

CIRENCESTER
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 276649

Conductor: Carleton Etherington

Christmas Concert

Cirencester Choral Society

Lydia Kenny (*saxophone*)

piano accompaniment Damian Kenny

Judith Paris (*narrator*)

David Whitehead (*organ*)

Audience (*carols*)

THE
CHURN
PROJECT



Support in your
community

in support of

THE CHURN PROJECT

17 Dec 2019, 7:30 pm

Cirencester Parish Church

PROGRAMME

(The words of the carols for **ALL** to sing are found on the last three pages of this programme)

CHOIR	Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light	J S Bach
ALL	O come all ye faithful	<i>arr</i> David Willcocks
CHOIR	A babe is born, I wys	F Bainton
	Coventry Carol	15 th C <i>arr</i> Martin Shaw
LYDIA KENNY	Fantaisie Op. 89	Jean Baptiste Singelée
ALL	O little town of Bethlehem	P Brooks/ English trad
JUDITH PARIS	Papa Panov's Special Christmas	Leo Tolstoy
ALL	It came upon the midnight clear	E H Sears/ Sullivan
CHOIR	Magnificat in D	Johann Pachelbel

INTERVAL (20 mins)

Refreshments sold in aid of The CHURN Project will be available in the Trinity Chapel. Please follow the one-way system! To help Churn further, please enter the prize raffle, tickets for which will be on sale during the interval. A retiring bucket collection will also be held to raise additional funds for the charity.

After the interval, Ailsa O'Connor, Churn's Community Liaison and Events Coordinator, will speak briefly about the scope of the charity's work and the benefits it brings to the community.

CHOIR	Four chorales from J S Bach's Christmas Oratorio: <i>Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child; Beside thy cradle here I stand; Thee with tender care; Now vengeance hath been taken.</i>	
ALL	God rest you, merry gentlemen	English trad
LYDIA KENNY	Grace, from <i>Light of Sothis</i>	Amy Quate
	Festive Branches	Damian Kenny and Lydia Kenny
JUDITH PARIS	The twelve days of Christmas	John Julius Norwich
ALL	Good King Wenceslas	J M Neale/Piae Cantiones
CHOIR	Deck the hall	Welsh trad
	Sans Day Carol	Cornish trad <i>arr</i> John Rutter
ALL	Hark! The herald angels sing	C Wesley/Mendelssohn
CHOIR	We wish you a merry Christmas	W Country trad <i>arr</i> Warrell

Cirencester Choral Society's fundraising

In addition to the annual programme of two main concerts per year in April/May and late November/early December, Cirencester Choral Society has in recent years put on biennial Christmas concerts to raise funds for other charities and projects, including the Church's South Porch Restoration in 2010, The Churn Project in 2013, Cirencester Housing for Young People (CHYP) in 2015 and Citizens Advice Cotswold District in 2017. The beneficiary of tonight's concert, which will receive all profits after concert expenses, is again The Churn Project. Churn will be familiar to many of you. You will hear about their work after the interval and can read about it later in this programme.

A welcome to our guest artists

We are delighted to welcome, as our guest musician, saxophonist Lydia Kenny, Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year 2018, accompanied on piano by her father Damian Kenny. Against stiff competition, Lydia took both the GYM Title and the Audience Prize at the finals in March 2018. As her biography on the next page reveals, Lydia has had further success this year in gaining her Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music.

A warm welcome back is extended to Judith Paris, star of stage and screen, whose inimitable renditions of the spoken word have won acclaim from audiences at our previous charity concerts.

We are fortunate, too, that organist David Whitehead is once again with us to accompany our carols and choral offerings.

Tonight's performers

Carleton Etherington (*conductor*) has been the Musical Director of Cirencester Choral Society since January 2005. He is Organist and Director of Music at Tewkesbury Abbey and combines that post with teaching and performing. He was educated at Chetham's School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music. In 1992 he won first prize at the Paisley International Organ Competition and was the Royal College of Organists' "Performer of the Year" competition in 1993. He held posts at St Bride's Fleet Street and Leeds Parish Church before taking up his present appointment. Carleton has performed widely in Europe, Australia and USA, frequently broadcasts on Radio 3 and has won acclaim for his CD recordings.

