

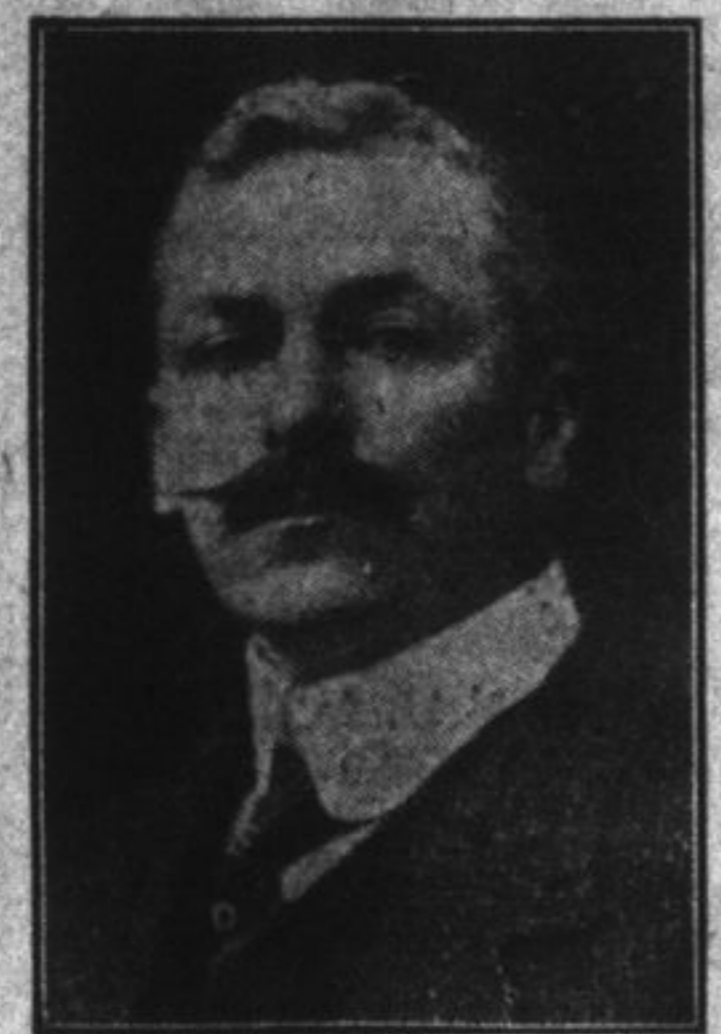
# The Daily British Whig

YEAR 92; No. 290.

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1925.

## KINGSTON ORGANISTS WHO WILL HERALD THE BIRTHDAY OF THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

Nearly two thousand years ago the herald angels, in a burst of glorious song, announced to drowsy Judean shepherds the birth of the Saviour, Christ the Lord. "Glorious Christmas. "God Rest you Merry Gentlemen" is a distinctly English carol, and from other European countries have come these homely songs of the people, who without knowledge of the printed word, strove in simple language to express their faith in the coming of the Infant Christ as the Saviour of the world.



