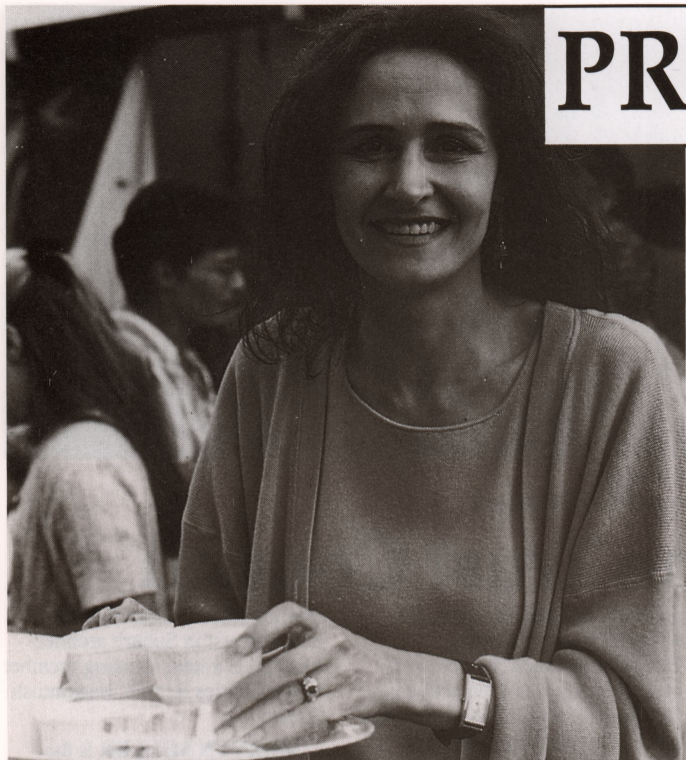


PROMS AT ST JUDES



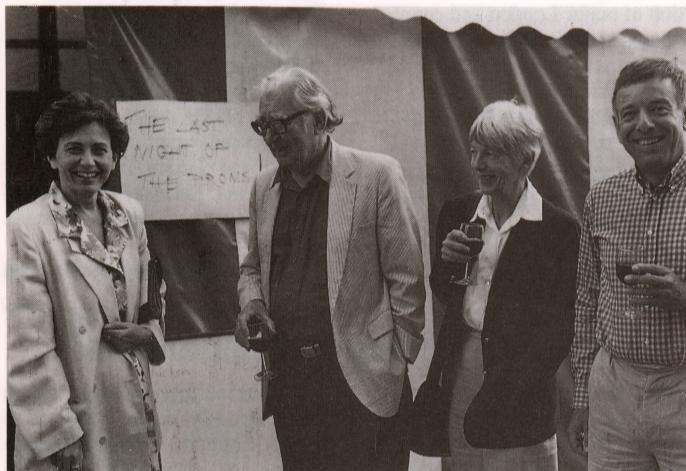
Lucrezia Walker sold ice creams to concertgoers



Humphrey Lyttelton had them dancing in the aisles



Christopher Steele-Perkins, renowned trumpet soloist, with his prized collection



Kathy Cunnold, Lord Howie, Julia and Christopher Kellerman

Concerts have been a tradition at St Jude's since its foundation, and the week of Proms at St Jude's showed us why. The church looked wonderful: it great coloured spaces, lit by stage lighting as dusk fell, a dramatic background for the series of musicians and performers who came to delight their audiences. The acoustics are of course famous and did full justice to their talents. Alex Worster's depictions of the homeless provided a sobering note, and the exhibition of the Suburb at War an equally telling reminder of the impact made on people's lives even in this apparently privileged area.

The events had been energetically publicised in various ways, including the time-honoured Suburb method of tying posters to trees. Unfortunately Barnet sent a large yellow van with flashing lights to follow us around and take them down: it seems that these days you have to ask permission even to do this. However, the audiences still flocked in to the eight evening and five lunchtime concerts, ranging from jazz to classical recitals on instruments from trumpet to harp, and organ to cello.

There were lots of highlights. The week kicked off with the treacle-sweet rhythms of the Ebony Steel Band, warming the heart on a grey evening. Crispian Steele-Perkins, with Andrew McCrea at the organ made the echoes ring with his trumpet - and a bit of Handel's Water Music played on a length of garden hose. The affable Humphrey Lyttelton pied-pipered round the church with his band swaying along behind him, entrancing not just the children to follow him but also respectable ladies and gentlemen of the Suburb, including Léonie Stephen. The glamour of Lady Walton brought warmth and life to the jokey brilliance of *Facade* (what a change from Edith Sitwell). *Murder in the Cathedral*, a play of argument and mood, could not have had more powerful backdrop than the strongly lit altar with the great arch rising behind it: the audience literally shrank back from the menace of the knights

as they strode down the dark centre aisle towards Thomas as he stood before it, awaiting his destiny. The Nonesuch Orchestra with Erich Gruenberg played a particularly attractive programme to a packed and appreciative; and Richard Greenwood gave a more intimate piano recital. Bobby Lamb and the Trinity Big Band brought the week to a swinging end. Between all these, the lunchtime concerts provided oases of calm in a hot week and were much enjoyed by those who came to them. Finally, the ruthless charm of the bucket swingers was very profitable.

What a week! Organising an event like the *Proms at St Jude's* is an awful lot of work for a lot of people. But this is not what it looked like: the impression was of lovely music and fun in a relaxed atmosphere with good food and drink. One reason for this was the generous way in which the performers related to their audiences, which was matched by their enthusiastic response.

However, it was a huge effort, and it is impossible to even start expressing thanks to all the people who contributed - players, helpers, organisers and audience. But the beneficiaries were not only the North London Hospice and the fund in aid of St Jude's magnificent if decrepit organ, important as these are. It was also the audiences who were given such obvious pleasure by this week of Proms at St Jude's.

Jan White



Rev Alan Walker, Colin Gregory and Christopher Stephen



Spencer Hudson and Léonie Stephen



Mike Delaney handled the PR, Elinor Edwards was IC of the much praised catering



Teddy Cattle discusses Murder in the Cathedral



One of Alec Worster's sculptures on exhibition in St Jude's



Some of the young helpers who kept the funds rolling in

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The things some people do! The hedge has gone and the entire garden in Falloden Way is only just large enough to accommodate a Rolls Royce. However the Trust is taking action.

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