

**DARTFORD CHORAL SOCIETY**

***Christmas Carol  
Concert***

**Choral pieces and  
traditional Carols for all to enjoy**

Guest Conductor: Richard Pilliner

Organ Accompanist: Andrew Chadney

Soloists: Rachel Miles & Barbara Toft

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm**

**St. Anselm's Church,  
West Hill, Dartford  
DA1 2HJ**

Tickets: £15 available at the door



Affiliated to Making Music  
[www.dartfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.dartfordchoral.org.uk)  
Registered charity No.1042096

## PROGRAMME

- ALL: ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY** page 4  
1<sup>st</sup> verse - Solo [Catherine Bearfoot], 2<sup>nd</sup> verse - Choir only  
*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95) ♪ Henry John Gauntlet (1805-76), harmonised by Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929). Descant and organ part, David Willcocks (1919-2015)*
- DCS: AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD** [from Messiah]  
♪ *George Frederic Handel (1685-1750)*
- THE HOLLY AND THE IVY**  
♪ *French Traditional, arr. June Nixon (b. 1942)*
- ALL: IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR** page 5  
*Edmund Sears (1810-76) ♪ English traditional arr. Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900), vv.3&4 arr. John Scott (1956-2022)*
- DCS: AWAY IN A MANGER**  
*19<sup>th</sup> century American ♪ William J Kirkpatrick (1838-1921), arr. Alan Bullard (b.1947)*
- Solo:** [Richard Pilliner – organ]  
**NUM KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND**  
♪ *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*
- ALL: SILENT NIGHT** page 6  
*Josef Mohr (1792-1848) ♪ Franz Gruber (1787-1863) arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)*
- DCS: THE BELL CAROL**  
*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-82) ♪ Philip Ledger (1937-2012)*
- Solo:** [Barbara Toft]  
**CAROL OF THE SKIDDAW YOWES**  
*Ivor Gurney (1890-1937)*
- ALL: GOOD KING WENCESLAS** page 6  
*John Mason Neale (1818-66) ♪ melody from Piae Cantiones (1582) arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)*

## INTERVAL

- ALL: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING** page 8  
*Charles Wesley (1707-88) ♪ Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47) Descant and organ part, David Willcocks (1919-2015)*
- DCS: DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH**  
*George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934) ♪ 16th cent. French melody, arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)*
- Solo: [Rachel Miles]**  
**O HOLY NIGHT**  
 ♪ *Adolphe Charles Adam (1803-56)*
- ALL: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM** page 9  
*Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*  
 ♪ *English Traditional Tune, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), descant Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)*
- DCS: TORCHES**  
*Galician carol, tr. John Brande Trend (1887–1958)*  
 ♪ *John Joubert (1927-2019)*
- Solo: [Andrew Chadney – organ]**  
**SINFONIA FROM CHRISTMAS ORATORIO**  
 ♪ *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*
- ALL: GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN** page 10  
 ♪ *English Traditional Carol arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*
- DCS: [Andrew Dey/Paul Grimmer/Andrew Lewis]**  
**THE THREE KINGS**  
 ♪ *Peter Cornelius (1821-74), chorale melody by Philip Nicolai (1556-1608) arr. Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)*
- ALL: IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER** page 11  
*Christina Rossetti (1830-94) ♪ Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*
- DCS: RING OUT, WILD BELLS**  
*words from Tennyson's In memoriam ♪ Percy Fletcher (1879-1932)*
- ALL: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL** page 12  
*trans. from Latin, 18th century ♪ arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

### 1. - 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.

### 2. - Choir only

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.

### 3.

And through all His wondrous  
childhood  
He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as he.

### 4.

For He is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

### 5.

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.

### 6.

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;  
When like stars his children  
crowned  
All in white shall wait around.

## 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, 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 lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessèd 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 hast'ning 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.

## SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright;  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds first saw the sight:  
Glories stream from heav'n afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia"  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiance beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## GOOD KING WENCESLAS

**(All)** Good King Wenceslas looked 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?'

**(Ladies)** '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.

**(Ladies)** 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 foot-steps, 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,  
Ris’n 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!’

## 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 giv'n!  
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.

**GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN**

1.

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.*

3.

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem  
straightway  
This blessèd babe to find:

*O tidings .....*

2.

