

Registered Charity No 276649

Conductor: Carleton Etherington

Christmas Concert







Support in your community

Cirencester Choral Society
Grace Tushingham (oboe)
piano accompaniment John Wright
Judith Paris (narrator)
John Wright (organ)
Carleton Etherington
(conductor)

raising funds for COTSWOLD CITIZENS ADVICE & THE CHURN PROJECT

Tuesday 19 Dec 2023 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 On this day Earth shall ring Haldane Stewart

ALL O come all ye faithful arr David Willcocks

CHOIR The Truth from above arr R Vaughan Williams

Silent night arr David Houlder

GRACE TUSHINGHAM Concerto da Camera Michael Hurd

(2nd movement, *Moderato con moto*)

CHOIR The Crown of Roses P I Tchaikovsky

ALL While shepherds watched their flocks arr D Willcocks

JUDITH PARIS Poem for Christmas Eve Godfrey Rust

ALL O little town of Bethlehem arr R Vaughan Williams

CHOIR And the Glory of the Lord (from Messiah) G F Handel

INTERVAL (20 mins)

Refreshments sold in aid of The CHURN Project will be available in the Trinity Chapel. A retiring bucket collection will also be held to raise additional funds for the two charities.

CCA and CHURN An opportunity for each charity to speak briefly about their work

and the benefits it brings to the community.

CHOIR Three chorales (from Christmas Oratorio) J S Bach

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child; Beside thy cradle here I stand;

Now vengeance hath been taken.

ALL In the bleak mid-winter Gustav Holst

GRACE TUSHINGHAM Oboe Concerto in D minor Ludwig Lebrun

(3rd movement, *Rondo*)

CHOIR The Infant King arr E Pettman

ALL Good King Wenceslas J M Neale / Piae Cantiones

JUDITH PARIS Wenceslas: The inside story Oliver Pritchett

CHOIR Deck the hall Welsh trad

The twelve days of Christmas arr John Rutter

ALL Hark! The herald angels sing Felix Mendelssohn

CHOIR We wish you a merry Christmas

Welcome to our guest artists

Tonight, we celebrate the talent of artists with strong connections to Cirencester and the Choral Society.

We are delighted to welcome, as our guest young musician, oboist **Grace Tushingham**. Grace's home is in Cirencester, and she is currently a student at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She is the great granddaughter of Percy and Ethel Underwood who were well known as organist/baritone and pianist in the Gloucester musical scene.

Grace will be accompanied on piano by our concert organist **John Wright**. John was a previous organist at this church and was the Choral Society's conductor around the millennium. At three days' notice, John very nobly stepped in to conduct the Society's May 2022 concert when Carleton succumbed to Covid after our final rehearsal. With only one afternoon to get reacquainted, in the words of our reviewer, "all performers succeeded admirably". Thank you, John – a true friend of the Society!

Judith Paris has won acclaim from audiences at our previous charity concerts with her inimitable renditions of the spoken word and we welcome her back tonight. Judith was born in Cirencester and her mother, Doris Franklin, was the Society's accompanist for many years.

Tonight's performers

Carleton Etherington (conductor) has been 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 is also Musical Director of Pershore Choral.

Carleton 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" 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.



Grace Tushingham (*oboe*) is from Cirencester and began learning the oboe at age 9, studying with Caron de Burgh. She studied at Rendcomb College and from there gained a scholarship to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where she is now in her final year, studying with Lucie Sprague (WNO), Steve Hudson (BBC NOW) and Patrick Flanaghan (RPO). Her concerto appearances have included Albinoni, Marcello and Lebrun, and she recently gave a solo recital including Telemann, Britten and Binge at Chapel Arts, Cheltenham. Grace was a

finalist in the 2023 Gloucestershire Young Musician competition and has performed with Cardiff Chamber Orchestra, RWCMD Symphony and Opera Orchestras and Regency Sinfonia. She is a founder member of the Darach Ensemble, a trio of oboe, cor anglais and clarinet, which performs frequently across England and Wales. She is looking forward to beginning her postgraduate studies in September.

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 and has appeared in a variety of Film and TV productions from *Dr Who* and *Phantom of the Opera* to *The Crown*. In 2011 Judith performed her one woman show *Waxing Lyrical - the story of Mme Tussaud -* in Cirencester Parish Church.



John Wright (*organist*) studied music at Trinity Hall, Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music. He has identified himself with a wide range of music activities in



Cheltenham and the surrounding area and pursued a career as a teacher. He works now as a freelance musician, and is the conductor of Charlton Kings Choral Society, an examiner for ABRSM and College Organist at Rendcomb. John is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and has given recitals and accompanied choirs in many churches and cathedrals in this country and abroad. Locally he has held organist's posts at Cirencester Parish Church, All Saints' Cheltenham and St Peter's Leckhampton. A trustee of the Holst Victorian House, he has edited many of the early works

of Gustav Holst, resulting in their publication for the first time, including the complete solo songs, and he has recorded Holst's organ music on the organ of Hereford Cathedral. Earlier this year John was awarded a citation from Cheltenham Arts Council for his contribution to music in the town.

Citizens Advice Cotswold District

Citizens Advice Cotswold District is a local charity offering free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to residents living in the district. We rely on grants from District, Town and Parish Councils, project funding, donations from businesses and individual supporters and funds raised through the activities of the Friends of Cotswold Citizens Advice.

From the start of January 2023 to mid-November, their volunteer advisers together with a small team of paid staff advised 1,700 people on over 9,000 issues, by telephone and email and face to face from their Cirencester office, outreach venues in Moreton in Marsh and Tetbury and foodbank outlets and other community venues.

If you have a problem and would like help, please call their Freephone helpline: 0808 800 0511 (Mon–Thurs). Full details of opening times and locations can be found at http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk.

The CHURN Project

Since 2001, The Churn Project has been supporting people in the Cirencester area and in 2023 it has worked with more than 1,300 local people in their time of need. At the heart of everything The Churn Project does is community. By working with people in the community, The Churn Project empowers individuals when they need it the most – whether that be adjusting to family life, looking for work, managing mental health struggles, tackling loneliness, or any other transition or crisis point. It is the charity's vision that all people are included, involved and invested in their community.

The Churn Project runs groups throughout the week which focus on bringing people together at challenging life stages, such as New Baby New Life for new parents; Work Club for the unemployed; and Living with Loss for people who have been recently bereaved. Every week, The Churn Project runs around 30 groups and delivers many more hours of 1:1 work. Through working with the charity, people find support and understanding through shared experience, and establish a peer group that extends beyond the groups.

The charity needs £450,000 each year to achieve everything it does. Funds raised at community events such as the Christmas Concert help it continue to support the huge number of local people who come for help each year, and to reach even more people.

To contact The Churn, call 01285 380 038, email <u>info@thechurn.org.uk</u>, visit <u>www.churnproject.org.uk</u> or call in at 14-16 The Waterloo, Cirencester.

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,
C 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,
C 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,
Christ the Lord.

While shepherds watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

'Fear not', said he, for mighty dread Had seized their trouble mind; 'Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind'.

'To you in David's town this day Is born of David's line A saviour, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed, All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith Appeared a shining throng Of angels praising God, who thus Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

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.

In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, Nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign: In the bleak midwinter A stable place sufficed The Lord God almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a manger full of hay:
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Throng'd the air;
But his mother only
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him Give my heart

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.