



Wareham Choral Society

Christmas Concert

**“What sweeter music
can we bring....”**

**Carols by candlelight for choir and
audience**

Lady St. Mary Church Wareham

Saturday December 6th 2014

7:30pm



www.freewebs.com/warehamcs/

Welcome

WCS is delighted to welcome family, friends and members of the Wareham community to our festival of Christmas music.

We hope that you will experience some magic in this ancient and beautiful place tonight, as we use music and poetry to tell the age-old story of mankind's redemption through transcendent love.

The society has been in existence for sixty years and is a founder member of the Dorset Guild of Singers. The Guild was formed by Joan Brocklebank, an erstwhile 'Land Girl' during WW2. Biennially, the Guild choirs perform a major work at the Lighthouse in Poole.

It is our great good fortune to have appointed a new Musical Director this year: Nigel Groome is a conductor and organist of national repute and his choral expertise, patience and good humour make for productive rehearsals which are FUN.

Our accompanist, John Radford, is an accomplished organist and we are delighted that he will play a solo for us this evening.

WCS is growing in vocal expertise and ambition and we would be pleased to accept new members in all parts. Singing is good for the individual and it bonds communities – choirs and football fans! It is said to be the key to a long life, a stable temperament, increased intelligence and a better sense of humour. So, why not join us? We rehearse in the United Reformed Church in Wareham on Monday evenings – for further details please turn to the back page.

We are, as ever, grateful for the use of Lady St. Mary church for our concert.

With all good wishes for this special season which gives us every reason to spread good cheer.

Judith Price

Chairman of Wareham Choral Society

Programme

Audience Carol - Once in Royal David's City (verse 1 solo, please join in other verses – see words on next page)

Choir - Personent Hodie

Festive Reading

Choir - The Angel Gabriel

Choir - Ding Dong Merrily on High

Festive Reading

Organist, Soloist and Choir – Excerpts from Handel's Messiah

Pastoral Symphony

Recitative – There were shepherds abiding in the field

Recitative – And the angel said unto them

Recitative – And suddenly there was with the angel

Chorus – Glory to God

Air – Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion

Audience Carol - O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 3 choir only, please join in other verses – see words on next page)

Interval

Choir - The Joy of Seven

Audience Carol - Unto Us is Born a Son (verse 3 men only, verse 4 ladies only – see words on next page)

Festive Reading

Organ Solo

Soprano Solo – The Little Road to Bethlehem sung by Susannah Groome

Festive Reading

Choir - A Maiden Most Gentle

Choir – Sans Day Carol

Audience Carol – O Come All Ye Faithful – (see words on next page)

Retiring Collection in support of the Mayor's Charities and Lady St. Mary Organ Fund.

Once in Royal David's City

1 (solo)

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child

3

And through all His wondrous
childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love, and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms He lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

5

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

4

For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

6

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children
crowned
All in white shall wait around

2

For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels
keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

3 choir only

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him,
still
The dear Christ enters in.

Unto Us is Born a Son

1
Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal;
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal, of lords
the Lord eternal.

3 Men

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer, and slew
the little childer.

4

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

2

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be-cradled in the manger, be-
cradled in the manger

4 Ladies

Of His love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle child
Might lead us up to glory, might
lead us up to glory!

5

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino, benedicamus Domino

O Come All Ye Faithful

1

O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem.

Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

5

Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe
and love;

Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

2

God of God.
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's
womb;

Very God,
Begotten not created:

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

6

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the Highest.

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

Music Director Nigel Groome trained at the London College of Music, and carried out postgraduate study at the Royal College of Music.

Since 1980 he has been Organist and Director of Music of Beckenham Parish Church. The adult choir has a large repertoire, ranging from plainsong to contemporary music, and new works are regularly commissioned for it.

As well as its duties at St. George's, the choir sings in many English cathedrals, and has broadcast for the BBC, independent television, BBC radio and the World Service. It has visited the USA, Belgium, Ireland and Estonia, the latter as part of the development of the link between Rochester diocese and Estonia.

Nigel is also the founder and Chairman of the St. George's Arts Festival, which is held annually in May, and has attracted artists of international calibre, for example Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, Willard White, Prunella Scales and Geraldine McEwen.

Nigel is the Royal School of Church Music Regional Music Adviser for the South and South West. He regularly gives organ recitals throughout the country. He has performed at St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral, Portsmouth Cathedral, Sheffield Cathedral, St. Asaph Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral and Central Hall, Westminster.

Organist John Radford was born in Wakefield, where he was a chorister at the cathedral. He received a bursary to study music at Ackworth School, and then studied music at Leeds University.

He has had posts as organist and teacher at Portsmouth and in Somerset. He is currently the organist for a group of village churches in East Dorset, and is the accompanist to The Broadstone Choir and The Allen Singers (Wimborne).



Susannah Groome (soprano) graduated with a First Class BMus Honours Degree from the London College of Music in 2004. She has featured as a soloist in a number of live BBC radio and television broadcasts with Beckenham Parish Church Choir. Solo concert venues include Grace Cathedral - San Francisco, Arlington Cathedral - Virginia, Christchurch Priory, Shrewsbury Abbey and Chelmsford Cathedral.

Susannah has undertaken many solo oratorio engagements. Recent works include Haydn's Creation, Handel's Judas Maccabeus, Mozart's Requiem, Brahms's Requiem, Mozart's Coronation Mass. She featured as the soprano soloist in the first performances of Martin How's Cantata Trilogy and Requiem.

Susannah is married to Nigel and they have a 7 -month old son called Harry, who is allowing his mummy to take on singing engagements again!

Have you enjoyed this concert?....

If so, please tell us! We welcome feedback on how well our events are received, so do tell us your thoughts, by email to **warehamchoral@gmail.com**

or via our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/pages/Wareham-Choral-Society/298271996956123

... then please come to our next one (and tell your friends)!

Our next concert is in Lady St Mary Church on April 25th 2015 at 7:30pm, and is an all-Mozart programme featuring the marvellous **Coronation Mass**.



Are you interested in singing with Wareham Choral Society?

We are an aspirational choir directed by a professional musician who enjoys working with enthusiastic singers, both trained and untrained. We enjoy the challenge of new music and are familiar with the standard choral repertoire.

Find out more by calling 01929 552272 or 01929 459319

or visit our website **<http://www.freewebs.com/warehamcs/>**

We would be pleased to hear from you!