

***“Hark the Glad Sound”  
Christmas Concert***

***Finzi - In Terra Pax***

***- Seasonal carols for  
choir and audience***

***- Organ and Brass***

***- Refreshments***

**Lady St Mary Church,  
Wareham**

**Saturday Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2015  
7:30pm**

**WAREHAM CHORAL SOCIETY  
Music Director Nigel Groome  
[www.freewebs.com/warehamcs](http://www.freewebs.com/warehamcs)**

# Welcome

WCS is delighted to welcome family, friends and members of the Wareham community to our festival of Christmas music.

We hope that you will experience some magic in this ancient and beautiful place tonight, as we use music and poetry to tell the age-old story of mankind's redemption through transcendent love.

The society has been in existence for sixty years and is a founder member of the Dorset Guild of Singers. The Guild was formed by Joan Brocklebank, an erstwhile 'Land Girl' during WW2. Biennially, the Guild choirs perform a major work at the Lighthouse in Poole and in April 2016 the principal work will be Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle

Nigel Groome, our Music Director, is a conductor and organist of national repute. His choral expertise, patience and good humour all contribute to productive rehearsals which are FUN. Our accompanist, John Radford, is an accomplished organist/pianist and a soloist of distinction.

WCS is growing in vocal expertise and ambition and we would be pleased to accept new members in all parts.

We have extended our calendar of events to include a summer concert which this year was held in the beautiful Tyneham Valley.

Our repertoire is eclectic and we foster the individual talents of our members.

Music is said to be the key to a long life, a stable temperament, increased intelligence and a better sense of humour!

So, why not join us?

We rehearse in the United Reformed Church in Wareham on Monday evenings at 7.15pm. For further details please turn to the back page.

We are, as ever, grateful for the use of Lady St. Mary Church for our concert. We have remembered in song and words the joy of peace and goodwill and, in hope, we remember those for whom these words are hollow.

We extend to you all our good wishes for this special season which we will have the good fortune to celebrate with our family and friends.

**Judith Price**

**Chairman of Wareham Choral Society**

# Programme

**Choir –Gaudete**

**Anon, 16<sup>th</sup> century**

<i>Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!</i>	Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born Of the Virgin Mary – rejoice!
<i>Tempus adest gratiæ Hoc quod optabamus, Carmina lætitiæ Devote reddamus.</i>	The time of grace has come— what we have wished for, songs of joy Let us give back faithfully.
<i>Deus homo factus est Natura mirante, Mundus renovatus est A Christo regnante.</i>	God has become man, (With) nature marvelling, The world has been renewed By Christ (who is) reigning.
<i>Ezechielis porta Clausæ pertransitur, Unde lux est orta Salus invenitur.</i>	The closed gate of Ezekiel Is passed through, Whence the light is raised, Salvation is found.
<i>Ergo nostra concio Psallat iam in lustro; Benedicat Domino: Salus Regi nostro.</i>	Therefore let our preaching Now sing in brightness Let it give praise to the Lord: Greeting to our King.

**Welcome by Lady St Mary Clergy**

**Audience Carol - Once in Royal David's City**

<b>1</b> <i>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</i>	<b>2</b> <i>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.</i>
<b>3</b> <i>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.</i>	<b>4</b> <i>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.</i>
<b>5</b> <i>And our eyes at last shall see Him Through His own redeeming love,</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Not in that poor lowly stable, With the oxen standing by,</i>

*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.*

*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*

### **Festive Reading**

**Choir - The Truth from Above**

**arr R Vaughan-Williams**

**Soloists and Choir – I Waited for the Lord**

**F Mendelssohn**

**Soloists – Thus Saith the Lord/But Who May Abide  
from Handel's Messiah**

### **Festive Reading**

**Choir – In the bleak mid-winter**

**arr H Darke**

**Audience Carol - O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**1**  
*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.*

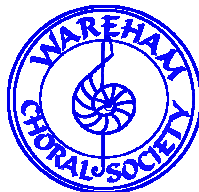
**2**  
*For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels  
keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.*

**3**  
*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.*

**4**  
*O holy Child of Bethlehem!  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!*

## **Interval**

(Refreshments will be served)



# Members of Wareham Town Band – White Christmas

## Choir – Angelus ad Virginem

14<sup>th</sup> cent, arr D Willcocks

<p><i>Angelus ad virginem subintrans in conclave Virginis formidinem Demulcens inquit Ave, Ave, regina virginum; Coeli terrae que Dominum concipies et paries intacta salutem hominum; Tu porta coeli facta medela criminum</i></p>	<p>The angel, coming secretly to the Virgin's room Calming the Virgin's fears, he said: Hail! Hail, Queen of Virgins! You shall conceive the Lord of Heaven and Earth and give birth, without being touched, to the Salvation of mankind; you, made the Gateway of Heaven, the cure for sins".</p>
<p><i>Quomodo conciperem quae virum non cognovi? Qualiter infringerem quod firmamente vovi?</i></p> <p><i>Spiritus Sancti gratia perficiet haec omnia; Ne timeas, sed gaudeas, segura quod castimo monia manebit in te pura Dei potentia</i></p>	<p>"How shall I conceive, seeing that I know not a man? How shall I make an infraction, I who made a vow with my firm mind?" "The grace of the Holy ghost will do all this; Do not be afraid, but be pleased and safe because chastity will remain in you, pure power of God."</p>
<p><i>Ad haec virgo nobis respondens inquit ei; "Ancilla sum humilis Omnipotentis Dei, Tibi coelesti nuntio tanti secreti conscio, consentiens et cupiens videre factum quod audio; Parata sum parere, Dei consilio"</i></p>	<p>"To this the noble virgin answered to him: "I am the humble handmaiden of the all-powerful God 'By your heavenly announcement I am made aware of such secrets. I agree and I want to see what I hear done. I am ready to obey God's will"</p>
<p><i>Eia mater Domini, quae pacem redidisti angelis et homini, cum Christum genuisti; Tuum exora filium ut se nobis propitium exhibeat, et deleat peccata: Praestans auxilium vita frui beata post hoc exsilium</i></p>	<p>Come, mother of the Lord, who has given back peace to angels and man when you bore Christ, pray your Son to be good to us. Let Him show and wash away our sins, giving help to enjoy a blessed life after this exile.</p>

