

Final Rehearsal: Friday 27th March

This will be held at Vale Royal Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Parking outside the church is limited so try the Torrington multi-storey car park (entrance off London Road). There is no charge after 1800 hrs.

Please make sure that you have all the extra pages firmly fixed in your score. A few blue folders will be available for those who did not pick one up at the last Monday rehearsal. If you are using the A4 sizes Old Novello edition you won't need a blue folder as the cover of the score is dark blue. There are no facilities for refreshments during the break.

Choir Social: Monday 6th April

This year we are holding the end of season social a week later than usual as many of the members involved in organising the concert, and Richard himself, need a little time to recover! It will be held in our usual rehearsal room at St John's Church Centre starting at 7.30pm and is one of the few chances we have to get to know our fellow singers outside of rehearsal times so do please put the date in your diary.

Partners of choir members, past members and members of other choirs who sing with us from time to time are most welcome. If you do invite someone along please ensure you provide some extra food!! A few more signatures are still required on the party food list. A 'cost price' bar will be run but this is not a major fund raising exercise.

An entertainment will be laid on before we have the buffet to allow those who organise the food to enjoy it for once. Again, at the end, help with clearing up would be appreciated.

Summer Sing

Rehearsals start on Monday 20th April in our usual rehearsal room at St Johns with the concert on Saturday 13th June at 7.00pm in St John's Church. There are no rehearsals on the two Bank Holiday Mondays which fall in May. We shall be working on a selection from the Choral Classics book and a brass ensemble will be performing with us. Please encourage any of your friends who might be wanting to add choral singing to their list of leisure activities to join us and an invitation for this can be downloaded from the RTWCS website in the Members' Section under *Rehearsals*.

Concert day: Sunday 29th March

Remember that the clocks go forward by 1 hour early on Sunday morning so set your alarm clock accordingly!!

Please aim to be at the Assembly Hall by 9.30am. The Crescent Road multi-storey car park operates Pay and Display on Sundays so you will need £5.20 for the whole day – no change given.

Limited changing facilities are available in the rooms on the first floor backstage for those of you who are not going home at lunchtime, and this time they will be labelled!

As finally agreed, dress is as follows:

Ladies: black full / three quarter length sleeves and black long skirt/trousers.

Men: white shirt, DJ with black bow tie.

Seating of the choir by Olivia starts at 9.30am. We will be in five rows A to E and your line rep should have already told your seat number. The rehearsal with the orchestra and the main two soloists starts at 10.00am. All the chorus numbers are to be rehearsed first with a 15 minute break at around 11.25am. There are no facilities for refreshments so please bring your own.

The choir rehearsal should end at 12.10pm and then we leave the stage for a longer than normal lunch break. The soloists rehearse their numbers until approx 1.00pm. Please assemble backstage again by 2.45pm at the latest ready to go onto the stage in row order. The concert starts at 3.00pm and there is one interval of 20 minutes. If you need to take a bottle of water on stage with you please make sure it is well hidden or perhaps covered in a cut down black bin liner!

At the end of the concert please leave any scores you have hired on the seats at the end of your rows – *having first removed all extra pages which you will have bluetacked or paper clipped in*. It would be much appreciated if some people could stay behind for a short while to assist with dismantling the music stands, putting the orchestra chairs away, collecting up the returned scores etc.



Scratch Messiah

St Mark's Church is putting on a "from-scratch" performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Good Friday, 10th April. The rehearsal is at 4pm, tea and hot cross buns will be served at 6pm, and the performance is at 7pm. All singers are very welcome to join in, and family, friends and any non-singers are welcome to come along to the performance. The event is free for all; there will be a retiring collection with the money going to a nominated good cause.

There are very few scores available so please bring a score with you. St Mark's Church is in Broadwater Down on the southern edge of Tunbridge Wells, postcode TN2 5LU.

And, finally...

The members of the Committee hope that you all have a restful and enjoyable summer and come back to start the new season at the AGM which will be held at St John's on Monday 7th September. Copies of the score for *The Armed Man* will be available for hire so please come a bit earlier if you can to ensure that we start the formalities promptly and have time left for Richard's introductory rehearsal of the piece.

Many thanks as ever to our accompanist Anthony Zerpa Falcon, and to his wife, Jong-Gyung, who has stood in for him, and of course to our Musical Director Richard Jenkinson for all the energy they have put in to ensuring that we have had another enjoyable and successful season. Thanks also go to all the members of the committees who spend countless hours of hard work behind the scenes on our behalf.