

The background of the poster is a close-up photograph of a Christmas tree. It features green pine needles, clusters of red and black berries, a gold textured bauble, and a white frosted bauble with a silver snowflake design. Warm, out-of-focus lights are visible in the background.

NEWBURY
Choral
SOCIETY

Christmas Concert

A celebration of Christmas

Join NCS for an evening of Christmas carols and anthems. Get yourself in the seasonal spirit with popular and much loved Christmas music. Warm up your vocal cords, raise the roof and sing along with the choir.

Conductor: Joe Tobin

Organ: Steve Bowey

Featuring NCS Choral Scholars

Soprano: Laura Martin

Alto: Jess Norton Raybould

Sunday 15th December 2024, 7:30pm
St Nicolas Church, Newbury

Newbury Choral Society



Chair: Liz Wallace
Treasurer: Nat Smith
Secretary: Tracy Smith
Concert Manager: Mike Barthorpe

Rehearsal accompanist: Steve Bowey

Newbury Choral Society is a non-auditioned choir with a history of over 130 years of bringing a high standard of music to the area. The establishment of a permanent group of singers must have met an urgent need in the town as the Society attracted more than one hundred members for the first concert in 1885. Conducted by the choirmaster and organist of Newbury's St Nicolas Church, John Shepherd Liddle, the choir made a good impression on the *Newbury Weekly News* critic who wrote that 'the execution of the choruses reflected great credit upon the members of the Society and their conductor'.

Since that first concert we have continued to perform a wide and varied repertoire, from the great choral works of Bach, Handel and Vaughan Williams to pieces by more recent composers Tavener, Britten and Karl Jenkins. In its second century the choir's conductors have included Jonathan Finney, Robert Barsby, Leo Hussain and its first female Musical Director Janet Lincé. Cathal Garvey held the position from December 2009 until September 2022. From January 2023 NCS's music director has been Joe Tobin.

You can find out more about Newbury Choral Society, its history and forthcoming events, at www.newburychoral.org.uk.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact our secretary through the website. We rehearse on Monday evenings at the Methodist Church Hall, Newbury, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. We ask that you are able to read music but not necessarily to sight-read. You will receive a warm welcome.

The Programme

Gauntlett - *Once in Royal David's city* (with audience)

arr. Willcocks - *As with gladness men of old*

Kirkpatrick - *Away in a manger*

Rutter - *Nativity Carol*

arr. Willcocks - *Deck the hall*

Wood - *Ding dong! Merrily on high*

Arr. Willcocks - *God rest ye merry, gentlemen*

arr. Willcocks - *Good King Wenceslas*

arr. Willcocks - *I saw three ships come sailing in*

Darke - *In the bleak midwinter*

Arr. Sullivan - *It came upon the midnight clear*

Mendelssohn - *Hark the herald angels sing* (with audience)

Interval

arr. RVW/Armstrong - *O little town of Bethlehem* (with audience)

Arr. Tobin - *Lo! He comes with clouds descending*

Praetorius - *Lo! How a rose e'er blooming*

Arr. Willcocks - *O come, O come Emmanuel*

arr. Willcocks - *Of the Father's heart begotten*

arr. Ledger - *Still, still, still*

Poston - *Jesus Christ the apple tree*

Cornelius arr. Atkins - *The Three Kings*

Arr. Willcocks - *Unto us is born a son*

Willcocks - *Kings of Orient*

Gibbs - *While shepherds watched* (with audience)

Arr. Willcocks - *O come all ye faithful* (with audience)

Please visit www.newburychoral.org.uk/Feedback to tell us about your experience of our performance.

Once in Royal David's city

Choir, Organ with solo first verse

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 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 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.

As with gladness men of old

Choir and Organ

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Ever more be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom Heav'n and Earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,

Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way,
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

5. In the heav'nly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun, which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

Away in a manger

Choir (Unaccompanied)

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Nativity Carol

Choir (Unaccompanied)

Born in a stable so bare
Born so long ago
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so

Wise men from distant far land
Sheperds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare
Hearts with his warmth he fills

Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day

Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day

Cradled by mother so fair
Tender her lullaby
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky

Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow
Innocent dreaming babe
Make me thy love to know

Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day

Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day...

Deck the hall

Choir (Unaccompanied)

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

'Tis the season to be jolly,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Troll the ancient Christmas carol,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

See the flowing bowl before us,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Strike the harp and join the chorus.

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Follow me in merry measure,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

While I sing of beauty's treasure,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Fast away the old year passes,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses!

