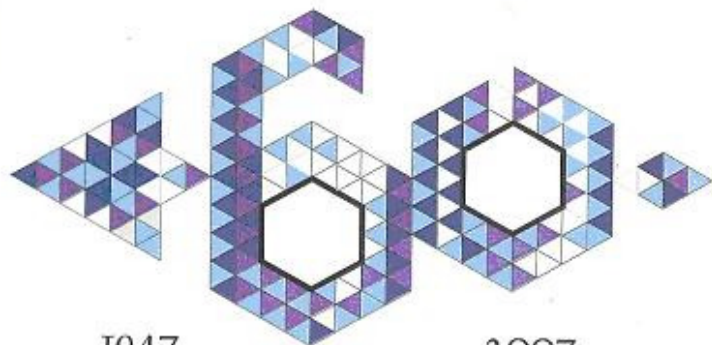


WAREHAM CHORAL SOCIETY



1947

2007

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

CONCERT

Saturday 12 May 2007

at 7.30pm

Lady St Mary, Church, Wareham

Introduction by the Chairman

I am very pleased to extend a very warm welcome to everyone here for this our diamond anniversary concert. The People of Wareham, Our Mayor and Town Councillors, our past and present members and officials, have all generously supported us in our endeavours to make music.

Throughout our history we have counted on the expertise of a great number of very talented Musical Directors / Conductors and Accompanists, who have helped us improve upon our varied but enthusiastic abilities; especially Andrew Smetham - our current Musical Director, and Accompanist Natalie Burton.

I welcome two former musical directors who join us this evening as guest conductors; Kenneth Claxton and Richard Marchant.

To them all, I give a very big thank you. They lead and encourage us to do our best to give you, what we hope, is a very pleasing sound.

I thank you, the audience, for your past support and we look forward to sharing our music with you for many years to come.

Mike Lewis

Come and join us

New members for all voice parts are welcomed. No audition is required. If you enjoy singing and are free on Monday evenings, then why not give us a try!

Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings during the Autumn and Spring terms from 7 to 9pm in The United Reformed Church, Church Street in Wareham.

The Autumn Term starts on Monday 10th September 2007 when rehearsals begin for the next season.

The History of Wareham Choral Society

With grateful thanks to our chairman in studying the historical minutes of committee meetings, and to those with excellent memories and archive material, it is with much pleasure we present this chronology of the works and key moments of the past 60 years. Apologies for the small print but there is a lot of history to fit in!

1947 to 1957	Singers in Wareham gathered under the post WW2 Evening Institute arrangements forming a choir. No official records exist for this period. It is believed that in these first 10 years, the choir rehearsed at Senior Modern School (now Wareham Middle School), in the Autumn Term of 1957 a more formal arrangement was established and began a long association with the schools and churches in Wareham which continues to the present day.
29 th Oct 1957.	A full meeting held to form a society and elect the following committee Chairman: Dr A M Cunningham Secretary: Mr G H Mepstead Conductor: Mr E Edwards Hon Accompanist: Mr M Adams Committee: Mrs H E Mackintosh (Sopranos) Miss D E Cosler (Contraltos) Mr A Wade (Tenor) Mr L Johnstone (Bass)
5 th Nov 1957	Committee meeting at which it was elected that the society be known as The Wareham Choral Society The first concert was arranged for Tuesday 17 th Dec 1957 at the Wareham Parish Church, and included: Solo and concerted excerpts from the Handel's Messiah A selection of Carols A short organ recital by Miss Irene Challis The printed programmes were sold at 1/- (One Shilling) each.
8 th Jan 1958	Proposal that the Society should affiliate itself to The Dorset Guild of Singers who were currently working on Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, and The Crepes of London; to be performed on 29 th March 1958 at Broadway.
8 th April 1958	Concert: Coleridge-Taylor's Hiawatha's Wedding Feast The Sailor's Garland The Crepes of London. In the Senior Modern School - Wareham.
Spring 1959	WCS O Light Everlasting - Bach Two Psalms - Holst Excerpts from Handel's Messiah As this was Handel's bicentenary year it was suggested that a programme should include Acts & Galathea and/or Judas Macabaeus
March 1959	DGS Conductor Chas. Groves New Commission for this concert - by Chas Gardiner (WCS did not participate)
Aug 1959	Two choir members marry - Miss Lydia Nash and Mr Bob Farrow
Dec 1959	WCS Nine Lessons and Carols
1960	WCS The Rebel Maid - Montague Phillips
1961	WCS The Messiah - Handel
1962	Bob Farrow appointed accompanist WCS The Creation - Haydn
1962/3	The Society became moribund