Lydia Kenny (*saxophone*) was Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year 2018, winning both the Hewitt-Jones trophy and the Carducci audience prize. She studies the saxophone with Lara James, having previously studied at Gloucestershire Academy of Music under Wes Duggan, and achieved Distinction in her Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music in 2019. Lydia has played several times with Gloucestershire orchestras, including Glazunov's *Saxophone Concerto*, Debussy's *Rhapsody* and *Hot-Sonate* by Schulhoff. She has recorded with Gecko and Andrew Heath.

Lydia is an actor-musician, trained at the Young Actors' Studio at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She recently toured with Red Dog Theatre Company and has performed at Cheltenham Music and Literature Festivals, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Barnes and Bath Children's Literature Festivals, Stroud Shakespeare Festival, Aberdeen International Youth Festival, The Carducci Festival and, with Marcel Zidani, at Winchcombe Festival of Music and Arts. She directed *An Orange in the Subway* by Owen Thomas at the Young Artists Festival 2019 at The Other Room Theatre, Cardiff. Lydia is keen to support young musicians and has run workshops for young people across Gloucestershire.

Lydia is generously supported by North Nibley Arts Bursary. She is currently studying Arts and Sciences at University College London, where she plays violin with the University College London Symphony Orchestra.

Judith Paris (*narrator*) 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*.

In 2011 Judith performed her one woman show *Waxing Lyrical - the story of Mme Tussaud* - in Cirencester Parish Church. Judith's mother was the pianist Doris Franklin, Cirencester Choral Society's accompanist for many years.

David Whitehead (*organist*) is Director of Music at St Augustine's Church, Edgbaston. He 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 to Gloucestershire, and his conducting and performing career has encompassed involvement with many church and school choirs, chamber choirs and choral societies, including Cirencester Choral Society from 2001-04. Alongside his teaching he has maintained a career as an established recitalist and répétiteur.

The CHURN Project

The Churn Project has been working across the Cirencester area with people of all ages needing additional support since it was set up in 2001. It fulfils a vital role in the community by giving a sense of belonging, purpose and hope to people who are vulnerable and marginalised.

CEO of The Churn Project, Fran Embleton-Smith, said: "At The Churn we believe that every person we encounter matters and should be included and involved in their community. We strive to make life better for the people who need us most, working to reduce and prevent isolation, promoting wellbeing, and supporting people through crisis by providing early help and interventions."

The Churn Project's small part-time team works with approximately 400 local volunteers to promote and support learning and achievement and encourage personal responsibility and positive social behaviour, focusing on young families, older people, the socially isolated and the long-term unemployed. It offers weekly social groups and classes, drop-in sessions, home visits and telephone support. Its support for families includes Ready Steady Baby ante-natal sessions; New Baby, New Life parenting sessions; and Families Matter support, advice and activities for young families. The Ageing Well programme includes Churn Good Neighbours and Young Neighbours befriending for older people living alone; Churn Memory and Friendship Clubs; and Practical Action for Life. The Churn Project also provides skills and employment support, including Work Club and practical training; courses, activities and drop-in groups; and Men's Sheds and Churn Community Allotment.

The charity needs £240,000 each year to achieve all it does and funds raised by community events such as the Christmas Concert will help it continue to support the more than 1,900 local people who come for help each year and to reach more people who need its help.

To contact The Churn call 01285 380038, email info@thechurn.org.uk, visit www.churnproject.org.uk or call in at 14–16 The Waterloo, Cirencester.



New Baby, New Life



Ageing Well



Churn Men's Shed

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.

The Society acknowledges the help of the Visitor Information Centre's box office facilities and the Parish Church for making the venue available for this concert.

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.

It came upon the midnight clear

It came upon the 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.

God rest you merry, gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our Heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy . . .

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy . . .

But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy . . .

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other to embrace;
This holy tide of Christ-mas
All others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy . . .

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.

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.*