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Laughing, quaffing all together,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Heedless of the wind and weather,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Ding dong! Merrily on High

Choir (Unaccompanied)

1 Ding dong, merrily on high!

In heav'n the bells are ringing;

Ding dong, verily the sky

is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

2 E'en so here below,

let steeple bells be swungen,

And io, io, io,

by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

3 Pray ye dutifully prime

your matin chime, ye ringers;

may ye beautifully rhyme

your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

God rest ye merry, gentlemen

Choir, Organ

1 God rest ye 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

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy

Comfort and joy

O tidings of comfort and joy

2 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

Refrain

3 The shepherds at those 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

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

Good King Wenceslas

Choir, Organ

1 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.

2 "Hither, page, and stand by me, if you
know it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and
what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint
Agnes' fountain."

3 "Bring me food and bring me wine,
bring me pine logs hither,
You and I will see him dine, when we
bear them thither."

Page and monarch, forth they went,
forth they went together,
Through the cold wind's wild lament and
the bitter weather.

4 "Sire, the night is darker now, and the
wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go
no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, my good page,
tread now in them boldly,
You shall find the winter's rage freeze
your blood less coldly."

5 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, while
God's gifts possessing,
You who now will bless the poor shall
yourselves find blessing.

I saw three ships come sailing in

Choir (Unaccompanied)

1 I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning

5 O, they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
O, they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day in the morning

2 And what was in those ships all three
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
And what was in those ships all three
On Christmas Day in the morning?

6 And all the bells on Earth shall ring
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And all the bells on Earth shall ring
On Christmas Day in the morning

3 Our Saviour Christ and His lady
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
Our Saviour Christ and His lady
On Christmas Day in the morning

7 And all the angels in heav'n shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And all the angels in heav'n shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning

4 Pray, whither sailed those ships all
three
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
Pray, whither sailed those ships all
three
On Christmas Day in the morning

8 And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning

In the bleak midwinter

Choir, Organ and solists

1 In the bleak midwinter
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 midwinter, long ago.

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.

2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

4 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.

It came upon the midnight clear

Choir and Organ

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, goodwill to men,
From heaven'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 heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed 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 hastening 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.

Hark the herald angels sing

Choir, Organ, and Audience

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,

offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

3 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 we no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
[Refrain]

Interval

O little town of Bethlehem

Choir, Organ, and Audience

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 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.

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 today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Lo! He comes with clouds descending

Choir and Organ

1 Lo he comes in clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Allelujah! Allelujah! Allelujah!
God appears, on earth to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him,
Robed in dreadful majesty,
Those who set at nought and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree.
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply
wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly!
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Lo! How a rose e'er blooming

Choir (Unaccompanied) and soloists

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Saviour
When half-spent was the night.

3 O flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendour
The darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

O come, O come Emmanuel

Choir and Organ

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear son.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell thy people save.

Refrain

3 O come, O come, thou Dayspring
bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;

Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

Refrain

4 O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.

Refrain

5 O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed with
awe
Gavest thy folk the elder law.

Refrain

Of the Father's heart begotten

Choir and Organ

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 This is he, whom seer and sybil
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealèd
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

6 Sing, ye heights of heaven, his
praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

Still, Still, Still

Choir and Organ

Still, still, still, weil 's Kindlein schlafen will.
Maria tut es niedersingen,
ihre keusche Brust darbringen.
Still, still, still, weil 's Kindlein schlafen will.

Still, still, still, Let all the world be still,
For Mary lays her son to rest, Sings to
him softly at her breast,
Still, still, still, Let all the world be still.

Schlaf, schlaf, schlaf, mein liebes
Kindlein, schlaf!
Die Englein tun schön musizieren,
vor dem Kripplein jubilieren.
Schlaf, schlaf, schlaf, mein liebes
Kindlein, schlaf!

Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby
sleep,
The angels all rejoice and sing, Heav'n
for your delight shall ring,
Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby
sleep,

Groß, groß, groß die Lieb ist übergroß!
Gott hat den Himmelsthron verlassen
Und muss reisen auf der Straßen.
Groß, groß, groß die Lieb' ist übergroß.

Joy, joy, joy, My heart is filled with joy!
The God of love has left his throne,
Made his humble world his own,
Joy, joy, joy, My heart is filled with joy!

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Choir (Unaccompanied) and soloists

1 The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the Appletree.

2 His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the Appletree.

4 I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile,
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the Appletree.

3 For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;

5 This fruit doth make my soul to
thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the Appletree.

The Three Kings

Choir (Unaccompanied) and soloists

1 Three Kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers
three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews
may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.

The star shines out with a steadfast
ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their
way,
And there in worship they bend the
knee,

As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The Kings are travelling, travel with
them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not
bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

Unto us is born a son

Choir and Organ

1. Unto us is born a son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

2. Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be cradled in the manger,
Be cradled in the manger.

3. This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,

So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer,
And slew the little childer.

4. Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story:
And O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory,
Might lead us up to glory!

5. O and A and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino,
Benedicamus Domino.

Kings of the Orient

Choir (Unaccompanied) and soloists

1 We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, more and
mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

(Melchior)

2 Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to rein.

Refrain

(Caspar)

3 Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship him, God on high.

Refrain

(Balthazar)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

Refrain

(All)

4 Glorious now behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice.
Heav'n sing: 'Alleluia'; Alle-
-luia' the earth replies.

Refrain

While shepherds watched their flocks

Choir, Organ and Audience

1 While shepherds watched their
flocks by night, all seated on the
ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3 '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 the sign:

4 'The heavenly babe you there shall
find to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing
clothes
and in a manger laid.'

5 Thus spake the Seraph; and
forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to
men
Begin and never cease.'

O come all ye faithful

Choir, Organ and Audience

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!

Refrain:

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;

[Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest!

[Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born that happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!

[Refrain]

Joe Tobin – Musical Director



Joe joined us as our Musical Director at the beginning of 2023. He is an accomplished conductor, composer, singer and musical scholar based in central London, who has performed alongside ensembles such as I Fagiolini, the Royal Academy of Music Chamber Choir, and the Cambridge Fundraising Choir. He is currently the

Director of Music of Newbury Choral Society, Conductor of Peshurst Choral Society, Director of Music at St Thomas of Canterbury church, Brentwood, and Founder and Musical Director of the professional choir, the Lerion Consort.

He graduated with a first class honours degree from the University of York. Continuing into postgraduate education, Joe studied Choral Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music under the tutelage of Patrick Russill. He graduated in 2021 and was awarded a master's degree with distinction, additionally receiving the Sir Thomas Armstrong Choral Leadership Prize and Irene Burcher Prize from the Academy.

In London Joe has worked professionally as a conductor with many choirs including Ingatestone, Brentwood and Woking choral societies, Royal Academy of Music Chamber Choir, Choir of the London Oratory, Cambridge Fundraising Choir, Herts County Youth Choir, The Harborough Singers, Hanover Choir, Imperial College Chamber Choir, The Birkbeck University Choir, North Herts Guild of Singers, and St John of Jerusalem Festival Chorus, as well conducting the BBC Singers in masterclass and concert. He was previously conductor of the Children's International Voices of Enfield and Interim Director of Music at St Laurence church, Catford.

Steve Bowey – Organ and Accompanist



Steve studied organ and piano from an early age, playing the organ regularly at St Francis and St Andrew's churches in Coulsdon. After gaining an engineering degree from Salford University he moved to Newbury to work for Vodafone.

In 1991 Steve was appointed accompanist of the Cromwell Singers and later became their Musical Director. From 1992, he was Director of Music at St Mary's Church, Shaw-cum-Donnington and regularly worked with other local choirs, including the Douai Choral Society, the Downland Chorale, the RSCM Southern Cathedral Singers, Berkshire Maestros youth choirs and Worcester College Oxford.

In 2006 Steve joined the Royal College of Organists and in July the following year took the examination for Associate (ARCO) for which he was awarded the Limpus prize for performance, as well as the Sowerbutts and Samuel Baker prizes. After further study, he was awarded the Fellowship Diploma (FRCO) in January 2011.

His current musical commitments include teaching organ, piano, and music theory. He is Director of Music at St Mary's Shaw-cum-Donnington, organist at Cheam School and regularly gives solo organ recitals including one at Worcester Cathedral in 2018.

Steve is currently the regular accompanist for Newbury Choral Society and The Cecilia Consort and also enjoys working with many other choirs in Newbury and the surrounding area.

NCS Choral Scholars

Our new choral scholarship initiative is a very exciting opportunity to support young musicians in Newbury. By offering this support, the choir will not only contribute to the growth and development of choral music but also strengthen ties with the local arts community and educational institutions. Choral Scholarship schemes like these have proved hugely beneficial in recent years, and the choir is proud to have this opportunity to invest in the future of the choir and the Newbury arts scene.



Laura Martin Soprano Choral Scholar

As part of her music degree at York, she sang in The 24 with Robert Hollingworth for two years and particularly enjoyed the range of repertoire that they sang. She also sang with Vox a capella choir, Animas chamber choir and performed with CHMS, the musical theatre society at York.

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She had singing lessons with Susan Young, and achieved a first in her performance module 'Acting Through Song'. She achieved high 2:1s in her end of year recitals and enjoyed a module called 'Singing Monteverdi' with Robert Hollingworth.

She really enjoys choral singing, and hopes to continue developing her skills, with the scholarship being the perfect opportunity for her to do so. She also currently sings at the University of York graduations, and welcomes this opportunity to develop her one-to-a-part singing, as well as getting a taste of professional singing. She achieved a distinction in her Grade 8 ABRSM singing in 2021 and from the ages 11-18 sang with Berkshire Youth Choirs.



