

The Rotary Club of Guildford
and the Vivace Chorus present



THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Conductor:
Jeremy Backhouse
in aid of the
MAYOR'S LOCAL
DISTRESS FUND

Vivace
Chorus

Sunday
13th Dec 2015

7pm Holy Trinity Church
Guildford



GUILDFORD
BOROUGH

Surrey Advertiser

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD

Councillor Nikki Nelson-Smith



Christmas is a magical time for many families, but as we sit back and enjoy tonight's fabulous programme and the busy lead up to Christmas, we should also remember that there are many people in our local community who will not find it easy to celebrate Christmas, due to difficult circumstances of many kinds.

We are therefore very fortunate that in Guildford there are a number of charities working hard to meet the needs of these individuals and families, who might otherwise struggle to enjoy such special times of the year.

By attending tonight, you are supporting one such charity '*The Mayor of Guildford's Local Distress Fund*', which provides small sums of money to ease the strain of providing essential items during times of genuine financial and personal difficulty.

My very special thanks go to the Rotary Club of Guildford and The Vivace Chorus, the choir that I am proud to say I used to sing in, for once again presenting '*The Mayor of Guildford's Christmas Concert*'.

I am also extremely grateful that they will be holding a retiring collection for my other chosen charity, SATRO. This wonderful charity, formed 30 years ago in Surrey, uses a bank of industry specialists to provide workshops in and out of schools that encourage young people into science, technology, engineering and maths – the areas in which nationally we suffer a skills shortage. They encourage young people to meet their potential and they sit very comfortably with my theme of showcasing local innovation to help '*Inspire Guildford's Future Innovators*'.

I am truly humbled that tonight's concert is being put on in my honour as Mayor of Guildford and I hope you thoroughly enjoy this evening's feast of seasonal music, sung by the Vivace Chorus.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Councillor Nikki Nelson-Smith
Mayor of Guildford

TONIGHT'S CHARITY

THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD'S LOCAL DISTRESS FUND



Established in 1971, the fund was originally known as the Mayor of Guildford's Christmas and Local Distress Fund.

It is a registered charity with a clearly-defined purpose : to provide financial assistance to the needy within Guildford Borough, particularly at Christmas time.

The fund receives requests from all areas of the community and has helped individuals and groups with a wide variety of needs.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY HELPING THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD THE BASICS.....such as.....

- Buying shoes and clothing for children from very poor families
- Washing machines, Fridges, Cookers, and Kettles for those unable to afford such necessities
- Playgroup fees for less advantaged children
- Modest holidays for families, following a trauma

Requests for assistance should come from a third party, such as a Borough Councillor, Housing Officer or an official agency, like the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Community Health or Social Services. This helps to ensure that your donations are spent wisely and that assistance is given only to deserving cases.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE REALLY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Registered Charity number : 258388

THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT
featuring THE VIVACE CHORUS
Conductor : Jeremy Backhouse
Organist : William Nicholson

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAMME

Audience Carol

(arr. H.J. Gauntlett, arr. David Willcocks)

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.

Choir

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 meek, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour Holy.

All

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.

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

Choir

Sussex Carol (English trad, arr. Bob Chilcott)
Coventry Carol (arr. Martin Shaw)

Reading

'The Big Day' by St Luke
Read by Robin Privett

Audience Carol

(Este's Psalter 1592 : arr David Willcocks)

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 mankind

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 a sign.

The heav'nly Babe you there will 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 to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men,
Begin and never cease.

Choir

This Christmas Night (Malcolm Williamson)
Past Three O' Clock (English trad, arr. Charles Wood)

Audience Carol

(J.F.Wade : arr. David Willcocks)

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...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O Come, let us adore him.....

