

Wareham Choral Society
WW1 Commemorative Concert
Directed by Nigel Groome
“Wareham Remembers”



Lady St. Mary Church Wareham
Saturday November 15th 2014
7:30pm



WAREHAM REMEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome members of the Wareham community, friends and family to our concert commemorating the start of World War 1.

Heritage Lottery Funding has supported this concert and the Exhibition of Memorabilia in the Parish Hall.

The exhibits reflect how WW1 changed the lives of the people in Wareham and the surrounding area.

Our programme of music and words from 1914 to the present day illustrates how composers and poets have responded to the emotional and psychological complexities of war.

We hope to lift your spirits by describing the courage, ingenuity and determination of the people who did great things. We hope you will smile as we sing songs and tell jokes from the Western Front, because they did, despite the horror of it all.

The loss of sons and daughters, husbands and wives, lovers and friends is heart-breaking; however, contrary to the line in Christina Rossetti's poem *'Better by far you should forget and smile, Than that you should remember and be sad'*, tonight we will remember, and we will be sad, but perhaps to good purpose if it encourages us to seek ways other than war for the resolution of conflict.

The recent ratification of the UN Arms Trade Treaty is good news. Let us not be cynical and as ordinary people tweet, twitter, and communicate our hope that this will lead to a reduction in violence throughout the world.

Judith Price - Chairman of Wareham Choral Society.

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

The candles flickering behind the altar commemorate the 72 men from Wareham who left and never returned.

PROGRAMME

Welcome by the Rector of Wareham Simon Everett

Introduction by our MC Michael Wardle

Give unto the Lord (*Elgar*) *sung* by the choir

Reading – Kilcourseie Sigismund Courtenay read by Judith Price

Loveliest of trees the cherry now/Is my Team still Ploughing? (*Butterworth*) sung by Mathew Graham (baritone)

Reading – Soldier read by David Kemp

Greater Love Hath No Man (*Ireland*) sung by the choir

Reading – Mansel sisters read by Lydia Farrow

Snippets of Humour from the Western Front read by Michael Wardle

Medley of World War 1 Songs sung by the choir

INTERVAL

Lead Kindly Light (*Goodall*) sung by the choir

Reading – Mabel Stobart read by Judith Price

Lachrymosa (*Goodall*) sung by the choir

Reading – T.E. Lawrence read by David Kemp

Silent Night sung by the choir

Reading – Siegfried Sassoon's A Soldiers Declaration read by David Kemp

When I am laid in Earth (*Purcell*) sung by Susannah Groome (soprano)

Reading – Vaughan Williams – Donald Macdonald - read by Lydia Farrow

The Lark Ascending (*Vaughan Williams*) played by Piotr Kopec

Reading - Peace Poem read by the Air Cadets

Turn Back O Man (*Holst*) sung by the choir

Retiring Collection for Help for Heroes.



Mabel Stobart

George Butterworth (1885 –1916) is best known for the orchestral idyll *The Banks of Green Willow* and his song settings of A. E. Housman's poems from *A Shropshire Lad*.

Vaughan Williams and Butterworth became close friends. They made several trips into the English countryside to collect folk songs and their own compositions were strongly influenced by what they collected. Butterworth was also an expert folk dancer, being particularly keen on Morris dancing.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Butterworth joined the army. He was killed in the battle of the Somme in 1916.

Sir Edward Elgar's (1857–1934) best-known compositions are orchestral works including the *Enigma Variations*, the *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*, concertos for violin and cello, and two symphonies. He also composed choral works, including *The Dream of Gerontius*, chamber music and songs.

Howard Goodall (born 1958) is a composer of musicals, choral music and music for television. His output of musical theatre works includes *The Hired Man* (1984), an adaptation of the novel by Melvyn Bragg, *Girlfriends* (1986), *Days of Hope* (1991), *Silas Marner* (1993), *The Kissing-Dance* (1998), *The Dreaming* (2001), *A Winter's Tale* (2005) and *Two Cities* (2006).

His *Eternal Light: A Requiem* was premiered in 2008

Gustav Holst (1874 –1934) is best known for his orchestral suite *The Planets*. He composed a large number of works across a range of genres, although none achieved comparable success. His distinctive compositional style was the product of many influences, including the English folksong revival of the early 20th century, and he was a significant influence on a number of younger English composers, including Edmund Rubbra, Michael Tippett and Benjamin Britten.

