



**Wareham Choral Society**

*"Wareham's choir since 1947"*

**Christmas Concert**

**"Ceremony of Carols"**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024 7pm**

**Lady St Mary Church,  
Wareham BH20 4ND**

**Conductor**

**Hazel Ricketts**

**Organist**

**Paul Ellis**

**Harp**

**Katie Salomon**

Promoted by



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**Patron**

**Rt Hon David Mellor KC**



Angels singing, from Henry VIII's Psalter (1540- 41)

**Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols"  
and our traditional mix of choir and audience carols**

For their financial support for this concert, thanks to:

**The King's Arms, Stoborough**

<https://thekingsarms-stoborough.co.uk/>



<https://www.warehamchoral.uk>

## ***FOREWORD by our Chairman Teresa Rekowska***

I am very pleased to welcome you to our joyful celebration of Christmas performed by Wareham Choral Society, enthusiastically conducted by Hazel Ricketts, with organist Paul Ellis.

This evening we are delighted to be accompanied by the wonderful harpist Katie Salomon - you can read more about her later in this programme.

We do hope you will raise your voices in joy and join us in singing some of your favourite Christmas carols. You will find the words to them later in the programme.

Whilst listening to the readings we can reflect on this past year, and certainly for our choir we can rejoice in a very successful D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert in June which brought our community together with performances from six local participants and the inclusion of members of the Dorset Royal British Legion and several World War II veterans. The Church was full of people and love and it was a very enjoyable and emotional evening of remembrance.

I am very passionate about continuing to bring beautiful music to our community. Therefore, we are very excited to tell you that we have co-commissioned a brand-new work for 2025 'A Season to Sing' by composer and musician Joanna Forbes L'Estrange.

This work is a reimagining of Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' and will include a string quartet. Our choir is one of 55 choirs around the world which will be the first to perform this work. The performance will take place in this church on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025, so put the date in your diary! Tickets will be on sale from August 2025 via our website.

We are always happy to welcome new singers to our choir. There are no auditions, although we ask that you are able to follow a music score and commit to rehearsals every Monday 7.15pm to 9.15pm in Lady St Mary Church, Wareham, and to three concerts per year. Please view our website for more details.

Thank you to our committee for all their hard work throughout this year, to all our volunteers and choir members. Thank you to The Wareham Town Council and The Kings Arms Stoborough for supporting this concert financially. If you would like to become our sponsor or to make a donation, please email us at [warehamchoral@gmail.com](mailto:warehamchoral@gmail.com).

Our thanks also to our Patron, Rt Hon David Mellor KC.

Now please enjoy our concert, and as Christmas approaches, we wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy festive time.

Our singers this evening are:

**Sopranos** : Hazel Carter, Rachel Cude, Zoe Gover, Teresa Larby, Judith Price, Teresa Rekowska, Christine Kemp, Ann Manning, Katie Ricketts.

**Altos**: Maureen Bayliss, Nancy Gibson, Margaret Harris, Janet Jones, Mary Mathers, Frances Tomlinson-Mynors.

**Tenors**: Matt Dietz, John Lillington Bob Newnham, Sarah Welton, Brian Wilkins

**Basses**: Gideon Daly, Ian Grocott, Neil Hirst, David Kemp, Mark Lapper, Matthew Lewis, Sam Ricketts, Tim Ricketts.

## PROGRAMME

### WELCOME

Paul Ellis	Organ solo	
Choir	A Ceremony of Carols	Benjamin Britten, arr SATB by Julius Harrison
		Procession
		Wolcum Yole!
		There is no Rose
		That yonge child
		Balulalow
		As dew in Aprille
		This little Babe
		Interlude (Harp)
		In Freezing Winter Night
		Spring Carol
		Deo Gracias
		Recession

Paul Ellis Organ solo

### INTERVAL

All	O, come all ye faithful	J F Wade, arr David Willcocks
Katie Salomon	Harp solo	
Reading - Mayor Marian Cotton	Christmas	John Betjeman
All	God rest you merry, gentlemen	Trad, arr David Willcocks
Choir	Jingle bells	J Pierpont, arr  David Willcocks
Reading by Padre Matt Dietz	Poem for Christmas Eve	Godfrey Rust
All	Once in royal David's city	C F Alexander, H J Gauntlet et al
Choir	O Holy night	P Capprau, A Adam, arr J Barnard
Katie Salomon	Harp solo	
All	We three kings of Orient are	J H Hopkins arr David Willcocks

### THANKS

All Hark! The herald angels sing C Wesley, F Mendelssohn

## PROGRAMME NOTES

In March and April 1942 Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears were travelling back from the USA to England. Their cabins were hot and stuffy, and the company on board ‘callow, foul-mouthed and witless’ according to Pears. To add to the excitement, at this stage in the war, there was always the possibility of being attacked by a German U boat, and it was under these unlikely circumstances that Britten was inspired to write “A Ceremony of Carols”. Whilst their boat was briefly docked in Nova Scotia, Britten bought a book “The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems”, compiled by Gerald Bullett, and the texts contained within inspired the work.