Choir

Extracts from The Messiah

(G.F. Handel)

'For unto us a child is born' ~ 'Pastoral Symphony' (abridged)
'And there were shepherds abiding in the field'
'And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them'
'And the angel said to them'
'And suddenly, there was with the angel'
'Glory to God in the highest' ~ 'The Hallelujah Chorus'

INTERVAL

Wine, Soft Drinks & Mince Pies available

Choir

Deck the hall
Mary's Lullaby

(Welsh trad, arr. David Willcocks)
(arr. John Rutter)

Audience Carol

(John Goss, arr David Willcocks)

See amid the winter's snow

Born for us on earth below,
See the tender lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.
Hail! Thou ever blessed morn!
Hail! Redemption's happy dawn!
Sing thro' all Jerusalem
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He, who throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the Cherubim!
Hail! Thou ever blessed morn.....

Choir

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
What your joyful news today:
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep.
Hail! Thou ever blessed morn.....

Choir

As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous sight;
Angels singing peace on earth
Told us of a Saviour's birth
Hail! Thou ever blessed morn.....

All

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine;
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.
Hail! Thou ever blessed morn.....

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee
In thy sweet humility.
Hail! Thou ever blessed morn.....

Reading

'O simplicitas' by Madeleine L'Engle
Read by Alison Newbery

Choir

**There is a Flower
Christmas Song**

(John Rutter)
(Mel Torme, arr. Will Todd)

Audience Carol

(English Trad. arr. David Willcocks)

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 of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

The Shepherds at these tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
This blessed babe to find
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Choir only

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 of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

All

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 of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Choir

The Twelve Days of Christmas (arr. John Rutter)
Jingle Bells (J. Pierpont, arr. Bob Chilcott)

**Address by the Mayor of Guildford
Councillor Nikki Nelson-Smith**

Introduced by the President of the Rotary Club of Guildford
Mr. Chris Blow

Audience Carol

(Charles Wesley : arr. Felix Mendelssohn)

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 the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! the herald-angels sing.....

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace !
Hail the Sun 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.

Encore

We wish you a Merry Christmas !

(English trad. arr. Arthur Warrell)

THE VIVACE CHORUS

FIRST SOPRANOS :

Helen Beevers, Joanna Bolam, Mary Broughton, Elaine Chapman,
Rachel Edmondson, Rebecca Kerby, Mo Kfour, Emily Nash,
Sarah Smithies, Susan Norton, Gillian Rix, Joan Thomas, Hilary Vaill

SECOND SOPRANOS :

Jacqueline Alderton, Anna Arthur, Amy Cowan, Ginny Hefferman,
Isobel Humphries, Averrell Kingston, Krystyna Marsden, Isabel Mealor,
Alison Newberry, Kate Peters, Valerie Thompson, Christine Wilks,
Frances Worpe

FIRST ALTOS :

Monica Boothby, Jane Brooks, Liz Durning, Atalia Fuller, Sheila Hodson,
Jean Leston, Judith Lewy, Lois McCabe, Kay McManus, Christine Medlow,
Lilly Nicholson, Gill Perkins, Lesley Scordellis, Carol Shephard, Jo Stokes,
Hilary Trigg

SECOND ALTOS :

Valerie Adam, Evelyn Beastall, Mary Clayton, Andrea Dombrowe,
Elizabeth Evans, Sheena Ewen, Carol Hobbs, Roz Marshall,
Catherine Middleton, Pamela Murrell, Jacqueline Norman, Beryl Northam,
Prue Smith, Rosie Storey, June Windle

FIRST TENORS :

Mike Bishop, Bob Bromham, Martin Price, Chris Robinson, John Trigg

SECOND TENORS :

Simon Dillon, Stephen Linton, Peter Norman, Jon Scott

FIRST BASSES :

Phil Beastall, Michael Dudley, Jeremy Johnson, Malcolm Munt,
Chris Newbery, David Ross, Philip Stanford, Kieron Walsh

SECOND BASSES :

Alan Batterbury, Norman Carpenter, Geoffrey Forster, James Garrow,
Stuart Gooch, Eric Kennedy, Adrian Oxborrow, Clive Perry, Michael Taylor

ABOUT THE VIVACE CHORUS

The Vivace Chorus is a flourishing and adventurous choir based here in Guildford, Surrey. We have two aims: to make music of the highest standard and to have fun while doing so.