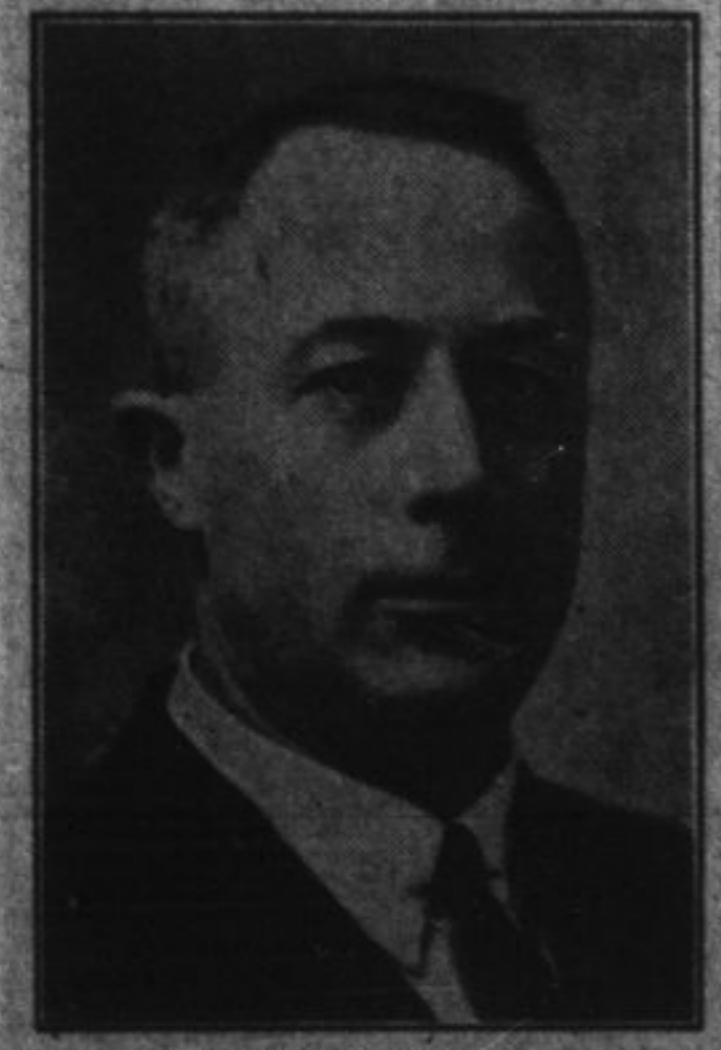
**MR. R. R. F. HARVEY**  
Organist and choir-master of St. George's cathedral.



**MRS. J. R. C. DOBBS**  
Organist and choir leader of Chalmers United church.



**MRS. A. R. E. WILLIAMSON, MUS. BAC.**  
Organist and choir leader of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church.



**MR. S. A. SALSBURY**  
Organist and choir leader of the First Baptist church.

Christmas. "God Rest you Merry Gentlemen" is a distinctly English carol, and from other European countries have come these homely songs of the people, who without knowledge of the printed word, strove in simple language to express their faith in the coming of the Infant Christ as the Saviour of the world.

One of the oldest hymns that will still ring around the world on Christmas morning 1925, is the "Adeste Fideles," written centuries ago by one who had grasped the truth of the Incarnation. Translated into English in 1841 we know it as "O Come All Ye Faithful." It will be sung in great European cathedrals where the altars are a blaze of light and the cradle of the Christ Child is near to remind the faithful of the meaning of the festival; in the dusk of Christmas morn it will be sung in Kingston churches fragrant with the scent of evergreens where the worshippers kneel to thank the Father for the gift of His only son; it will ring out from great choirs whose music will be carried thousands of miles through the air to cheer the invalids who cannot join their fellows in their worship; it will bring tears of some sickness to the men and women gathered in the tiny log churches on the western prairies; the dusky natives of the islands of the sea will sing it; where the Northern Lights dance on the icefields, the lonely missionaries will teach it to their Eskimo converts and the band of the Salvation Army will play it in our city streets, calling those who have forgotten the story learned in their childhood, to "Come and Adore Him, Christ the Lord."

Christmas music will be sung in the Kingston churches either on Christmas Day or on the Sunday preceding the festival and as the city organists will be largely responsible for its quality, something of what they have done and are doing may be of interest to our readers. Since the retirement from the organ bench of Sydenham street church of that dean of Kingston organists, Miss Minnie Shaw, the honor of being the organist still in active service who has led the praises of God in Kingston churches for the longest period, falls to Mr. R. R. F. Harvey, organist and choir-master of St. George's cathedral. In 1855, as a boy of eighteen Mr. Harvey took charge of St. Andrew's organ and played it for eleven years. He went to St. George's in 1894 and has trained the choir of men and boys and played the organ there ever since, rarely missing a service on Sunday or week-day in spite of his work on the staff of the Bank of British North America as teller, accountant and as manager for eight years until he retired from the banking when the absorbed banks moved into the present Bank of Montreal building. The service of St. George's cathedral has been admired by many competent judges who speak of its beauty and reverence.