The words are in 16th century or medieval English, so we have provided them here as the meaning is often clearer when seen than heard. They are largely texts associated with Christmas, and the opening and final movement of the work is plainsong and intended to be a processional and recessional, whereby the choir move into their places while it is sung.

Originally the piece was written for three soprano parts but after its first performance Britten changed this to treble (children’s) voices, but still accompanied by harp. We are using an arrangement for SATB which allows mixed choirs such as Wareham Choral Society to have the joy of bringing this music to their audience.

The music itself often takes a theme or tune which all sing, and then splits into a canon (or a round) with two voices anything from one beat to a bar behind each other. On several occasions this is then made into a three-part canon, with the harp providing harmonic support but also rhythmic drive and energy.

We are grateful to **Beatrice Malony** and **Mariah Beswick** for joining us this evening and singing the two soprano solos included in the Ceremony of Carols.

The rest of our programme this evening is our usual mix of solos from organist **Paul Ellis**, and harpist **Katie Salomon**, a few choir items and carols for you to join us in singing.

*Programme notes by Hazel Ricketts*

## A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

### PROCESSION

Hodie Christus natus est:	<i>Today the Saviour has appeared;</i>
Hodie Salvator apparuit:	<i>Today the angels sing,</i>
Hodie in terra canunt angeli:	<i>The archangels rejoice;</i>
Laetantur archangeli:	<i>Today the righteous rejoice, saying,</i>
Hodie exsultant justi dicentes:	<i>Glory to God in the highest, Alleluia!</i>
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia	

### WOLCUM YOLE

Wolcum, Wolcum, Wolcum be thou	Wolcum = <i>Welcome;</i>
hevenè king,	hevenè = <i>heavenly</i>
Wolcum Yole! Wolcum, born in one morning,	Yole = <i>Yule</i> (the midwinter festival)
Wolcum for whom we sall sing!	sall = <i>shall</i>
Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon,	
Wolcum, Innocentes every one,	
Wolcum, Thomas marter one,	marter = <i>martyr</i>
Wolcum be ye, good Newe Yere,	
Wolcum, Twelfth Day both in fere,	fere = <i>fear</i>
Wolcum, seintes lefe and dere,	seintes lefe and dere = <i>saints beloved</i>
Wolcum Yole, Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!	<i>and dear</i>
Candelmesse, Quene of bliss,	Candelmesse = <i>Candlemas</i>
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.	
Wolcum, Wolcum, Wolcum be ye	
that are here,	
Wolcum Yole, Wolcum alle	
and make good cheer,	
Wolcum alle another yere,	
Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!	

### THERE IS NO ROSE

There is no rose of such vertu as is the rose that bare Jesu.	<i>vertu = virtue</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	
For in this rose containèd was heaven and earth in litel	litel = <i>little</i>
space,	
Res miranda, res miranda.	res miranda =
By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons	<i>miraculous thing</i>
three,	
Pares forma, pares forma,	pares forma = <i>in the</i>
The aungels sungen the shepherds to:	<i>parent's image</i>
Gloria in excelsis,	the aungels sungen =

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
 Gaudeamus, gaudeamus.  
 Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful  
 birth.  
 Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus.  
 Alleluia, res miranda, pares forma, gaudeamus,  
 Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus.

*the angels sang*  
 gaudeamus = *we rejoice*  
 worldly = *worldly*  
 transeamus = *we follow*

### THAT YONGE CHILD

That yongë child when it gan weep with song she lulled  
 him asleep:  
 That was so sweet a melody it passèd alle minstrelsy.  
 The nightingalë sang also: Her song is hoarse . and  
 nought thereto:  
 Whoso attendeth to her song and leaveth the first ,  
 then doth he wrong.

*yongë = young;*  
*gan weep = began to weep*  
*passèd = surpassed*  
*whoso = whoever*

### BALULALOW

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweit,  
 Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,  
 And I sall rock thee to my hert, And  
 never mair from thee depart.  
 But I sall praise thee evermoir With  
 sanges sweit unto thy gloir;  
 The knees of my hert sall I bow, And  
 sing that richt Balulalow.

