



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**

22nd DECEMBER 2018

7.00 P.M.





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 just under 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

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

arr. Mack Wilberg

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 Jackie Bliss (HARP)

Hymn: 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 stars, 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 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.

Choir: This is the truth sent from above

arr. Vaughan Williams

Choir: In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke

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

Read by Judith Harding (Southend Bach Choir)

Choir: The Holly and the Ivy

John Gardner

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

Read by The Mayor - Cllr Derek Jarvis

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: Angels' Carol

John Rutter

4th Reading: *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.* ISAIAH 11
Read by Peter Blackhurst (Southend Bach Choir)

Choir: Personent Hodie arr. Gustav Holst

5th Reading: *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.* LUKE 1
Read by Sir David Amess MP

Choir: Candlelight Carol John Rutter

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: Glory to God in the highest

J.S. Bach

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

LUKE 2

Read by Richard Hair (HARP)

Choir: Hark! The night is calling us

Juan Garcia de Zespedes

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: The Virgin Mary had a baby boy arr. Mack Wilberg

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



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

OUR PATRONS

Mrs J. Bishop-Laggett Mrs J. Restorick

Mr S.C. Burford Mr T. Harding

Mr J. Wall Miss C. Kirkham

*Southend Bach Choir is very grateful to the Patrons
for their continued encouragement and support*

Have you thought about becoming a Patron?

Are you a regular attendee at our concerts?

*Ever felt you'd like to support the choir but don't want to take up a singing
position?*

Do you like attending our social events?

If so, the Southend Bach Choir Patron scheme may be for you. For a modest annual donation, patrons receive tickets for each concert and invites to the many social events arranged by the choir. We aim to keep you informed of what's happening with the choir too. The choir benefits from having the regular support of the patrons and helps us to provide the high-quality concerts people have come to expect of us.

If you are interested in becoming a patron or would simply like further information then please complete the form below and hand to any choir member or send to:

Ian Alston (Chair), 20 Fitzwarren, Shoeburyness, SS3 8BS

Please send me further information and application form to join **Southend Bach Choir Patron Scheme**.

Name (block capitals please) _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Southend Bach Choir

Presents

Handel **Dixit Dominus**

Saturday 13th April 2019

7:30 pm

St Augustine's Church
Thorpe Bay, SS1 3JH

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

