



SOUTHEND BACH CHOIR

CAROL SERVICE

IN AID OF

HARP

**THE LEADING SOUTHEND CHARITY
HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE
OVERCOME HOMELESSNESS FOR GOOD**

**IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD
RT REV'D STEPHEN COTTRELL**

16th DECEMBER 2017

7.00 P.M.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please stand to sing the hymns if you are able.

Hymn: Once in royal David's city

Solo Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for his bed.
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And his shelter was a stable,
 And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle,
 Is our Lord in heaven above;
 And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
 With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Welcome (Rev'd Paul Mackay - Vicar of St Mary's Church)

Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Choir: Ding dong! Merrily on high

Choir: In the bleak midwinter

arr. Charles Wood

Gustav Holst

1st Reading: *God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. GENESIS 3*
Read by Alex Kaye (HARP)

Hymn: 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 Heavenly 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

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

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

2nd Reading: *God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.* GENESIS 22

Read by Shah Haider (St Mary's Church)

Choir: In dulci jubilo

R. L. Pearsall

3rd Reading: *The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.* ISAIAH 9

Read by Ian Alston (Southend Bach Choir)

Hymn: Angels from the realms of glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King:
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship

Choir: I saw three ships come sailing in

John Rutter

4th Reading: *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.* ISAIAH 11
Read by George Lang (HARP)

Choir: A great and might wonder arr. Michael Praetorius
Choir: The Holly and the Ivy John Gardner

5th Reading: *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.* LUKE 1
Read by Richard Hair (HARP)

Choir: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came arr. C. Edgar Pettman

Hymn: Unto us is born a Son

Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Becradled in a manger,
Becradled in a manger.

Men: This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer,
And slew the little childer.

Ladies: Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle child
Might lead us up to glory,
Might lead us up to glory.

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino,
Benedicamus Domino.

6th Reading: *Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

MATTHEW 1

Read by Mooneen Evans (Southend Bach Choir)

Choir: Away in a manger

arr. David Willcocks

Choir: Candlelight carol

John Rutter

7th Reading: *The shepherds go to the manger.*

LUKE 2

Read by Anne Young (HARP)

Choir: Angel Tidings

John Rutter

Hymn: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

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 troubled mind);
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all man-kind"

"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 on the earth be peace:
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease."

8th Reading: *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.* MATTHEW 2
Read by James Ahlquist (Southend Bach Choir)

Choir: All Bells in Paradise John Rutter

9th Reading: *John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.* JOHN 1
Read by The Bishop of Chelmsford - Rt Rev'd Stephen Cottrell

Hymn: 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....

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest;
O come, let us adore him.....

Prayer and Blessing

Hymn: Hark! the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn 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 newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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 newborn King!"

Organ Voluntary: In dulci jubilo BWV 729

J.S. Bach

Roger Humphrey – Organist

Please join us for refreshments after the service



HARP is the leading Southend charity helping local people overcome homelessness for good. We help over 1,000 people each year, who are either homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or living in HARP accommodation.

Last year, we had over 11,000 visits to our Bradbury Day Centre. At the Bradbury Centre people can receive advice and support for their situation, if they are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Local homeless people can also have a cooked breakfast and lunch, use our showers and washing facilities and receive free donated clothing. From the Bradbury Day Centre, people can also access HARP accommodation.

Up to 174 people, who would otherwise be homeless, live in HARP accommodation all year round. We support people according to their own individual needs and ambitions. Our hostels include an 18 bed emergency night shelter, a 20 bed women's only emergency hostel and an 27 bed property for long term rough sleepers, which is based on the Housing First model.

We believe that, with the right combination of shelter and support, anyone can overcome homelessness. We are lucky to be part of a wonderful, compassionate community and we know that with your continued support we can provide local homeless people with the best possible service and help them work towards beating homelessness for good.

For further information visit our website:

www.harpsouthend.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1098126



SOUTHEND BACH CHOIR OUR HISTORY



The Southend Bach Choir began life in 1943 as an evening class of the Municipal College in Southend under the direction of its founder Dr. Harold May, FRCO. Known as the Municipal College Choir it gave its first performance in December of that year. The programme consisted of selections from Handel's *Messiah*.

In its early years the Municipal College Choral and Orchestral Society sponsored the birth of the College Opera Group, which became independent in 1950. In this year the choir's name reverted to "The Municipal College Choral Society" and many challenging concerts followed.

In 1968 the choir became the Southend Bach Choir, and in 1993 under the baton of Gerald Bates, (Musical Director 1987-2001) the Choir celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a memorable performance of Bach's B Minor Mass. Upon Gerry's retirement in 2001 the choir welcomed its present Musical Director Colin Edwards.

TODAY

The Southend Bach Choir is a very happy and friendly group of people singing a wide range of music. We meet for rehearsal every Tuesday evening in school term time at:

***Blenheim Primary School
Blenheim Chase, Leigh on Sea***

Rehearsals commence at 7.30pm with a break for coffee and conversation and finish at 9.30pm. Each week we receive professional training from our Musical Director, learning new works and preparing for our performances.

Have you ever thought you would like to join a Choir but have never taken it any further?

Why wait, why not give it a try?

THE SOUTHEND BACH CHOIR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Singing in a Choir is a great hobby. It is not only very enjoyable, but you make new friends, and have the opportunity of learning to sing wonderful music not only in rehearsals but at regular Concerts which the public attend.

For further information please contact:

Ian Alston (Chair) on 01702 589209

or visit our website:

www.southendbachchoir.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 274370

Southend Bach Choir

Presents

Mozart

Mass in C minor K. 427

Clarinet Concerto in A Major K.622

Soloist: William Knight

With the

The Essex Concert Orchestra

Saturday 21st April 2018

7:30 pm

St Michael's Church, Leigh Road
Leigh on Sea SS9 1LF

The Southend Bach Choir and HARP would like to
wish everyone



*A very Happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year*



We would like to thank the following for assisting us with the concert this evening:

The Bishop of Chelmsford the Rt Rev'd Stephen Cottrell

Rev'd Paul Mackay and St Mary's Church

HARP Volunteers

Hair & Son