1963	Robin Longman appointed conductor
Mar 1964	WCS with Purbeck Arts Club (PAC) Mendelssohn's Elijah in Swanage Parish Church And then with DGS in Salisbury Cathedral.
May 1965	DGS Bach Cantata No 140 - Sleepers Wake Cantata No 79 - God the Word is Sun and Shield Vivaldi's Gloria
Mar 1966	DGS Bach's - St John's Passion
Dec 1966	WCS Handel's Messiah
Spring 1967	DGS Benjamin Britten's St Nicholas Faure's Requiem
Sept 1967	Eileen Guppy becomes accompanist
Dec 1967	DGS Handel's Messiah
Mar 1968	WCS C.P.E. Bach's Magnificat Haydn's Mass in B Flat (Homonie Messe)
Oct 1968	WCS with PAC Britten's Cantata Academica, Purcell's Ode on St Cecilia In St Mary's Church, Swanage
Dec 1968	WCS with PAC Christmas Music in Swanage
Mar 1969	DGS Bach's St Mathew Passion - in Wimborne Minster
1969	WCS with PAC Carl Orff's - Carmina Burana
Mar 1970	DGS Mozart's Vespers in C Major Handel's Chandos Anthem No 9 Handel's Utrecht Jubilate
Summer 1970	DGS Beethoven's 9 th Symphony (Choral) Beethoven's Choral Fantasia
Dec 1970	WCS & PAC Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols
Mar 1971	DGS Purcell's Soul of the World Pany's Blessed Pair of Sirens A new commission by Christopher Brown - David - A Cantata Op 21
Summer 1971	WCS Kodaly's Te Deum Mozart's Mass in C minor
Dec 1971	WCS & PAC Gabrieli's In Exultis Charpentier - A short mass
Spring 1972	DGS Bach's St John's Passion
Dec 1972	WCS & PAC Haydn's St Nicholas Mass, Handel's - The Caroline Te Deum, Hessler's Motet - Omnes Genes
Mar 1973	DGS Verdi's Requiem
Dec 1973	WCS & PAC Mozart's Masonic Funeral Music K V 477 Christmas Music Wareham Secondary Modern School - Excerpts from Handel's Messiah
Apr 1974	DGS Bach's Mass in B Minor
Dec 1974	WCS & PAC Christmas Music and including Charpentier's Te Deum
Mar 1975	DGS Haydn's - The Seasons
Dec 1975	WCS & PAC Choruses from Brahms' Requiem & Kodaly's Missa Brevis
Nov 1976	DGS Brahms' Requiem Kodaly's Missa Brevis
Mar 1977	WCS & PAC Haydn's Seven Last Words
Dec 1978	WCS & PAC Vivaldi's Gloria Pergolesi's Magnificat
Mar 1979	DGS Bach's St John's Passion
Dec 1979	WCS & PAC Handel's Messiah
Mar 1980	DGS Vaughan Williams' Mass in G Minor Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms Gerald Finzi's Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice

Dec 1960	WCS & PAC	Christmas Story - Heinrich Schutz Messe de Minuit - Marc-Antoine Charpentier Te Deum - Franz Joseph Haydn
Mr Harvey Sayles mentioned as accompanist		
Apr 1961	DGS	Mendelssohn's Elijah
Dec 1961	WCS & PAC	A varied programme of Christmas Music and Carols
Mar 1962	DGS	Haydn's Maria Theresa Mass Handel's Let God Arise Handel's The King Shall Rejoice
The Wareham Choral Society is 25 years old		
Dec 1962	WCS & PAC	A programme of carols and Christmas music
Mar 1963	DGS	Verdi's Requiem
Dec 1963	WCS & PAC	Dettingen Te Deum - Handel Carols & Christmas Music
Mar 1964	DGS	Handel's Dettingen Te Deum Schubert's Mass in A Flat
Dec 1964	WCS & PAC	Excerpts from Bach's Christmas Oratorio Carols First performance of Gloria by Robin Longman
Harvey Sayles (accompanist) became ill and died Mrs Burton-Page took over		
Mar 1965	DGS	The Ballad of the White Horse - John Gardner The Music Makers - Edward Elgar Conducted by Sir Charles Groves
Dec 1965	WCS & PAC	Handel's Messiah - For All
Mar 1966	DGS	Vivaldi's Gloria Bach's Cantata 187 and Mass in A
Dec 1966	WCS & PAC	Haydn's Mass in D Minor and Carols, in Lady St Mary, Wareham for the first time in many years
Mrs Burton-Page retired as accompanist Mrs Jenny Bridges took over		
Apr 1967	DGS	The Dream of Gerontius - Edward Elgar
Dec 1967	WCS & PAC	Carols and Christmas Music, including Purbeck Praise by Robin Longman
Mar 1968	DGS	Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle
Dec 1968	WCS & PAC	A Messiah for All in Wareham's Lady St Mary Church
Mar 1969	DGS	J S Bach's Mass in B Minor
Dec 1969	WCS & PAC	Haydn's Harmonie Messe
Mar 1990	DGS	Britan's St Nicholas Handel's O Come Let Us Sing Unto the Lord
Our accompanist Mrs Bridges retires and moves away Mr Dennis Holloway takes over		
Dec 1990	WCS & PAC	Buxtehude's Rejoiice, Ye Christians & Das Neugeborne Kindelein Charpentier's Messe de Minuit Robin Longman's Te Deum
Mar 1991	DGS	Beethoven's Choral Fantasia Rossini's Stabat Mater
Dec 1991	WCS & PAC	Handel's Messiah - 250 year anniversary of this masterpiece
Mar 1992	DGS	Haydn's Creation
Dec 1992	WCS & PAC	Carols & Christmas Music, including Charpentier's Te Deum & Vivaldi's Magnificatin in Lady St Mary

Apr 1993	DGSV	Vaughan-Williams - Sea Symphony Stanford - Songs of the Fleet
Dec 1993	WCS & PAC	Bach - Christmas Oratorio Pts 1,2&3 in Swanage
Mar 1994	DGS	Verdi - Requiem
Dec 1994	WCS & PAC	Puccini - Messa di Gloria Mendelssohn - Elijah (excerpts)
April 1995	DGS	endelssohn - Elijah
Dec 1995	WCS & PAC	Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silent; Zadok the Priest; Messiah Carols and Telemann Concerto - Swanage 50 th Anniversary Concert: Elgar - The Kingdom J Willcocks - Sing Praises
Mar 1996	DGS	
Robin Longman retires after 33 years as conductor of Wareham Choral Society Richard Marchant becomes conductor		
Dec 1996	WCS, PAC & Shillingstone Singers with Dorset Philharmonic Orch	Christmas Concert, Swanage, Gillingham, and Poole
Mar 1997	DGS	Handel - Israel in Egypt
Dec 1997	WCS & PAC	Vaughan-Williams - Fantasia on Christmas Carols + Carols
Mar 1998	DGS	Bach - Matthew Passion
Dec 1998	WCS & PAC	Pergolesi - Magnificat Poulenc - Four Motets for Christmas Palestrina and Byrd - Motets
Feb 1999	Wareham Choral Society once again sings as a choir in its own right	Faure - Requiem (in liturgical setting)
Mar 1999	WCS	Purcell - Dido & Aeneas - workshop at Wareham Middle School
Sept 1999	Ken Claxton takes over as accompanist	
Dec 1999	WCS	Christmas Music and Carols including some choruses from Messiah
Apr 2000	DGS	Elgar - Dream of Gerontius
May 2000	WCS	Schubert - Mass in G - Tribute to Canon Peter Hardman
Nov 2000	WCS	Handel - Coronation Anthems Rutter - Requiem Evening of Light Entertainment featuring songs of C Porter, J Kern, G Gershwin, V Youmans, Lloyd Webber and operatic music of Mascagni, Verdi, and Wagner
Mar 2001	WCS	Vivaldi - Gloria and Carols
Dec 2001	WCS	
Richard Marchant retires as Conductor Ken Claxton takes over as Conductor / Pianist		
Mar 2002	DGS	Beethoven - Mass in C Haydn - Te Deum Mozart - Exsultate jubilate Willcocks - Magnificate Queen's Golden Jubilee Year Concert Haydn - Te Deum Handel - Chandos Anthem No 9 Mozart - Coronation Mass Carols and other music Bach - Lobet den Herrn Haydn - Little Organ Mass Handel - Psalm 112 Vivaldi - Double Oboe Concerto Handel - Messiah
Nov 2002	WCS	
Dec 2002	WCS	
Apr 2003	WCS	
Nov 2003	WCS	
Dec 2003	Ken Claxton retires Andrew Smetham takes up as conductor (and temporary accompanist)	