The choir of men and boys has between thirty-five and forty voices. At Christmas the midday celebration of the Holy Communion will be fully choral and on the Sunday after Christmas, following a time-honored custom of the cathedral, carols will be sung from the chancel steps by the choir. During the forty years of Mr. Harvey's services as an organist he has made a contribution of real value to the people of Kingston. His music is always of the best, and the organ solos played during the offertory in the cathedral are usually from the great oratorios. He has arranged many fine recitals of sacred music in St. Andrew's and in the cathedral which have been attended and appreciated by citizens of all creeds.

Mr. Harvey's eldest sister, Mrs. J. R. C. Dobbs, organist of Chalmers church, who for eight years played the organ in the Protestant Reformed Episcopal church, Boston, and has been organist at Chalmers church since 1896, is the next in seniority. As well as providing music for the services of Chalmers with a well-trained choir, she has contributed much to the musical life of Kingston both by teaching many of the men and women who have brought laurels back to their home town from other lands and by giving the public the opportunity of hearing the music of the great masters sung by a good chorus trained by her. In this she was assisted by her brothers, Mr. R. R. F. Harvey and Mr. C. B. S. Harvey.

Since she was a little girl with her hair in a braid, Mrs. A. R. E. Williamson, Mus. Bac., organist of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, has played the organ in Kingston, not continuously, her duties as a wife and mother prevented that, but so constantly and so well that since as Norma Tandy, she was organist of

### The Three Wise Men



**MISS E. ROGERS**  
Organist and choir leader of Cooke's United church.



**PROF. L. NOURRY**  
Organist and choir leader of St. Mary's cathedral.

musical critics. Mrs. Williamson organized the present Kingston Choral Society, and is its honorary president. She has given a number of beautiful musical recitals in St. James' and St. Andrew's churches and is responsible for the present state of efficiency of St. Andrew's choir. During the year Mrs. Williamson has been successfully introducing classical music at St. Andrew's, and at Christmas some beautiful music will be heard for the first time in Kingston. It will be chorals from Bach Christmas Oratorio and will be sung by a well trained choir of thirty voices.

Miss L. Walker, who has been organist at St. Paul's church for six years, was previously organist at Cooke's for twenty years and has been the teacher of many Kingstonians. The choir leader is Mr. J. Harte and at Christmas a bright service will be sung on Christmas Day and on the Sunday after Christmas carols will be sung at evening. Miss Walker has given several successful recitals which have been much enjoyed by large audiences.

Mr. S. A. Salisbury, organist for fifteen years of the First Baptist church, was for several years organist of St. Mark's church, Barrie, Ontario. The choir of the Baptist church is noted for its good male quartette and also for the number of chorists capable of taking solo parts. It has a membership of thirty-eight. Mr. Salisbury has played organ during the pastorate of three ministers, Rev. Douglas Laine, Rev. J. S. La Flair and the present minister, Rev. M. C. Johnston. The choir of this church is unique in being a real financial asset to the congregation. It was the choir that bought the first pipe organ in use there from St. George's congregation, it being the one used in Ontario Hall when the cathedral congregation held services there, while the cathedral was being rebuilt after the fire of 1899. The choir also bought the present fine organ placed in the stone church on the corner of Brock and Sydenham streets when it was opened in 1913. This same organization has placed accommodations in the pews of the Baptist church, the only church in the city to possess this means of bringing the services to the ears of those afflicted with deafness.

The splendid organ of St. Mary's cathedral, the largest organ in the city, is at present played by Prof. L. Nourry, who has filled his present position of organist and choir



**MISS PEARL NESBITT**  
Organist and choir leader of Queen street United church.



**MR. E. MADRAND**  
Organist and choir leader of Princess street United church.

the direction of Prof. Nourry, who gives them valuable training. The music of St. Mary's cathedral is excellent, and the present choir efficient. The well-known masses of Gounod, Volgard, Rossi and Farmer have been sung within the last few years, and at present the choir is practicing Battman's Elaborated Festival Mass for Christmas.

