

# FRIENDS OF WITHAM CHORAL



<http://www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/WithamCS>



Autumn/winter newsletter 2019

## Dear Friends

The new term has begun, and we are only a few weeks away from our concert so do get in touch if you would like some tickets!

Here is some news about this term:

### Diary Dates in 2019:

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September** our new term began and we welcomed several new faces, especially in the basses with some gentlemen returning after a break. If you know any budding tenors out there, do encourage them to come along!

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**, our autumn concert of music for the season of Advent at Witham United Reformed Church, 7.30pm. Handel's Messiah Part I & Music by J S Bach

**Open Rehearsal with Christmas carols for audience & Christmas music, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** with Charity Collection for Clare the Mayor's Charities.

**Spring 2020 – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, Haydn, The Creation – at Witham Public Hall**

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## News from recent events & the AGM

1. Several of us took part in **Witham Community Day**, in the Town Park which was very worthwhile and raised the profile of the choir in the town.

2. **We recently had our AGM** on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, with good news that the Revd Stephen Northfield has been voted Chairman for one further year. Next year we shall be seeking a new candidate, as Stephen plans to retire. With this newsletter you can read Stephen's report for the AGM and Patrick's review as well, both are a good and encouraging read. If anyone in the Friends would be interested in helping out with any committee duties, please do get in touch as new members are much in need. This is just as important as singing every week for the survival of the choir. Our thanks, as in past years, go to Patrick for believing in us, Mary for all her work in the background, Tony Mortimer our wonderful pianist, and everyone on our committee.

3. **In the summer break 16 of us went on a trip to Rainbow Rural**, near Barnston, Great Dunmow, who we sponsored last Christmas at our open rehearsal. We found it a very enlightening visit and got a lot out of it as individuals, which is part of the charm of the place - we find that we too can receive help by giving it to others.

**4. Harvest Concert at St Nicolas Church**, Witham we were invited along to this charity fundraiser by Angela Kilmartin on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Angela has kindly chosen us as one of her charities during her year as Chair of Braintree District Council. We spent a lovely afternoon listening to Hexachordia playing a variety of early musical instruments, listening to a talk by Churchwarden Marion Mitchell and singing harvest hymns and rounds, whilst raising funds for the choir and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

**5. Clare's Concert Trips to the Royal Festival Hall (RFH)**

We have now been issued with the dates and programme for the 2019/20 season. We hope to promote one of these as a trip for the choir to attend as one of our social events if there is enough interest. So far three people have expressed an interest in going as a group. If you would like to join us, contact Christine [hallhousetwo@hotmail.com](mailto:hallhousetwo@hotmail.com)

**The next trip of the current season is on the evening of Thursday 28th November at the Royal Festival Hall, with the Philharmonia**

Conductor	Vladimir Ashkenazy, Violin	Sayaka Shoji
GRIEG	Holberg Suite	BRAHMS Violin Concerto
DVORAK	Symphony No 9 from the New World	

If you are interested in going as an individual give Clare a call, 01376 513747 [clare\\_lager@onetel.com](mailto:clare_lager@onetel.com)

**We hope to see you again** before long at the concert on 30<sup>th</sup> November or for the Christmas music evening in December. If you would like some tickets to sell for the concert just contact Stephen or myself and we can provide them on a 'sale or return' basis. If you are able to display the enclosed flyer somewhere, it would be much appreciated.

**Autumn is also the time of membership renewal for the Friends**, so we very much hope that you will fill in and return the form below to our Treasurer, Jean Ostler. Thank you so much for your support and for being a Friend of Witham Choral.

With kind regards,  
Christine Hall  
[hallhousetwo@hotmail.com](mailto:hallhousetwo@hotmail.com)

***On behalf of the Committee of Witham Choral***  
***Chair: Stephen Northfield***

**Enc: Chairman's Report 2019, Musical Director's Report 2019, Clare's Concert Trips 2019/20 & information leaflet; Concert flyer, November 30<sup>th</sup> 2019**

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## **ANNUAL FRIENDS OF WITHAM CHORAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, AUTUMN 2019**

**To be a Friend of Witham Choral, this year the minimum donation will again be £15 per year.** As usual these can be paid by cheque or bank transfer – please see the payment information below. Here are the benefits of being a 'Friend':

- The satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting the choir and helping it to achieve another year of music making in Witham.
- Being able to obtain concert tickets by contacting Christine Hall *email: hallhousetwo@hotmail.com* or Stephen Northfield, 01245 380958
- Able to **reserve up to 4 seats** in the position of your choice (if available).
- Keep up to date with the **choir Concert Trips** organised by Clare Lager, details are on the website and in the attached listing.

### **Ways to pay:**

1. **Cheque**, made out to *Witham Choral Society* for £15 please and send it to **Jean Ostler** our Treasurer: Mrs Jean Ostler, Treasurer, Witham Choral, 8 Fairfields, Church Hill, Purleigh, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 6QG
2. **Pay by Bank Transfer directly to our bank account** with Barclays (Witham) by BACS. Sort code: 20-45-45, Account No. 13575675 (please state your name as a reference if you choose to pay in this way).

If you are a taxpayer you may be interested in completing the attached **Gift Aid form**. This increases your giving to the choir at no further cost to yourself.

**Data protection** - please do let us know if you are no longer happy for us to contact you, or do not wish us to hold your details on file. As a friend we contact you regarding concerts, social events and with news from the choir. Please sign the form at the foot of this page and return it complete with your subscription to confirm your consent and please let us know how you would prefer to hear from us, whether it is by letter or email. If you use email please don't forget to update us if your email address changes.

**Please complete the form and return it to Jean Ostler. Thank you.**

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### **Friends of Witham Choral Membership Form**

I would like to become a friend of Witham Choral for the 2019/20 season and I am happy to receive occasional mailings from the choir about forthcoming concerts, social events and concert trips to London organised by Clare Lager. I understand that if I change my mind, my name will be removed from the membership list and I will no longer be contacted by the choir.

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Email address:**

**Please indicate if you do not wish us to contact you by email .....**

***Your information will never passed on to a third party by us or used for anything other than this purpose. Witham Choral Society Committee.***

**Signed:..... Date:.....**

**Comments:**

**Would you be interested in signing the Gift Aid Declaration Form?**

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 that you donate**

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.  
Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer

**CHARITY GIFT AID DECLARATION**

**multiple donation**

**In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below**

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to –

**Name of Charity –** \_\_\_\_\_ *Witham Choral Society* \_\_\_\_\_

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and / or Capital Gains Tax that the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference

**My details**

Title - \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s) – \_\_\_\_\_

Surname – \_\_\_\_\_

Full home address – \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode - \_\_\_\_\_

Date – \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE**

**Please notify the charity if you –**

- **Want to cancel this declaration**
- **Change your name or home address**
- **No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains**

**If you pay Income tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code**