Mar 2004	WCS	Brahms – 4 movements from German Requiem Buckner – Locus Isle Mendelssohn – Verleih uns Frieden Faure – Cantique de Jean Racine Perry – Blast Pair of Simons
May 2004	DGS	Brahms – German Requiem Dvorak – Te Deum
May 2004	Wareham Choral Society achieves Charity Status	
Dec 2004	WCS	Christmas Carols, Music and Reading in aid of 'Julia's House'
May 2005	WCS	Bach - Jesu Priceless Treasure Taverner – The Lamb Mendelssohn – Hear my Prayer Archer – Requiem Perry – My Soul, There is a Country
Sept 2005	Natalie Burton joins as accompanist	
Dec 2005	WCS	Bush - Christmas Cantata A programme of readings, carols and handbells
Apr 2005	WCS	Schubert - Mass in F Grieg – Ave Maris Stella Elgar – The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me Holst – Turn back, O Man Faure – Requiem
May 2006	DGS	Verdi Requiem Peter Hope – Along the Shore – commissioned work and first performance
Dec 2006	WCS	Britten – Ceremony of Carols Carols, readings and introducing a young singing group – Lacrimosa
Apr 2007	WCS + Choir of Lady St Mary	Stainer – Crucifixion

The Conductors

1957	Mr E Edwards
date unknown	Bob Farrow
1963 - 1996	Robin Longman
1996 - 2001	Richard Marchant
2002 - 2003	Kenneth Claxton
2002	Andrew Smetham

The Pianists

1957 - 1962	Mr A Adams
1962 - 1967	Bob Farrow
1967 - 1969	Eileen Guppy
1969 - date unknown	Bob Farrow
1980 - 1985	Harvey Salyes
1985 - 1986	Mrs Burton-Page
1987 - 1990	Jenny Bridges
1990 - 1999	Dennis Holloway
1999 - 2003	Kenneth Claxton
2004 - 2005	Andrew Smetham
2005	Natalie Burton

Programme

~ Zadok the Priest ~

Coronation Anthem No.1, 1727

G F Handel (1685 -1759)

~ Magnificat ~ 1976 ~

Richard Marchant

~ Te Deum ~1984 ~

Robin Longman

~ And the Glory of the Lord ~

The Messiah, 1742

G F Handel (1685 -1759)

~ Five Mystical Songs ~1911~

R Vaughan-Williams (1872 -1958)

1. Easter
2. I got me flowers
3. Love bade me welcome
4. The call
5. Antiphon

~ Chorale ~

from 'Seven Poems by Robert Bridges'

Gerald Finzi (1901 - 1956)

Clear and Gentle Stream

My Spirit Sang All Day

~ Songs of the Fleet Op. 117 ~1910 ~

C V Stanford (1852 - 1924)

1. Sailing at Dawn
2. The Song of The Sou'wester
3. The Middle Watch
4. The Little Admiral
5. Fare Well

*Interval
of
10 minutes*

You are cordially invited to join the choir and guests at the end of the concert for refreshment and a piece of the 60th Anniversary cake.

Programme notes

Zadok the Priest, G F Handel

It is difficult to imagine more festive music than the anthems Handel composed for the coronation of King George II and Queen Caroline in Westminster Abbey on 11 October 1727. For public or royal occasions Handel was the ideal laureate, perhaps the only great artist to rise unflinchingly to the needs of great events, or rather rise above them, for the grandeur with which our imaginations invest the English 18th century is largely a consequence of Handel's magnificent tributes to such events as the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) or the Coronation of George II.