## Choir - Sir Christemas

W Mathias

## Festive Reading

## Soloists and Choir - In Terra Pax

G Finzi

*A frosty Christmas Eve when the stars were shining,  
Fared I forth alone where westward falls the hill.  
And from many a village in the water'd valley  
Distant music reached me, peals of bells a-ringing;  
The constellated sounds ran sprinkling on earth's floor  
As the dark vault above with stars was spangled o'er.  
Then sped my thoughts to keep that first Christmas of all  
When the shepherds watching by their folds ere the dawn  
Heard music in the fields, and marvelling, could not tell*

*Whether it were angels or the bright stars singing.*

*"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them:*

*Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

*But to me heard afar it was starry music, angels' song, Comforting as the comfort of Christ when he spake tenderly to his sorrowful flock.*

*The old words came to me by the riches of time mellow'd and transfigured as I stood on the hill heark'ning in the aspect of th' eternal silence.*

*"and on earth peace, good will towards men".*

## **Festive Reading**

### **Audience Carol – O Come All Ye Faithful**

**1**

*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!*

**2**

*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,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**5**

*Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe  
and love;*

*Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**6**

*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,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**Choir – The Twelve Days of Christmas**

**Trad, arr J Rutter**

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**Gerald Finzi** (1901 – 1956) was a British composer of Italian descent who is best known for his choral works.



His large-scale compositions include concertos for cello and clarinet.

***In Terra Pax*** (*Peace on Earth*), written towards the end of his life, sets words by the Poet Laureate Robert Bridges (1844 – 1930).

**Music Director Nigel Groome** trained at the London College of Music, and carried out postgraduate study at the Royal College of Music.

Since 1980 he has been Organist and Director of Music of Beckenham Parish Church. The adult choir has a large repertoire, ranging from plainsong to contemporary music, and new works are regularly commissioned for it.

Nigel is also the founder and Chairman of the St. George's Arts Festival, which is held annually in May, and has attracted artists of international calibre, for example Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, Willard White, Prunella Scales and Geraldine McEwen.

**Organist John Radford** was born in Wakefield, where he was a chorister at the cathedral. He received a bursary to study music at Ackworth School, and then studied music at Leeds University.

He has had posts as organist and teacher at Portsmouth and in Somerset. He is currently the organist for a group of village churches in East Dorset, and is the accompanist to The Broadstone Choir and The Allen Singers (Wimborne).

**Susannah Groome (soprano)** graduated with a First Class BMus Honours Degree from the London College of Music in 2004. She has featured as a soloist in a number of live BBC radio and television broadcasts with Beckenham Parish Church Choir. Solo concert venues include Grace Cathedral - San Francisco, Arlington Cathedral - Virginia, Christchurch Priory, Shrewsbury Abbey and Chelmsford Cathedral. Susannah has undertaken many solo oratorio engagements. Recent works include Haydn's *Creation*, Handel's *Judas*



*Maccabeus*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Brahms's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*. She featured as the soprano soloist in the first performances of Martin How's *Cantata Trilogy* and *Requiem*.

Susannah is married to Nigel and they have a 2-year old son called Harry.



**Matthew Graham (baritone)** began singing in the Trinity Boys Choir with engagements including the treble choruses in Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Rome Opera) and Richard Wagner's *Parsifal* (English National Opera). Matthew was later Senior Choral Scholar in the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, with which he toured extensively across the US and Europe and made several recordings.

Matthew graduated in 2008 and has endeavoured to continue singing since, both in the Choir of Beckenham Parish Church (under the direction of Nigel Groome) and with other groups including the Choir of London, with which he has toured to Slovenia and the West Bank as part of the Palestine Choral Festival in 2013.



**Wareham Town Band** is an old-established community wind band, dating from at least 1855. It has always contained a mixture of brass and reed instruments. The band performs for fetes, concerts and civic occasions in the Purbeck area and is actively seeking new players.

([www.warehamtownband.co.uk](http://www.warehamtownband.co.uk))

### ***Have you enjoyed this concert?....***

Please tell us what you thought! We welcome feedback on how well our events are received, ***so do tell us***, by email to

***warehamchoral@gmail.com*** or via our Facebook page

***www.facebook.com/pages/Wareham-Choral-Society/298271996956123***

***... then please come to our next one (and tell your friends)!***

Our next concert is in the Lighthouse on April 23rd 2016 at 7:30pm, when we join other choirs in the Dorset Guild of Singers to perform **Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle**.

***...and come to our Come-and-Sing Workshop ...***

*on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm in Bere Regis Church for Stainer's Crucifixion.*

***Are you interested in joining us?***

Find out more by calling 01929 552272 or 01929 459319, or visit our website <http://www.freewebs.com/warehamcs/>

***We would be pleased to hear from you!***