



**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**

**21st DECEMBER 2019**

**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.

This year, HARP's Bradbury Day Centre has had an average of over 1,100 visits per month. At the Bradbury Centre people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness can receive advice and support for their situation. Local homeless people can also have a cooked breakfast and lunch, use our showers and washing facilities and receive free donated clothing, as well as access HARP accommodation.

Over 200 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 a 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](http://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 Canon Michael Ballard – St. John's Church)

Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**Choir:** Ding dong! Merrily on high

arr. Charles Wood

**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 Elyza Mells (Southend Bach Choir)

## Hymn: It came upon a 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, goodwill to men,  
From heaven’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 lowly 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 give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

**Choir:** Adam lay ybounden  
**Choir:** In the bleak midwinter

Boris Ord  
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 Richard Hair (HARP)

**Choir:** Sans Day Carol

arr. John Rutter

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

Read by The Mayor - Cllr John Lamb

**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:** Angel Tidings

arr. John Rutter

**4th Reading:** *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.* ISAIAH 11  
Read by The High Sheriff of Essex – Dr James Bettley

**Choir:** Nativity Carol

John Rutter

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

**Choir:** Angel Gabriel

arr. David Willcocks

**Hymn: Away in a manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

**6th Reading:** *Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.* LUKE 2  
Read by Eileen Cottrell (Southend Bach Choir)

**Choir:** The Blessed Son of God

R. Vaughan Williams

**Choir:** Coventry Carol

arr. Martin Shaw

**7th Reading:** *The shepherds go to the manger.* LUKE 2  
Read by Christine Ballard (St. John's Church)

**Choir:** The Shepherds' Farewell

Hector Berlioz

**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 Dr James Ahlquist (Southend Bach Choir)

**Choir:** Kings came riding

Kevin Stannard

**Choir:** Jesus Child

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!"

*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](http://www.southendbachchoir.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 274370

## OUR PATRONS

Mrs J. Bishop-Laggett   Mrs J. Restorick   Mr K. Treverton

Mr S.C. Burford   Mr T. Harding   Mr J. Wall

Miss C. Kirkham   Mrs J. Bliss   Mr M. Bliss   Mr R. Hair

*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

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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

## 250 YEARS of BEETHOVEN

Saturday 4th April 2020

7:30 pm

Westcliff High School for Boys

Westcliff

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The Southend Bach Choir and HARP would like to  
wish everyone



*A very Happy Christmas  
and a peaceful New Year*



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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 Canon Michael Ballard and St John's Church

HARP Volunteers

Hair & Son