Rehearsing in the Royal Albert Hall

Photo: Ash Mills

The choir has come a long way since it began some 67 years ago as the Guildford Philharmonic Choir, gaining over time an enviable reputation for performing first-class concerts across a wide range of musical repertoire.

Since 1995, Vivace has thrived under the exceptional leadership of this evening's conductor, Jeremy Backhouse. Jeremy's passion for choral works and his sheer enthusiasm for music-making are evident at every rehearsal and every performance. He is supported by Francis Pott, who is not just a very fine rehearsal accompanist but is also a composer of international repute and an accomplished concert pianist.

Our repertoire spans more unusual works such as Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* as well as the great choral masterpieces of Bach, Brahms, Handel, Haydn, Mozart and Verdi, and the more intimate works of Fauré, Tavener, Allegri and Lauridsen. We also actively promote the classics of the future with our 'Contemporary Choral Classics' series, commissioning new works when funds allow.

Particular successes have included a sell-out performance in May 2011 of Mahler's *Symphony No. 8*, the 'Symphony of a Thousand', at the Royal Albert Hall, a highly acclaimed performance in November 2012 of Britten's *War Requiem*, and another Royal Albert Hall success in May last year, when we performed the *Verdi Requiem*.

In addition to our own concerts, we also sing in various charity concerts and, with our regular orchestra, the Brandenburg Sinfonia, take part in the Brandenburg Choral Festival each year in St Martin-in-the-Fields. We also, on occasion, venture further afield and our other trips abroad have included a tour, in June 2009, of north-west France when we sang in the cathedrals of Paris (Notre-Dame), Rouen and Beauvais, while in 2012 we headed across France to Strasbourg, giving concerts there and in Heidelberg and Freiburg. In 2014, we spent a wonderful few days in Italy, where we gave three concerts, in Verona, Mantua and Venice. If that whets your appetite, do come and join us! We rehearse on Monday evenings in the Millmead Centre, Millmead, Guildford.

Just turn up (before 7.15), or contact our membership secretary Jane Brooks at **membership@vivacechorus.org**. For further information about the choir and our concerts, visit our website, vivacechorus.org, follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or join our mailing list.

JEREMY BACKHOUSE

Jeremy is one of Britain's leading conductors of amateur choirs. He began his musical career in Canterbury Cathedral where he was Senior Chorister. In 1980 he was appointed Music Editor at the RNIB, where he was responsible for the transcription of print music into Braille. He has worked for both EMI Classics and later Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers as a Literary Editor, but now pursues his career as a freelance conductor.



Jeremy has been the sole conductor of the internationally-renowned chamber choir Vasari Singers since its inception in 1980. Since winning the prestigious Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition in 1988, the Vasari Singers has performed regularly on the South Bank and at major concert venues in London, as well as in many of the cathedrals and abbeys of the UK. Jeremy and the Vasari Singers have broadcast frequently on BBC Radios 3 and 4, and have a discography of over 25 CDs on the EMI, Guild, Signum and Naxos labels, and have recently launched their own label with a recording of Jonathan Rathbone's *Under the shadow of His wing*, which they premiered last year.

In January 1995, Jeremy was appointed Music Director of the Vivace Chorus (then the Guildford Philharmonic Choir). Alongside the standard classical works, Jeremy has conducted the Vivace Chorus in some ambitious programmes, including Howells' *Hymnus Paradisi* and Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*, Mahler's 'Resurrection' Symphony (No. 2), Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* and *Ivan the Terrible*, Mahler's 'Symphony of a Thousand' (No. 8) and Verdi's *Requiem* in the Royal Albert Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and Britten's *War Requiem*.

In January 2009 Jeremy took up the post of Music Director of the Salisbury Community Choir. His first major engagement with them was the opening concert of that year's Salisbury International Arts Festival, in Salisbury Cathedral, premiering a vast new work by Bob Chilcott entitled *Salisbury Vespers*. In 2013 the choir celebrated its 21st Anniversary with a major concert in Salisbury Cathedral in October, featuring the world premiere of a specially-commissioned community work by Will Todd, *The City Garden*, which they subsequently toured to Lincoln (2014) and Guildford (2015).

