

1863

CIRENCESTER
CHORAL
SOCIETY

2013

Registered Charity No 276649

Conductor: Carleton Etherington

150th Anniversary

Christmas Concert

Cirencester Choral Society

with

Katie Etherington (*soprano*)

David Whitehead (*organ*)

Judith Paris (*readings*)

and Audience (*carols*)

supporting Cirencester's

Churn Project

7.30 pm 17 December 2013

Cirencester Parish Church

THE
CHURN
PROJECT



Support in your
community

PROGRAMME

(The words of the audience items are printed later in this programme)

- Deck the Hall - *Welsh trad arr John Hicks* Choir
- O come, O come Emmanuel** - *French trad arr Thomas Helmore* **Audience, Choir**
- This is the truth sent from above - *English trad arr R Vaughan Williams* Choir
- From* Messiah - G F Handel Pastoral Symphony Organ
There were shepherds . . . Soprano
Glory to God Choir
- O little town of Bethlehem** - *English trad arr R Vaughan Williams* **Audience, Choir**
- A child's Christmas in Wales - *Dylan Thomas* Judith Paris
- From* Christmas Cantata - *Geoffrey Bush*
The seven joys of Mary Soprano, Choir
When Jesus Christ was four years old Choir
Little Jesus, sweetly sleep Soprano, Choir
- O come all ye faithful** - *unknown, probably 18th century* **Audience, Choir**

INTERVAL

(20 minutes. Refreshments)

- It came upon a midnight clear** - *English trad arr Arthur Sullivan* **Audience, Choir**
- From* Christmas Cantata - *Geoffrey Bush*
This endris night I saw Choir
I sing of a maiden Soprano
By, by lullay, thou little tiny child Choir
- Chorale Preludes - *J S Bach*
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme David Whitehead
In dulci jubilo
- Good King Wenceslas looked out** - *arr Reginald Jacques* **Audience, Choir**
- Wenceslas: the inside story - *Oliver Pritchett* Judith Paris
- The Virgin's Slumber Song - *Max Reger* Katie Etherington
- O Holy Night - *Adolphe Adam*
- Away in a manger - *Normandy trad arr Reginald Jacques* Choir
- Torches - *John Joubert* Choir
- Hark! The herald angels sing** - *Felix Mendelssohn* **Audience, Choir**
- We wish you a merry Christmas - *West Country trad arr Arthur Warrell* Choir

Cirencester Choral Society 1863-2013

Cirencester Choral Society was founded in 1863 and has this year been celebrating its 150th anniversary. The highlights of its history include a concert in 1905 conducted by Sir Hubert Parry, the services of three illustrious patrons in the post-war decades (*see notes beneath the texts of the audience carols*) and having as its conductor in 1959-60 Peter Maxwell Davies, now Master of the Queen's Music. Today, under Carleton Etherington's direction, the Society has a full membership of



over 120. This encourages near-capacity audiences and the finances needed to engage professional musicians for all our main concerts. Orchestral players are assembled by our accompanist Jenny Rees. We engage postgraduate student singers from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama for most of the solo roles in the works perform.

Special events were held in 2013 to mark the Society's anniversary, including:

- a rare performance of Parry's *Invocation to Music*, which proved to be a revelation to audience and performers alike. In the words of our reviewer: "*Carleton Etherington took us on a journey of discovery, giving some neglected, yet magnificent, music by an eminent son of Gloucestershire the kind of performance it really deserves.*"

- an open workshop in which some 70 singers from across the south joined a similar number from CCS to rehearse and give a free informal concert of Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Magnificat*, under the expert leadership of Ralph Allwood, former Director of Music at Eton College;



- an Anniversary Public Lecture on the prevailing movements for change in the form of Anglican worship in the mid-19th century, especially the role of music, and how this led indirectly to the formation of our own and many other choral societies;

- a performance of *Elijah* in November, rated "*a triumph*" by our reviewer, the work being chosen to recognise the hugely important role that Mendelssohn's choral music played in the early life of the Society.

Fundraising for charities

In recent years, in addition to carol singing, the Society has put on several Christmas concerts to raise funds for other charities – Save the Children, the Acorns children's hospice, and the campaign for restoration of the Town Hall (this church's south porch). Tonight's concert for Churn follows the introduction earlier this year of a mutually beneficial association between the Society and Churn in which Churn provides and benefits from the sale of interval refreshments at our main concerts.

All profits from this evening's concert will go to The Churn Project.

Churn Raffle

Please support the Churn Project further by buying raffle tickets this evening.