From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessèd 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 .....*

4.

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 .....*

5.

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 .....*

## IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

1.

In the bleak mid-winter  
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 mid-winter,  
Long ago.

2.

Our God heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

3.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk,  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom Angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore

4.

Angels and Archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His Mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Belovèd  
With a kiss

5.

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.

**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 heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:

*O come, let us adore him...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born that happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him...*

## **Richard Pilliner**

Richard Pilliner won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, where he won every prize available to organists. As a recital organist, he has travelled widely, giving concerts in the USA, Paris (Notre Dame), Moscow, Tokyo and Hong Kong. He currently pursues a freelance career – teaching, accompanying and as a Sunday deputy organist in London and the South-East.

## **Andrew Chadney**

Andrew Chadney has been organist at St Stephen's, Norbury for 31 years and has played for many musical productions at South London Theatre and elsewhere including 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Sweeney Todd' and, currently, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. He retired from the London Fire Brigade in 2013 and is now able to spend more time as a freelance accompanist and rehearsal pianist. He volunteers at Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats in 2021.

## **Rachel Miles**

Rachel Miles has been a member of Dartford Choral Society for 40 years. She has sung soprano solos at many of our concerts, including in performances of Handel's Messiah, Bach's St John Passion and Mozart's Solemn Vespers. She is also a member of the choir of Christ Church Bexleyheath, where she has sung since she was nine years old.

## **Barbara Toft**

Barbara Toft joined Dartford Choral Society in 1995, along with her mother, who encouraged Barbara in her love of singing from an early age. Barbara has sung both solos and duets with Rachel at numerous Society concerts, including pieces from Handel's Messiah, Rutter's Magnificat, and Vivaldi's Gloria. She has also sung with the choir of Christ Church Bexleyheath for the past ten years.

## **DARTFORD CHORAL SOCIETY**

### **Sopranos**

Radhika Ananthan  
Catherine Bearfoot  
Elaine Clark  
Margaret Courts  
Pat Everington (Chairman)  
Margaret Martin  
Rachel Miles  
Felicity Monteith  
Barbara Toft

### **Altos**

Marilyn Davey  
Jane Foong  
Claire Michele  
Louise Peterken  
Gwen Rumble  
Chris Settle  
Kate Stock  
Mary Webb

### **Tenors**

Paul Grimmer (Secretary)  
Andrew Lewis  
Mike Michele

### **Basses**

Andrew Dey  
Steve Jones  
Michael Sears (Treasurer)

The Dartford Choral Society rehearses on Monday evenings, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, (except July & August) at the Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane, Dartford. New members are always welcome.

Please contact the Hon. Secretary, Paul Grimmer  
01342 833911 (Daytime) 01322 227994 (Evenings).  
Email: [secretary@dartfordchoral.org.uk](mailto:secretary@dartfordchoral.org.uk)

## **President**

**The Mayor of Dartford - Councillor Andy Lloyd**

## **Vice Presidents**

Mrs Audrey Ash  
Mrs Ruth M Fricker  
Mr and Mrs Bill Collier  
(in memory of David Collier)

## **Patrons**

Mrs Brenda Boffin	Ms Alison Leggatt
Mr Andrew Dey	Mrs Felicity Monteith
Mr and Mrs J Dey	Mr Dennis O'Keefe
Mr Tunde Dipita-Williams	Ms Jennifer Quigley
Mrs Romaine Ford	Mrs Chris Settle
Mr Chris Hall	Mr John E White
Mr Richard Hamilton	

The Dartford Choral Society is dependent upon financial assistance to continue giving public concerts.

The Dartford Choral Society greatly appreciates the financial assistance kindly given to us by our Patrons.

For your diaries please note:-

NEXT CONCERT: SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
7.30pm  
St Michaels & All Angels, Wilmington

FUTURE CONCERT: SATURDAY 21st JUNE 2025  
7.30pm  
St Michaels & All Angels, Wilmington

Following Michael Bell's retirement, the choral society is recruiting a new Music Director. The programme for these concerts will be finalised in due course and our website be updated with details:

[www.dartfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.dartfordchoral.org.uk)

Dartford Choral Society thank you for  
your continued support and wish you a

*Merry Christmas*  
*and*  
*Happy New Year!*