The anthem *Turn Back O Man* was written in 1919, with words by Clifford Bax which have an obvious resonance with the times (and, indeed, now).

A. E. Housman (1859–1936), was a classical scholar and poet, best known for his cycle of poems *A Shropshire Lad*, which was first published in 1896 but achieved popularity in the years up to and including World War 1. Their beauty, simplicity and distinctive imagery appealed strongly to many early 20th-century English composers, including **George Butterworth**.

John Ireland (1879 –1962) favoured small forms and wrote neither symphonies nor operas. His output includes some chamber music and a substantial body of piano works, and songs to poems by A. E. Housman, Thomas Hardy, Christina Rossetti, John Masefield, Rupert Brooke and others.

Henry Purcell (1659-1695) is generally considered to be one of the greatest English composers; no other native-born English composer approached his fame until Elgar. Purcell's legacy was a uniquely English form of Baroque music. Purcell is said to have been composing at nine years old, but the earliest work that can be certainly identified as his is an ode for the King's birthday, written in 1670. Purcell died at the height of his career. The cause of his death is unclear: one theory is that he caught a chill after returning home late from the theatre one night to find that his wife had locked him out. Another is that he succumbed to tuberculosis.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 –1958) composed symphonies, chamber music, opera, choral music, and film scores.

In 1904 Vaughan Williams discovered English folk songs and carols, which were becoming extinct because the oral tradition through which they existed was being undermined by an increase in literacy and the availability of printed music in rural areas. He travelled the countryside, transcribing and preserving many. Later, he incorporated some songs and melodies into his own music.

'The Lark Ascending' has been voted Britain's favourite piece of classical music in a poll of more than 100,000 people.

Vaughan Williams sketched this work listening to the skylarks on the cliffs above Dover. As he did so, he observed the troop ships crossing the English Channel and he determined to enlist in the Royal Army Medical Core.

(He became a Medical orderly and stretcher bearer rescuing wounded and dying soldiers. He served in the Salonika Campaign and on the Western Front.)

A small boy observed him making the sketches and, thinking he was jotting down a secret code, informed a police officer, and as he left the cliff top he was arrested!

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 baby boy called Harry, who is allowing his mummy to take on singing engagements again!

Matthew Graham (baritone) began singing in the Trinity Boys Choir with engagements including the treble choruses in Benjamin Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream (Rome Opera) and Richard Wagner's Parsifal (English National Opera).

Matthew was later Senior Choral Scholar in the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, with which he toured extensively across the US and Europe and made several recordings.



Matthew graduated from Cambridge University with a degree in Theology in 2008 and has endeavoured to continue singing since, both in the Choir of Beckenham Parish Church (under the direction of Nigel Groome) and with other groups including the Choir of London, with which he has toured to Slovenia and the West Bank as part of the Palestine Choral Festival last year.

Piotr Kopec studied at Trinity College of Music in London, gaining an honours degree in violin performance.

Now living in Bournemouth, Piotr is a member of several String Quartets, and works with orchestras, choral societies, chamber groups, opera, and in musical theatre.

With the Orion Trio he has performed on cruise ships around the world.

He gives recitals and in recent years has performed the concertos by Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Bruch, Vivaldi and Mozart. Piotr plays on a 1673 Andrea Guarneri violin, kindly on loan from Felicity Belfield.



Air Cadets

2185 (Wareham) Sqd. and (Swanage) DF are part of the Dorset & Wiltshire Wing ATC. The two units work together to offer exciting opportunities to young people in and around the Purbecks.



Members of the Air Training Corps can get involved in activities such as flying, gliding, parachuting, climbing, target shooting, expeditions, adventure training, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, gaining nationally recognised qualifications, attending camps at RAF stations and sports.

Visit their website at <http://www.freewebs.com/wareham2185/>

Have you enjoyed this concert?....

If so, please tell us! One of the conditions attaching to the Heritage Lottery Fund grant is that we provide feedback on how well our event was 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 **traditional Christmas Concert** is in Lady St Mary Church on December 6th at 7:30pm (**free admission!**) with excerpts from Messiah, choir carols and audience carols.



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.

Thanks also to Joys Outfitters of Wareham for once again assisting us in the sale of tickets. We should also like to acknowledge the work of Maurice Turner in preparing the Heritage Lottery Fund submission.

THERE IS A RETIRING COLLECTION FOR THE ARMED FORCES CHARITY HELP FOR HEROES.