The sudden death of King George I had made Handel aware of the necessity to forestall any possible breach with the new monarch, with whom his relations had been less cordial than with his father. In four weeks he composed the four anthems,

The original performance in the Abbey was less well-rehearsed than might have been expected for such an occasion. As Winton Dean recalls, William Wake, the then Archbishop of Canterbury noted: 'the anthems were in confusion, all irregular music'. It was evidently a typical Georgian occasion. But their splendour won the new King's regard. From the day of his coronation he remained faithful to the great Mr Handel as Handel was faithful to his court.

Stanley Webb
Making Music

Magnificat, R Marchant

This setting of the *Magnificat* was originally written for an academic assignment in 1976 by Richard Marchant, a former conductor of Wareham Choral Society who now sings with the choir. Inspired by the great English Church Music composers, Parry and Stanford, it sets out to include melodic opportunities for all sections of the choir and gives the organ a chance to blast forth.

The work was revised in 2006 in preparation for the 60th Anniversary concert of Wareham Choral Society. This evening marks the first public performance of *Magnificat* which is conducted by Richard himself.

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Five Mystical Songs, R Vaughan-Williams

These five songs, settings of poems by the 17th-century poet George Herbert, were completed in 1911 and first performed at the Three Choirs Festival in Worcester in September of that year. The solo voice, richly accompanied by both chorus and orchestra in the first four numbers, weaves a series of simple melodies. The words are pre-eminent and the core of the work is centred on the still, wordless chorus which concludes the third song 'Love bade me welcome'. The final movement, for chorus and full orchestra, builds to a rousing finale and declamation of the words 'My God and King'.

Martin Pickering

Seven Poems by Robert Bridges, G Finzi

The British composer, Gerald Finzi, was born in London on July 14, 1901. His father died when he was just seven and following the outbreak of the First World War Finzi moved with his mother to Harrogate, in Yorkshire.

He became acquainted with his contemporary British composers, Holst, Gurney, Parry and Vaughan-Williams whose influence he was always to acknowledge and who in 1928 conducted Finzi's Violin Concerto.

After World War II, Finzi began to receive a series of important commissions, namely, 'Lo, The Full, Final Sacrifice' a festival anthem; a larger scale ode 'For St Cecilia' a Clarinet Concerto) for Frederick Thurston, which was perhaps his best known work; and his masterpiece 'Intimations of Immortality' for tenor, chorus and orchestra. A commission from Sir John Barbirolli for the 1955 Cheltenham Festival brought forth the Cello Concerto Finzi's most ambitious, purely instrumental work.

Finzi finally lost the fight against his illness and he died on September 27, 1956. His Cello Concerto was first broadcast the night before he died. His oeuvre, extending to more than 100 songs for soloist or choir, firmly establishes him as one of the most popular 20th Century British composers.

The set of seven unaccompanied part songs setting poems by Robert Bridges were separately produced during the early 1930s. Although published in 1934, the first complete performance was a broadcast by the BBC singers conducted by Trevor Harvey on December 29th 1938.

Songs of the Fleet, Op. 117, C V Stanford

Stanford was a dynamic Irish composer, conductor and teacher. His compositions are as varied as they are numerous, but he is best remembered for his fine songs. Plunket Green described as their chief qualities their "lilt, rhythm, sense of words, sense of atmosphere, musical imagery and illustration, directness of purpose and – guiding them all – imagination, humour and economy".

The Songs of the Fleet, with poems by Sir Henry Newbolt, were first performed at the 1910 Leeds Triennial Festival, of which Stanford was conductor. The sonorous choral passages were apparently highly suitable to the atmosphere of the occasion. These are powerful, outdoor, masculine settings full of salt sea air. As the climax of the last song, "Fare Well", approaches, the listener may recognise a quotation from "The Old Superb", one of the Songs of the Sea, an earlier cycle of Newbolt settings.

Making Music

Thanks

Many of these programme notes were supplied through the Programme Note Bank of Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies. Wareham Choral Society is affiliated to Making Music and thank the organisation for their continued support.

The Committee and Members wish particular thanks and recognition to go to Dorset Library Service for assisting in the supply of music for concerts.

The continued liaison between Lady St Mary and the Ministry of the church here in Wareham is greatly valued and appreciated. Thank you.

