the Senior band, but also giving an opportunity to the Youth band players.

For more information about Test Valley Brass concerts, how to join, or become a member of Friends of the Band, visit [www.testvalleybrass.co.uk](http://www.testvalleybrass.co.uk) or call 01264 351842.

### **About St. Mary's Church of Andover**

St. Mary's Church of Andover is a part of the Church of England with a friendly, relaxed community of ordinary people whose purpose is to seek God in worship, serve one another and show God's love to those around them. The church family enjoys a wide and diverse background of traditions and enjoys sharing worship, and working with others in the local community and beyond.

For more information about St. Mary's Church of Andover, visit [www.stmarys-andover.org.uk](http://www.stmarys-andover.org.uk) or call 01264 366 373.

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