There are some wonderful prizes, thanks to our generous supporters:

- 4 two hour sessions on a private tennis court at Meysey Hampton courtesy of Mr & Mrs Christopher Page
- A hand crafted pearl necklace courtesy of Sally Francis Jewellery
- A box of stationery courtesy of Anthony Eyre of The Letter Press
- A meal for 2 at the New Inn, Coln St Aldwyns courtesy of the pub and Mark & Felicity Henriques of Cripps Barn

Tickets will be drawn during the second half of the concert and the winning numbers will be on display as you leave the church.

Thank you for your support.

This evening's visiting performers:

Katie Etherington (*soprano*) grew up in Brentwood, Essex and studied both voice and flute for her music degree at Surrey University. Having worked as a teacher, most recently at Dean Close Preparatory School, Cheltenham, Katie now spends the majority of her time being mum to her two children, Hannah and John, and is also training for Reader ministry in the Church of England. Katie has appeared as a soloist in a range of repertoire, including Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Rutter's *Magnificat* and numerous other works.

Judith Paris (*narrator*) Judith was born in Cirencester and was a member of Cirencester Ballet Club, winning a scholarship to the Royal Ballet School. She has been a member of the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and has performed many times in London's West End. She made eight films with Ken Russell, has appeared in a variety of TV productions from Lynda La Plante's *Mind Games* and *A Touch of Frost* to *Dr Who* and *The Two Ronnies*. Judith's mother was the pianist Doris Franklin, Cirencester Choral Society's accompanist for many years. In 2011 Judith performed her one woman show *Waxing Lyrical* - the story of Mme Tussaud - in Cirencester Parish Church.

David Whitehead (*organist*) studied at the Royal College of Music in London where he was Organ Scholar at St Paul's Cathedral, before embarking upon a teaching and performing career. Over the years he has taught in a wide variety of schools, from London across to Gloucestershire, and his conducting and performing career has encompassed involvement with many church & school choirs, chamber choirs, and choral societies, including Cirencester CS from 2001-4. Alongside his teaching he has maintained a career as an established recitalist and répétiteur and has worked as an accompanist with a range of choirs.

O come, O come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of Might,
Who to Thy tribes of Sanaï's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The tune for 'O come, O come Emmanuel' was adapted from a traditional French tune by Rev Thomas Helmore and introduced to many parts of the UK by his brother, Frederick Helmore, the 'Musical Missionary' and founder of Cirencester Choral Society in 1863.

O little town of Bethlehem,

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.

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

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
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.

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

'O Little town' was arranged by the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, as was the carol 'This is the truth' sung earlier. He was born in Down Ampney, the son of the local Vicar, and accepted an invitation to become a Patron of Cirencester Choral Society after World War II.

O come, all ye faithful,

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.

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.

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.



SUPPORTING &
CHAMPIONING
VOLUNTARY MUSIC

*Cirencester Choral Society is a member of
Making Music (formerly the National
Federation of Music Societies)*

It came upon a midnight clear,

It came upon a midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heav'n's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lonely plains
They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

*The Society gratefully acknowledges the help of the
Visitor Information Centre and The Corner Stone
in providing box office facilities for this concert.*

Good King Wenceslas

All Good King Wenceslas look'd out
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

Men Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?

Women Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain.

Men Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.

All Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

Women Sire the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.

Men Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.

All In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,

Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

This carol, and the version of Away in a manger sung tonight, were arranged by Reginald Jacques, who, along with Ralph Vaughan Williams and composer Herbert Howells, was a post-war Patron of Cirencester Choral Society until his death in 1966.

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

**Cirencester Choral Society's
next event**

Sat 3 May 2014

7.30 pm

Cirencester Parish Church

J S Bach and Son

including

J S Bach *Ascension Oratorio*

C P E Bach *Magnificat*

Hannah Grove (*soprano*)

Ben Sawyer (*countertenor*)

Nick Drew (*tenor*)

James Geidt (*bass*)

Tickets available from April



THE CHURN PROJECT is a Cirencester charity. Our aim is to reduce isolation and exclusion and to open up opportunities for local people. We focus on the most vulnerable people in our community; older people, young families and unemployed people. We respond to what our community needs in a practical way, working with people to improve their quality of life. Our services include volunteer befriending schemes, work-skills training, drop-in groups and family support. We have a small team of part-time staff and hundreds of wonderful volunteers. If you would like to find out more about our work please contact us via our website, phone us on 644779 or pop into the office at 86b Dyer Street. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you to Cirencester Choral Society for this evening's opportunity.
