

Future Concerts

9th December 2017

7:30 pm Witham Public Hall,

SING CHRISTMAS.

- ◆ Charpentier:
Midnight Mass
- ◆ Vaughan Williams:
Fantasia on Christmas Carols
- ◆ Plus Audience Carols

10th March 2018

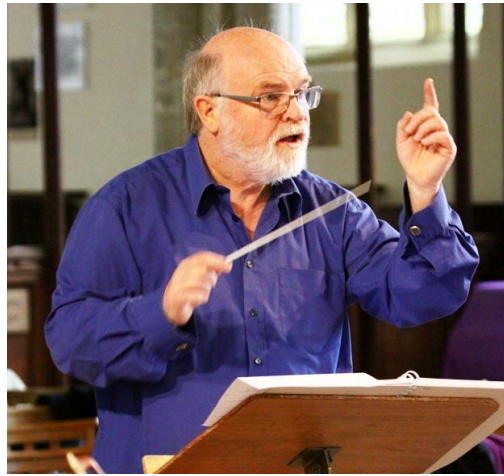
United Reformed Church

- ◆ Alan Bullard:
Wondrous Cross
- ◆ Handel:
Messiah Part Two.

9th June 2018

United Reformed Church

- ◆ 'Come and Sing with Witham Choral'
To include Vivaldi's Gloria.



Patrick McCarthy

Our Musical Director for over two decades, Patrick is widely known as a baritone soloist and choral conductor. Trained at the Guildhall and London Opera Centre, he worked extensively with most leading opera companies in the UK and Eire, and with many choral societies. He has appeared on TV, radio and CD and for 30 years taught singing at the School of Music, Colchester Institute. Highlights with Witham Choral have included several performances at Snape Maltings and Chelmsford Cathedral. He was delighted to direct the choir in rare revivals of Elgar's Caractacus and Sullivan's Festival Te Deum.

Rehearsals

We rehearse at the United Reformed Church, Newland Street, Witham on Tuesday evenings 7.45pm to 9.45pm. We are a friendly, non-auditioned choir and all are welcome to join us. Details are on the website or please phone the Choir Chairman Anne Priest on 01376 513713.

Tickets

Concert tickets can be obtained from the Town Hall, choir members or by phone from Anne Priest as above.



1957

2017

60
YEARS
of
SINGING

www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 261704

Witham Choral Society

The Society was formed in 1957. In the early years the choir sang madrigals and choral pieces suitable for a small group. On occasions it joined with the Essex Musical Association and other societies to perform larger scale works. Over 60 years the choir has grown under the leadership of seven Musical Directors with Patrick McCarthy joining us in 1995. The combined musical contributions of these talented individuals and the enthusiasm of the membership have maintained the musical integrity that has kept the Society at the forefront of choral tradition in the area.

The choir had a special relationship with the Evangelische Singgemeinde in Weinheim, Germany. The exchanges, shared concerts and social events added a new dimension to the life of Witham Choral which has also enjoyed combining with singers from Colchester, Harwich and Ipswich in major concerts.

In the three concerts we perform each year our aim is to provide a varied and interesting programme by performing lesser known and new music alongside familiar and much-loved choral works.



The Choir in Concert

60 Years of Singing in Witham



Tuesday Evening Rehearsal

Concerts in 2017:

We started the year with a 'Last Night of the Proms' at Witham Public Hall. This included much flag-waving and audience participation as we sang 'Fantasia on British Sea Songs' by Henry Wood and ended the evening with Parry's Jerusalem. In June we welcomed visitors to a 'Come and Sing' Rutter Requiem which also included a cream tea between the rehearsal and performance.

We are returning to the Public Hall for our celebration concert on 9th December when we will sing Charpentier's Midnight Mass, Vaughan Williams' Christmas Fantasia and carols galore; some with audience participation.

60 Years of Press Tributes

Conductor: Mrs E. Jeremiah 1957 - 1965

..... wonderful evening with plenty of beautiful singing,
Music for Christmas
Braintree and Witham Times December 1958

Conductor: Tom Langley 1969 - 1977

..... a performance which tugged at the heart strings of the sell out audience.
Recorded Concert for HM Queen Silver Jubilee presentation Disc
Braintree and Witham Times May 1977

Conductor: George Jones 1977 - 1984

.....fine choral singing throughout.
Haydn Creation
Braintree and Witham Times February 1979
..... a compelling, arresting and thrilling performance.
Walton, Belshazzar's Feast
Braintree and Witham Times April 1984

Conductor: Bryan Barnes 1984 - 1995

..... a glowing beautiful sound brought the performance to a radiant conclusion
Durufle Requiem
Essex County Standard November 1989
..... exemplary musicality, vocal delicacy and sensitive empathy.
Mozart Requiem
Weinheimer Nachrichten, October 1991

Conductor: Patrick McCarthy 1995 -

..... brought to life by an imaginative and highly sensitive interpretation
Bach, Christmas Oratorio
Essex County Standard December 1998
..... the choir was truly magnificent.
Elgar Gerontius
With Ipswich and Colchester Bach Choirs
At Snape Maltings Concert Hall.
East Anglian Daily Times April 2006

..... the choral style was relaxed and the perfect balance between choir and orchestra was a joy
Vivaldi Gloria
Braintree and Witham Times April 2010

..... The choir gave a heartfelt and sonorous account of the weighty material in the Gloria and Credo.
Puccini Messa Di Gloria
Braintree and Witham Times April 2014