*hert = heart; sweit = sweet;*  
*creddil = cradle; spreit = spirit;*  
*sall = shall;*  
*mair = more;*  
*evermoir = evermore;*  
*sanges = songs; gloir = glory;*  
*richt = right; Bulalalow = Lullaby.*

### AS DEW IN APRILLE

I sing of a maiden that is makèles:  
 King of all kings to her son she ches.  
 He came also stille there his moder was  
 As dew in Aprille that falleth on the grass.  
 He came also stille to his moder's bour  
 As dew in Aprille that falleth on the flour.  
 He came also stille there his moder lay  
 As dew in Aprille that falleth on the spray.  
 Moder and maiden was never none but  
 she:  
 Well may such a lady Goddes moder be.

I sing of a maiden that is matchless:  
 King of all kings for her son she chose.  
 He came as silently where his mother  
 was  
 As dew in April that falls on the grass.  
 He came as silently to his mother's  
 bower  
 As dew in April that falls on the flower.  
 He came as silently where his mother lay  
 As dew in April that falls on the spray.  
 Mother and maiden was never none but  
 she:  
 Well may such a lady God's mother be.

## THIS LITTLE BABE

This little Babe so few days old, is come to rifle Satan's fold;  
All hell doth at his presence quake, though he himself for cold do shake;

*rifle = plunder*  
*fold = enclosure*  
*for cold = with cold*  
*wise = way, manner*

For in this weak unarmed wise the gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field, His naked breast stands for a shield;

His battering shot are babish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes,

His martial ensigns Cold and Need, and feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall;

*muster = troops*

The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes; of shepherds he his muster makes;

*trumps = trumpets*  
*alarum = alarm*

And thus, as sure his foe to wound, the angels' trumps alarum sound.

*pight = set*  
*ward = protection*

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; stick to the tents that he hath pight.

Within his crib is surest ward; this little Babe will be thy guard.

*flit = move away*

If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

## IN FREEZING WINTER NIGHT

Behold, a silly tender babe, in freezing winter night,  
In homely manger trembling lies. Alas, a piteous sight!  
The inns are full; no man will yield this little pilgrim bed.

*silly = humble*

But forced he is with silly beasts in crib to shroud his head.

This stable is a Prince's court, this crib his chair of State;

The beasts are parcel of his pomp, the wooden dish his plate.

*parcel = part, portion*

The persons in that poor attire his royal liveries wear;

The Prince himself is come from heaven; this pomp is prized there.

With joy approach, O Christian wight, do homage to thy King,

*wight = creature*

And highly praise his humble pomp, which he from Heaven doth bring

## SPRING CAROL

Pleasure it is to hear iwis, the Birdes sing,  
The deer in the dale, the sheep in the vale,  
the corn springing.

*iwis = certainly*

God's purveyance for sustenance, It is for man, it is for man.  
Then we always to give him praise, And thank him than.

## DEO GRACIAS

Deo gracias! Deo gracias!  
Adam lay ibounden, bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter thought he not to  
long. Deo gracias! Deo gracias!  
And all was for an appil, an appil that he  
tok,  
As clerkes finden written in their book.  
Deo gracias! Deo gracias!  
Ne had the appil take ben, the appil take  
ben,  
Ne hadde never our lady a ben hevене  
quene.  
Blessed be the time that appil take was.  
Therefore we moun singen.  
Deo gracias!

Thanks be to God!  
Adam was bound in sin for four  
thousand winters, which he thought not  
too long. Thanks be to God!  
And it was all for an apple that he took,  
as clerics find written in their book.  
Thanks be to God! etc  
Had the apple not been taken, then our  
Lady  
would not have been heavenly queen.  
Blessed be the time that the apple was  
taken.  
Therefore we must sing:  
Thanks be to God!

## RECESSION

Hodie Christus natus est: Hodie  
Salvator apparuit:  
Hodie in terra canunt angeli: Laetantur  
archangeli:  
Hodie exsultant iusti dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia!