Jess Norton Raybould Alto Choral Scholar

Jess read music at Durham University, where she managed the University Chamber Choir and had a Choral Scholarship at Durham Cathedral. She completed her Masters in Music in 2023, receiving the Ramsay-Burn and Palatinate Awards. Since graduating, she has started to grow a portfolio career as a singer and conductor in Oxford and the South-East. She has launched her own vocal ensemble, *æftersang*, which has an exciting season of new works and experiences coming soon!

When she's not on the Great Western Railway, or spouting odd analogies for choral music, she sings at The Queen's College, Oxford. She is looking forward to working more with Newbury Choral Society, and enjoying the opportunities she has had to perform and conduct.

West Berkshire Foodbank



Newbury Choral Society is proud to support the West Berkshire Foodbank, and welcome them to our concert tonight. At this time the need in the community is at its greatest, so please visit the

stand at the back of the church and talk to the wonderful staff and volunteers.

“The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline.”

Nobody in our community should have to face going hungry. That’s why the foodbank provide seven days’ nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

It is run by local staff and volunteers, collecting, sorting, packing and distributing the food that is donated through supermarkets, churches and many other ways. The main distribution warehouse is located in Newbury and has a network of local distribution centres located in Newbury, Hungerford, Thatcham, Burghfield & Mortimer and Calcot.

It not only relies on food donations but also needs money to continue its vital work. If you are able to help there will be collecting boxes that would love to accept notes of any denomination, and coins of course.

Please visit the West Berkshire Foodbank website

<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk> for more information, real stories from people who have been helped and how to volunteer your time.

NCS members singing in tonight's performance

SOPRANOS		ALTOS	
Rebecca Berger	Fran Jeffery	Katharine Andrews	Mavis Hughesdon
Helen Bomgardner	Lauraine Klugman	Gayle Ashby	Gwenda Hutchinson
Rachel Bowey	Dorothy Lawrence	Margaret Baker	Ceinwen Lally
Teresa Brown	Chris Letham	Hilary Banks	Mary Lawler
Ella Buckroyd	Beverley Lewis	Denise Barthorpe	Rebecca Mathis
Christina Castle	Laura Martin	Susie Bowell	Emma Moffatt
Marion Croxford	Lynne Moore	Julia Bowsher	Emma Moscov
Charmaine Dennis	Pauline Phillips	Helen Cook	Jess Norton Raybould
Rebecca Couzans	Claire Powell	Liz Coughlan	Sarah Palmer
Di Felton	Susan Sim	Judith Denny	Georgina Seaman
Judith Fowler	Sarah South	Alison Dewer	Sally Sinclair
Helen Franklin	Mary Stagg	Helen Douglass	Nat Smith
Monica Huddie	Judith Stock	Sarah Foley	Tracy Smith
Caroline Imi	Fenisia Stopher	Nicola Foster	Jenny Stewart
Murrie Jackson	Martha Vickers	Sinead Hall	Ann Turner
	Maggie Wiseman	Lynette Harper	Liz Wallace
		Jenny Hayward	Sally Walsh
		Judith Hobdell	Penny Webb
TENORS		BASSES	
Mike Barthorpe	Henry Jones	Geoff Anderson	Stephen Jeffery
Catie Colston	Tom Moffatt	David Bomgardner	John Karperien
Matthew Evans	Andrew Salisbury	Mike Braide	Richard Moore
Derek Harwood	Jeremy Wright	David Craig	Barrie Seaman
		Peter Dann	Robert Seath
		Jonathan Edwards	John Stewart
		Paul High	Andrew Swainston

Why not be kept up to date with our future concerts?

Sign up to our Concert Information Service via
newburychoral.org.uk/SubscribeCIS

Dates for the diary

Saturday 12th April 2025, 7:30pm, St Nicolas Church

Edward Elgar: *The Dream of Gerontius*

Saturday 28th June 2025, 7:30pm, St Nicolas Church

NCS Summer Season Concert

Saturday 29th November 2025, 7:30pm, Douai Abbey

Advent Concert

Programmes printed by



PRINT SERVICES
NEWBURY COLLEGE

Newbury Choral Society would like to wish
everyone a very happy Christmas



NEWBURY
Choral
SOCIETY

Spring Season 2025

Edward Elgar

The Dream of Gerontius

Conductor: Joe Tobin
Professional orchestra & soloists

Saturday 12th April 2025, 7:30pm
St Nicolas Church, Newbury

**Tickets £15, under 16s £5, available online
at www.newburychoral.org.uk and from
choir members**

