

THE NEWS

June 2005



The magazine of Potters Bar United Reformed Church

Vesnianka Choir

Leader and conductor:

Lubov Victorovna Aldakova



**The choir from the Children's Choral Studio Moscow
joined us for worship on 8th May followed
by a delightful and varied concert**

The Voice of Angels

We were indeed very privileged and fortunate to be able to hear the Vesnianka Russian Children's Choir singing at our Service on Sunday 8th May. The Minister, Revd Martin Truscott, gave a short service and the Choir then sang a very varied programme for over half an hour.

The choir numbered 32 voices with five males, ages ranging from 10 – 16. They were beautifully dressed – the girls in wine velvet sleek dresses with silver beaded collars and the boys in black suits with black tie and winged collars. From the first notes, it was immediately evident that the leader and conductor, Lubov Victorovna Aldakova had the children's complete and dedicated attention and she coaxed and inspired them to make pure, precise beautiful sounds. The smiling faces told how much they enjoyed singing. One of the young men was in fact the Conductor's son, and the Interpreter, Tatiana Umerova's, son gave

introductions in perfect English. On some occasions, the music was enhanced by tinkling bells, a tambourine and two members playing the recorder. The organ and piano were beautifully played by a professional gentleman (aged 24).

The choir was started in 1961 and rehearses in the centre of Moscow at the Children's Choral Studio. Children come from many schools in the City and parents send their children from as young as 3 years old. When asked if many children fall by the wayside as they get older, Lubov Aldakova replied that it was very rare that this happened. The musical education covering the history of music, the use and sound of instruments and of course singing is given free of charge. The children practice three times a week, after school, and one can only marvel at their clarity and perfect tone.

They had travelled to England for just five days to take part in a Festival at St John's Church in Leytonstone.

Luckily for us a member of our church, John Knott, had a business contact who was the father of one of the children and so it was arranged that they came to give us a performance. The programme included the Old English round "Summer is a-comin' in", Vivaldi, Russian Folk songs, Polish carols, one of Borodin's Polovtsian Dances, Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and finally with the hit of but a few years ago "Midnight in Moscow". A truly wonderful performance. When asked if they were performing anywhere else, the Conductor said that the children could not do too many as it drained them physically and emotionally, which we could well understand.

After a Bring & Shared Lunch, they were off to a well-deserved trip on the river and then on to Windsor Castle. Thank you so much for giving us a such a delightful morning.

Janet O'Connor

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL FASHION SHOW 17th June 2005

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