Sydenham street church has a choir of forty-two voices and will give a special Christmas service on the Sunday before the festival with the cantata "Bethlehem" (Mauder) at the evening service. The present organist and choir-master is Mr. Harry Hill. Mr. Hill was born in Lancaster, England, and with his family moved to Canada and settled in Peterboro at the age of twelve. When thirteen years old he entered the choir of St. John's Anglican church, singing as an alto boy for several years. When his voice broke, he rested for a time and then continued as a baritone, studying under Mr. R. J. Devey of Peterboro. At the age of nineteen he took charge of the choir in the Park street Baptist church. Mr. Hill has played in a number of churches and conducted the training of the choirs as well as taking a course of study in the Toronto College of Music, passing the vocal A.T.C.M. with honors. Later he passed the same examination with the Toronto Conservatory of Music. In 1921 Mr. Hill came to Kingston as supervisor of the music in the city schools, and was for a time choir-master and baritone soloist in St. Andrew's church. He acted as organist and choir-master in St. James' church until he went to Sydenham street church last January. He is an instructor in voice and one of his pupils, Mr. Harold Singleton, won a gold medal at the musical festival in Toronto in 1924, and was awarded a scholarship at the Eastman School of Music at Rochester, N.Y., last September.

The Christmas music at St. Luke's church will be under the direction of the organist and choir-master, Mr. Bert Couper, who has been several years in this post. St. Luke's church is noted for its bright services and has a choir of thirty voices. Mr. Couper was for some time organist and choir-master of Grace Methodist church, Gananoque. Beginning to play a pipe organ at the age of thirteen he has studied locally with Miss C. Wilder, Prof. James Small, Miss L. E. Hall, and finally went to Toronto to study with Dr. H. A. Fricker, organist of the Metropolitan church and the renowned conductor of the Mendelssohn choir. In vocal music, Mr. Couper received instruction from Miss Wilder, Mrs. J. R. C. Dobbs, Kingston, and from Dalton Baker, Toronto. In piano and theory his teacher was Mrs. Harvey R. Chow, Kingston. His work as a composer includes seven anthems for mixed voices, a short office for the Holy Communion and a "Vesper Hymn." He also is actively engaged as a teacher of voice culture and piano.

Miss Beattie Rogers is the organist and choir leader of Cooke's United Church. She has had a good choir for some time and has with her some excellent voices. Special Christmas music will be sung on the Sunday before Christmas.

Mrs. A. N. Lyster, who for some years has been one of Kingston's best known pianists, has for nearly a year taken charge of the organ and choir of St. James' church. This choir, does excellent work, and has among its members some of Kingston's leading soloists. At Christmas special music will be sung and the services in the pretty church on Union street, where evergreens will be used to deck it for the Feast of the Nativity, will be bright and will reflect credit on the work of the organist and the choir. On the Sunday after Christmas a carol service will be sung in the evening.

At Princess street United church, Mr. Ernest Madrand is the organist and choir master. The choir numbers about twenty-eight men and women, and gives great satisfaction. Once a month the practice is held at the home of one of the members and in this way the choir is kept together. Mr. Madrand is an organ pupil of Miss M. Shaw, and has supplied for her and also played the organ in St. Andrew's church for a short time. Special Christmas music will be sung on the Sunday before Christmas.

At Queen street United church organ is Miss Pearl Nesbitt, who is a Licentiate in pipe organ and singing from the Toronto Conservatory of Music. She had her first experience as an organist during her college course on the old Shibley organ at Newburgh, Ont. Later she filled the position of organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian church and Trinity church, Napanee. She came to Brock street at the request of Rev. George Clendennis about seven years ago and when Queen street and Brock street congregations amalgamated after the burning of the old Queen street church, she became organist and director of Queen street church, which position



**MISS L. WALKER**  
Organist of St. Paul's Anglican church.



**MR. B. F. COUPER**  
Organist and choir leader of St. Luke's Anglican church.



**MRS. A. N. LYSTER**  
Organist and choir leader of St. James' Anglican church.



**MR. H. HILL**  
Organist and choir-master of Sydenham street United church.

she has occupied ever since. The choir, which numbers between thirty and thirty-five, is singing among other Christmas music, the cantata "Light of Life" by Ashford and the "Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel, and

"Spirit Immortal" from "Atilia," Verdi.

This completes the brief history of the men and women who play pipe organs in Kingston. To them in a large measure is due the heartiness with which the people of King-

ston sing the praises of their God; from them will come much of the depth of the realization of the Holy season of Christmas of the wonderful gift God gave to man when His only Son to be "born as at this time of pure Virgin."