



Chepstow Choral Society

Conducted by Graham Bull

Presents

A Christmas Celebration!

- a selection of festive music & readings

with

Organ – Peter Cook

and

Piano – Marjorie Duerden

Sunday, 13th December, 2015

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 3.00pm

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales
and Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies



Registered charity no. 1127098

Welcome to our Christmas Celebration!

On behalf of Chepstow Choral Society may I warmly welcome you to our Christmas concert of festive music and readings. Thank you for supporting CCS in keeping this beautiful tradition alive in Chepstow.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome back Peter Cook, our organist this afternoon. Thank you for joining us in our festive celebrations.

Our festive programme this afternoon promises to be a magical Christmas Celebration!

Our thanks, as always, go to all at St Mary's. Their support and assistance is greatly appreciated. I also wish to thank our front of house team who work tirelessly to ensure a smooth performance.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sue Carter

Chairman, Chepstow Choral Society

Forthcoming concerts by Chepstow Choral Society

Saturday, March 19th, 2016, 7.30pm at St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow; ***Fauré – Requiem; Dvorak – Mass in D; with Peter Cook (organ).***

Wednesday, June 29th, 2016, 7.30pm at the Arts Hall, Chepstow School and Leisure Centre; ***Summer Gala Night of Opera and Musical Theatre Highlights.***

Programme

Choral Greeting

Hodie Christus Natus Est

R Wells

Congregational:

O Come All Ye Faithful

Reading 1

(Genesis, chapter 3)

God speaks to Adam and Eve

Choir

The Lord God Planted a Garden

G Bull

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

E Poston

Congregational:

The Holly and the Ivy

Reading 2

(Luke, chapter 1)

The Angel Gabriel salutes Mary

Choir

Gabriel's Message

D Willcocks

There is no Rose

anon 15th century

Organ

Prelude on "Mary had a baby"

N Rawsthorne

Prelude on "A Coventry Carol"

W Lloyd Webber

Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo"

D Buxtehude

Offertoire on "Joseph est bien Marie"

A Guilmant

Reading 3 *The second epistle from Joseph to the Corinthians*

Robert Salter

Choir

Christmas Day

G Holst

Congregational:

In The Bleak Midwinter

G Holst

Reading 4

(Luke, chapter 2)

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Choir

Nativity Carol
Infant King

J Rutter
D Willcocks

Congregational:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Reading 5

John Julius Norwich

Twelve Days of Christmas

Choir

Tomorrow Shall be My Dancing Day
The Twelve Days of Christmas

D Willcocks
J Rutter

Congregational:

Of the Father's Heart Begotten

Reading 6

(Luke, chapter 2)

The shepherds go to the manger

Choir

Torches
Joy to the World

J Joubert
W Llewellyn

Congregational:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (vv 1–3)

Choir

Christmas is Coming

W Davies

CCS welcomes new members!

Choral singing lifts the spirits and gives a sense of collective pleasure, and everyone in CCS is a member because they love singing – and we welcome new singers in all voice sections.

We do not have a formal audition policy and prospective members should contact Marjorie Duerden (tel. 01291 623310 or through the website link). **No-one** is excluded on grounds of lack of previous choral experience, ability to play instruments, etc.

Congregational Carols

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 etc

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him etc

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 etc

The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as any flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet saviour.
O the rising of the sun etc

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.
O the rising of the sun etc

The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.
O the rising of the sun etc

The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To redeem us all.
O the rising of the sun etc

In the Bleak Midwinter

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.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n 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.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk,
And a manger full of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels

Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel,
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air:
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

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 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.

Of the Father's Heart Begotten

Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

By His word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.

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!*

O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

This is He, whom seer and Sybil
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is He of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes the promised Saviour;
Let the world His praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heav'n, His praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Ev'ry tongue His name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

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 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 new-born King!*

Patrons, Supporters and Friends

CCS promotes and encourages music within the community through its concerts. We particularly foster and support young and aspiring musicians but our ticket sales rarely cover our costs of our concerts. Patrons (minimum subscription £30) receive a complimentary ticket for each concert, an invitation to our Patrons' evenings and their names are printed in each concert programme. This patronage helps us to arrange concerts confident that we can cover at least some of our costs.

If you would like to join us please contact **Jean Parkes, Patrons and Membership Secretary, 13 Orchard Avenue, Chepstow NP16 5RD** or contact on 01291 620414.

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