



Wareham Choral Society

Wareham Town Band

Bovington Military Wives Choir

D-Day Commemoration Concert

Sat 15 June 7pm 2024
Lady St Mary Church Wareham

WCS are joined by
Grace Lovelass
and
the choir, bellringers
and handbells of
Lady St Mary Church
with organist
Paul Ellis

Patron: Rt Hon David Mellor KC

For their financial support
thanks to:

The King's Arms, Stoborough
thekingsarms-stoborough.co.uk
and to: Wareham Town Council

Promoted by



LOVE IT LOCAL
KEEP IT PURBECK



British and Canadian 3rd Division troops land at Juno Beach.

We welcome representatives of the Royal
British Legion to mark the 80th anniversary
of D-Day with an eclectic mix of music!



<https://www.warehamchoral.uk>
warehamchoral@gmail.com

Foreword by WCS Chairman – Teresa Rekowska

Welcome to our D-Day commemoration concert, and thank you to all our performers from our Wareham community, the WCS committee, all our volunteers and the Royal British Legion for helping us to bring this emotional and beautiful music to our community. We are pleased to welcome several D-Day veterans as our honoured guests and representatives of The Dorset County & Wareham Royal British Legion.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die, we will remember them."

Thank you to The Wareham Town Council and The King's Arms Stoborough for supporting this concert financially and The Love It Local Purbeck magazine for their promotion.

If you would like to become our sponsor, make a donation, or find out about joining our choir, please email us warehamchoral@gmail.com.

OPENING WORDS

Audience Stand for Procession of Royal British Legion Standard to the accompaniment of Nimrod (Elgar) played by Paul Ellis

Wareham Choral Society	For the Fallen (Hall)
Royal British Legion	Last Post
Royal British Legion	Welcome by RBL County Chairman Grant Parrott
Wareham Choral Society	Hymn before Action from The Armed Man (Jenkins)
Wareham Choral Society	Benedictus from The Armed Man (Jenkins)
Grace Lovell	Somewhere Over the Rainbow (Harburg/Arlen)
Grace Lovell	Lascia Ch'io Pianga (Handel)
Church choir	Had We but Harkened (Walford Davies)
Church choir	Rest in Peace (Pratt Green)
Bovington Military Wives choir	Vera Lynn Medley
Bovington Military Wives choir	Pack up your Troubles (Powell)
Wareham Town Band	World War II fun medley
Wareham Town Band	Dambusters (Coates)

INTERVAL 30 minutes if weather good, refreshments on Church green, if not, 20 minutes refreshments back of church

Lady St Mary Handbells group	Ringin' arrangements of Pomp and Circumstance (Elgar), Jupiter from The Planets (Holst) and My Grandfather's Clock (Work).
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Matt Dietz Army Chaplain Reflections

Bovington Military Wives Home thoughts from Abroad (Ward)
choir

Bovington Military Wives Brave (Bareilles)
choir

Bovington Military Wives Wherever you Are (Mealor)
choir

Grace Lovelass Sleep

Grace Lovelass When I am Laid in Earth (Purcell)

Wareham Town Band Hymn to the Fallen (Williams)

Wareham Choral Society Ukrainian Prayer (Rutter)

Wareham Choral Society My Soul, There is a Country (Parry)

Rector Simon Everett Closing prayer and thank you

Wareham Choral Society For the Fallen (Guest)

**All National Anthem 1st verse accompanied by
Wareham Town Band**

Wareham Choral Society

The choir was formed in 1947, under the post-WW2 Evening Institute arrangements. The name *Wareham Choral Society* was adopted in 1957. So began a long association with Lady St Mary Church in Wareham, and we have been performing at least one, and often two, concerts each year in Wareham ever since.

Our Music Director, Hazel Ricketts, and our accompanist, Paul Ellis, are both accomplished professional musicians. We enjoy the challenge of new music, and are familiar with the standard choral repertoire. We are a non-auditioning choir, and we are always happy to accept new members.

Unfortunately, Hazel has recently been indisposed, so we'd like to thank Paul Ellis and Bill Day of the Lytchett St Mary choir, for "stepping up to the plate" and deputising for Hazel.



Wareham Town Band has been in existence since at least 1855, but virtually nothing is known of its earlier history. It has always contained a mixture of brass and reed instruments, and still does. This may indicate that the band's roots lie in some earlier village band. It

certainly predates many of the other bands in the Purbeck area, which were formed around the 1860's as brass bands.

Rehearsals are held every Thursday evenings at 7:30pm throughout the year at the URC Hall in Wareham. We carry out a wide variety of engagements in our annual programme including fetes, concerts and parades. We can accommodate most of the normal range of wind band instruments as we are actively seeking new players in most sections.

Bovington Military Wives Choir aims to bring people in the surrounding military communities together through singing. The Military Wives Choirs community consists of over 2000 women in 72 choirs across the UK and internationally. They come together to celebrate a love of singing and a communal understanding which comes from members' shared experiences of the Armed Forces.



Grace Lovelass is an operatic mezzo-soprano whose roles include Romeo in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (Red Earth Opera), Tisbe in *La Cenerentola* (Opera Kipling/Camden Fringe), Adalgisa in *Norma* (Heber Opera) and Marthe Schwerdtlein in *Faust* with Opéra de Bauge and where she was awarded the Gil-Rodriguez scholarship.

A versatile entertainer, she has written, produced and performed two solo shows – *Graceful*, in 2022 and *Disgraceful* as part of the Dorchester Arts 2023 programme. Grace made her Edinburgh Fringe debut in 2023 as *Glory* in new musical *Are you worthy?*, having started her fringe theatre career with lead roles in *Exit the Queen* and *Cocky & the Tardigrades* with Brighton Theatre.

As a concert soloist, Grace recently sang *Candelas* in de Falla's *El amor Brujo* with Oxford University Sinfonietta and premiered *Mary Magdalene* in a new *Passion* setting by Roger Hewetson under the baton of David Ogden. Grace studied opera at the Associated Studios and has a degree in Classics from King's College London. She is a dancer, yogi and two-time *IRONMAN*, and is frequently booked as a public speaker, talking about her life as a singer and athlete.

Lady St Mary Church choir is a 4-part adult choir with 16 singers. They are responsible for leading the singing at services each Sunday morning and occasional evening services, particularly between Advent and Candlemas. Their repertoire, apart from hymns and congregational mass settings, ranges from Tudor to contemporary motets and anthems.

Lady St Mary Handbell team are a group who ring tunes on the church set of handbells. We are often seen at Christmas playing carols but perform other music too. All tonight's work was arranged for handbells by John Mitchell.

The **Royal British Legion** was founded in the aftermath of World War 1, and by 1921, the tradition of a Two Minute Silence had been established and the first Poppy Appeal was held that year.

RBL helps members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families, from providing expert advice and guidance to recovery and rehabilitation, through to transitioning to civilian life.