The design for the cover and poster was created by another long standing member of Wareham Choral Society, Lydia Farrow RA, whose marriage in 1959 to Bob Farrow, former conductor and pianist, is recorded in the Journals.

Jonathan Prentice Bass

Completed his first music degree at Bristol, during which time he was a choral scholar at the cathedral, before moving back to Bournemouth to undertake his Masters degree. Since then he has established himself locally as a teacher and conductor, and across the South as a soloist in both oratorio and opera. He has recently been musical director for *Oklahoma* and *My Fair Lady*. Operatic engagements this last year have included *Belcanto* in *L'Elisir d'amore*, the Count in *Le Nozze Di Figaro* and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*. In other productions he has played The Toreador (*Carmen*), Sharpless (*Madame Butterfly*) and Scarpia (*Tosca*). Amongst his oratorio engagements have been *Carmina Burana* and Britten's *War Requiem* and he is shortly to perform Duruflé's 'Requiem' with the Sinfonietta Choir. He teaches singing at Canford School and studies with Jon Andrew.

Andrew Smetham Conductor

Andrew received his early musical education (piano and organ) in Wales. After first and higher degrees in the University of London he taught for 25 years in Inner London comprehensive schools, starting in Wandsworth School (home of the then internationally famous Wandsworth Boys' School Choir) and where he was later headteacher for 10 years. In that capacity he was privileged to meet regularly with the choir's first two patrons, Benjamin Britten and Charles Groves, as well as to receive most of the leading conductors of the day when they came to the school to rehearse the choir prior to recordings and concerts throughout Europe. He sang a wide choral repertoire, studied choral training under Russell Burgess (assistant chorus master to the Philharmonia Chorus) and was an organist and choirmaster in London before moving to Wareham in 1985 to become headteacher of The Purbeck School, a post from which he retired in 2002. He has been musical director of Wareham Choral Society since December 2003.

Beverley Manning Organist

Whilst at school in Kidderminster, Beverley Manning had organ lessons at Worcester Cathedral from David Willcocks and later Douglas Guest. Having gained the diploma of ARCO, he won an Organ Scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, eventually becoming a pupil of George Guest at St John's College. He obtained the degrees of MA and Mus B at Cambridge and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists before becoming Director of Music at Canford School in Dorset. On retirement from teaching he took up the organ again, playing for visiting choirs at - amongst others - Chichester, Winchester and St Paul's Cathedrals.

Natalie Burton Accompanist

Natalie began playing the clarinet at the age of seven and at seventeen, whilst a pupil at Purbeck School, was awarded the Philip Walsh memorial prize for gaining the highest mark nationally in the Associated Board's Grade 8 examination. As a scholar at Southampton University, she gained a first class honours degree and an MA in musicology with distinction. Funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Board allowed her to continue research within the field of medieval music. Natalie is active as a composer and has recently had compositions performed in Westminster Abbey and Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. As a lecturer at the Bournemouth and Poole College Natalie teaches all aspects of the A level music course and conducts several student ensembles.

Choir Members 2006 - 2007

Sopranos

Mary Briggs
Wendy Crees
Julie Cake
Theresa Cook
Cynthia Davies
Miriam Fagan
Lydia Farrow
Gwen Kemp
Jackie March
Mary Norrish
Rita Potter
Lynda Price
Jane Randall
Betty Sealey
Sue Ticehurst
Rachel Watkins
Jac Westlake
Meg Wilkins
Joan Willis

Altos

Rose Adams
Doreen Allen
Valerie Bartlett
Pam Boddy
Margaret Duncalfe
Sue Evans
Nancy Gibson
Amy Guppy
Margaret Harris
Jennifer Haworth
Veronica Horton
Diane Jennings
Hilary Jordan
Diane Peel
Mary Standley
Jane Yard

Tenors

John Astley
Jack Haworth
Bob Newnham
Horrace Plyte
Arthur Sealey
Sarah Welton

Basses

Michael Andrew
Peter Barker
Robin Ferguson
David Kemp
Mike Lewis
Richard Marchant
Brian Wilkins



Wareham Choral Society in Concert - November 2000



AMY HONOURED

Amy Guppy is our longest serving member who remembers the post WW2 days when the choir first formed. Amy who has been a choir member continuously since 1965 was granted Honorary Membership in 2005 after her long association with *Wareham Choral Society*.