



Gospel Music at NTCG Handsworth

NTCG Handsworth is one of the longest standing churches founded by Caribbean migrants to the UK. Established in 1953, the church enjoys a reputation locally, nationally and internationally as a ministry centre of excellence, and world renown ministers such as Dr Morris Cerullo and the late Revd R.W. Schambach have preached here. The church is affiliated to the Church of God, Cleveland, TN, USA (est. 1886). It is located in the Lozells area of Birmingham, where 82% of the ward is amongst 5% of the most deprived areas in England,¹ thus the church represents a beacon of hope to the community.

Since 1975, the church has been synonymous with great Gospel Music, having birthed The Majestic Singers - widely credited as one of the most important trailblazers of Gospel music in this country.² Since then, hundreds of the UK's finest Gospel artistes and musicians have ministered here and our annual New Year's Day Celebration Concert, now in its 27th year, is one of the most anticipated and celebrated Gospel concerts in the UK. Some of the international artistes we have hosted include The Clark Sisters, Stitchie, Chevelle Franklin, Carlene Davis and many more.

The opening of our new 1000-seater church building in December 2009, has established the church as a world-class centre for Gospel Music ministry. The stunning venue and state of the art facilities have played host to international artistes such as Junior Tucker, Lee University Campus Choir, The University of the West Indies Singers, DJ Nicholas, Sherwin Gardner, King Arthur, and Revd Goddy Goddy within the last 18 months alone.

The church's music minister, Revd Gary Hayles, a music teacher and pianist, leads a professional team of musicians, worship leaders, audio-visual staff and the award-winning Handsworth Choir. Brothers United in Christ, an in-demand male Gospel outfit formed at the church in 2009, is evidence too that the church is still pioneering Gospel music more than 35 years on.

¹www.brumagem.co.uk ²www.crossrhythms.co.uk