*Today Christ is born: the Saviour has  
appeared:  
Today angels sing on earth:  
Archangels rejoice:  
Today the righteous exult, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*





## O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 O come, all ye faithful,<br>Joyful and triumphant,<br>O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.<br>Come and behold Him,<br>Born the King of Angels.... | 2 God of God,<br>Light of Light,<br>Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb<br>Very God,<br>Begotten not created..... |
|---|---|

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3 See how the shepherds,<br>Summoned to his cradle,<br>Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;<br>We too will thither bend our joyful<br>footsteps..... | 4 Sing, choirs of angels,<br>Sing in exultation,<br>Sing all ye citizens of<br>heav'n above.<br>Glory to God in the highest.... |
|--|---|

## GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 God rest you merry, gentlemen<br>Let nothing you dismay<br>For Jesus Christ our Saviour<br>Was born upon this day<br>To save us all from Satan's power<br>When we were gone astray..... | 2 From God our Heavenly Father<br>A blessed Angel came<br>And unto certain Shepherds<br>Brought tidings of the same<br>How that in Bethlehem was born<br>The Son of God by name..... |
|---|--|

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 3 The shepherds at those tidings<br>Rejoiced much in mind<br>And left their flocks a-feeding<br>In tempest, storm and wind<br>And went to Bethlehem straightway<br>This blessed babe to find..... | 4 But when they came to Bethlehem<br>Where at this infant lay<br>They found Him in a manger<br>Where oxen feed on hay<br>His Mother Mary kneeling<br>Unto the Lord did pray..... |
|---|--|

- 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 other doth deface.....

## ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1 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 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.

3 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.

4 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.

## WE THREE KINGS

1 *ALL*

We three kings of orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and  
mountain  
Following yonder star....

2 *SOLO - Melchior*

Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising, all men raising  
Worship Him, God most high ...

*O star of wonder, star of night , star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light*

3 *SOLO -Caspar*

Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising, all men raising  
Worship Him, God most high...

4 *SOLO Balthazar*

Myrrh is mine -Its bitter perfume breathes a  
life of gathering gloom  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb ...

5 *ALL*

Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice!  
Heaven sings Alleluya  
Alleluya the earth replies

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1 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 the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2 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 the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son 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 newborn King!" .

**Hazel Ricketts** studied music at the University of Surrey, with piano as her first instrument, and gained her MA in Musicology from the University of Southampton.

She has sung in choirs since the age of 6, and started accompanying them and leading occasional rehearsals at the age of 14. During her MA she was appointed Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church in Fareham, and has been regularly conducting choirs ever since.

She also plays the clarinet, and in recent years has rediscovered the organ – most recently studying with John Challenger (Salisbury Cathedral) and achieved her CRCO diploma in the midst of Covid lockdowns! Since moving to Salisbury she has led several singing groups including Castle Singers in Winchester, and smaller church groups, as well as being the Musical Director of Wareham Choral Society since 2018. She is also co-Director of Music at St Mary's Church Fordingbridge where she both plays and conducts the choir as well as making musical links beyond the church.

Hazel is a well-established piano and clarinet teacher working mainly in schools, previously through Hampshire Music Service, and now as a Teaching Member of Salisbury Area Music Co-operative, as well as teaching piano at Burgate School in



Fordingbridge. In addition to her regular commitments at St Mary's, Fordingbridge, she is also in much demand to play at services at many local churches and knows her way to many beautiful villages through this!

**Paul Ellis** studied at Manchester University and the Royal Northern College of Music, where his tutors included Gillian Weir (organ) and Robert Elliott (harpsichord).



He is an experienced organ recitalist, giving performances across the UK and in the USA and in Paris, along with regular recitals in Sherborne Abbey. Paul developed a love of choral music whilst at university and has conducted choirs ever since.

He has worked with many choirs in the South West and earned a reputation for high standards of performance and innovative programming. Choirs with which Paul has worked over the years include the Grange Choral Society, Taunton Camerata, Sherborne School Music Society and East Cornwall Bach Choir.

**Harpist Katie Salomon** has recorded with record labels including Deutsche Grammophon, Universal, Decca and Demon records, for artists including Aled Jones, Camilla Kerslake, Celeste and The Choir Girl. Other recordings with choir include performances of Britten's Ceremony of Carols, Holst's Rig Veda, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Janacek's Otce nas ("Our Father").



Katie began her musical career as a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral, directed by Dr Richard Seal and Simon Lole. Her first harp teacher was Morfen Edwards and her first performance of Britten's Ceremony of Carols was at Salisbury Cathedral with the Cathedral choir at the age of 12.

Katie is now much in demand as a harpist, with a career that has seen her perform at venues as diverse as Buckingham Palace, the Royal Society of Medicine, London Guildhall, Wembley Pavilion Arena and the Royal Institute of British Architects with highlights being solo stage performances for the Wimbledon Champions' Award Ceremony and the Rugby World Cup, and premiering Gary Carpenter's Azaleas which went on to win a British Composer Award.