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GUILDFORD



The Rotary Club of Guildford was formed in 1922, when only six such clubs existed in the whole of Great Britain. Today, there are 1,840 Rotary Clubs in the UK, with over 55,000 members and 1.2 million members in 33,000 Clubs worldwide.

Besides the '1922' Guildford Club, there are two other Rotary Clubs in the town - the Guildford District Club, founded in

1975 and the Guildford Chantries Club, founded in 1991.

One of the Club's earliest fundraising projects in the 1920s was its 'Big Brother' scheme, which was launched to help the town's youngsters, some of whom had lost their fathers during the First World War. In 1927, the Club embarked on a project to raise enough money to install radio sets in the wards of the Royal Surrey County Hospital, so the patients could 'listen in'.



During the Second World War, one of the Club's most memorable humanitarian events was dealing with the reception of the survivors from the beaches of Dunkirk, when the special troop trains arrived back at Guildford Station in June 1940.

In the 1960s, the Rotary Club of Guildford played a significant fundraising role to establish the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in 1965 and successfully lobbied government departments to establish the University of Surrey in Guildford in 1966.

To mark the centenary of the Rotary movement in 2005, Guildford's three Rotary Clubs established their 'Guildford Historic Trail' and presented it to the Borough of Guildford. The trail takes visitors on a circular tour around the town centre and its famous landmarks.

Last month, the Club held its annual Bridge Day and raised a total of £2,100 to support Guildford's Samson Centre, where Rotary continues to raise money to purchase specialised equipment for the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. In association with the Rotary Club of Central



The Samson Centre for Multiple Sclerosis sufferers
Calcutta, the Guildford club has recently obtained a Global Grant from the Rotary Foundation to purchase a Quest 88 Standing frame and Cyclonemobility Scooter for use at the Samson Centre.

The Club continues to run heats for local Guildford schools in their annual Rotary Youth Speaks competition, which is part of a national contest designed to foster pupil's vital public speaking skills. Other continuing projects for Guildford Rotary include its Global Sight Solutions Eye Project, which has established specialist eye surgery hospitals in India and Africa to cure blindness in the developing world; the Jaipur Limb Project and Rotary International's 'End Polio Now!' campaign.

And tonight, the Mayor's Christmas Concert, organised by Guildford Rotary, is still raising funds for the Mayor of Guildford's Local Distress Fund - a registered charity that gives small grants of money to Guildford people in genuine need. Despite being in one of the most affluent parts of Surrey, Guildford still has, nonetheless, pockets of deprivation, where people struggle to make ends meet on a daily basis, needing the most basic items, that most of the rest of us just take for granted.

Our Club always welcomes new members and we can be contacted through our website - [**www.rotaryclubguildford.co.uk**](http://www.rotaryclubguildford.co.uk)

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS BY THE VIVACE CHORUS

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

**An Evening of celebrated Opera Choruses and Songs
featuring the works of Mozart, Handel, Bizet, Delibes,
Mascagni, Poulenc, Wagner, Verdi & Puccini**

The Vivace Chorus

Conductor : Jeremy Backhouse

Saturday, March 5th 2016

G - LIVE : 7.30pm

CHANTEZ!

A NIGHT OF FRENCH MUSIC

featuring the works of Massenet, Faure, Ravel & Franck

The Vivace Chorus

Conductor : Jeremy Backhouse

Saturday, May 21st 2016

G - LIVE : 7.30pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**The Rotary Club of Guildford would like to thank the following people
and organisations for their help in staging this year's**

Mayor of Guildford's Christmas Concert

The Members of the Vivace Chorus : Jeremy Backhouse

William Nicholson : Canon Robert Cotton

The Parish of Holy Trinity and St Marys, Guildford

The Guildford Dragon : The Surrey Advertiser

The Inner Wheel Club of Guildford



Wishing you a

Merry Christmas

vivacechorus.org / www.rotaryclubguildford.co.uk

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