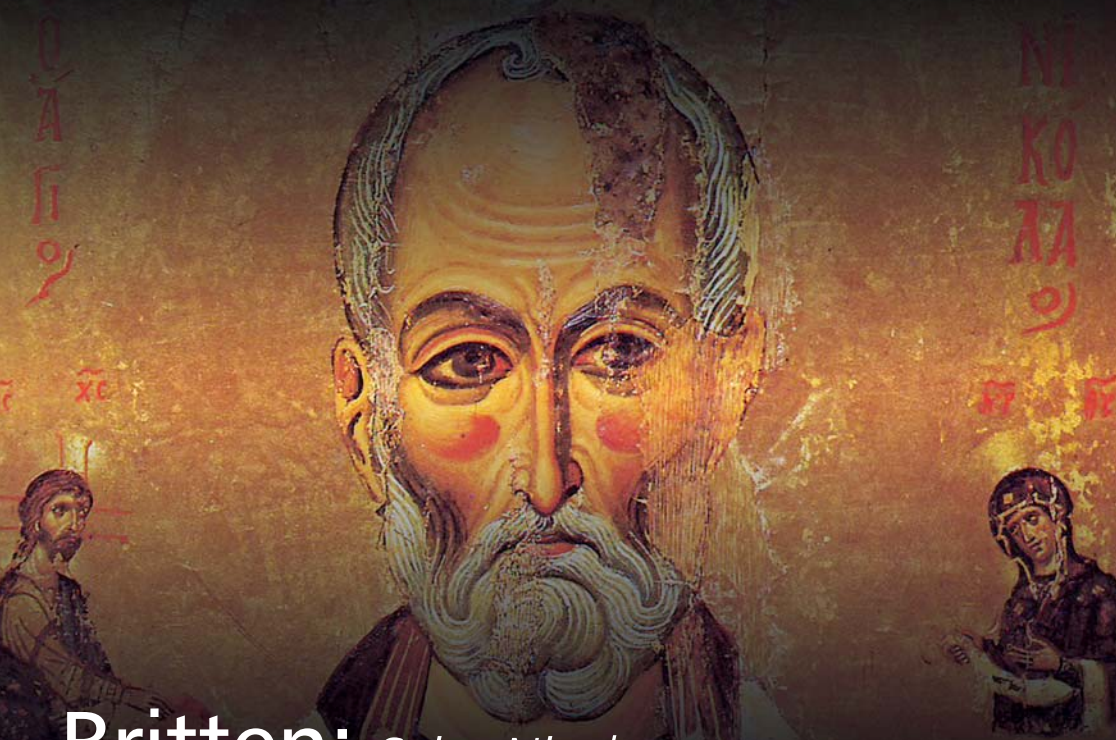


ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS



**Britten:** *Saint Nicolas*  
*Simple Symphony*

**Handel:** *Zadok The Priest*

with Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

Members of Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Skinners' School choirs

RTWCS Orchestra (leader Jane Gomm)

Tenor soloist: Jon English

Directed by Richard Jenkinson

**St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9LG**

**Saturday November 13th 2010, 7.00pm**

**Programme £2.00**

[www.rtwcs.org.uk](http://www.rtwcs.org.uk)

*Royal Tunbridge Wells*

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SOCIETY**

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**Vice President**

Derek Watmough MBE

**Musical Director and Conductor**

Richard Jenkinson

**Accompanist**

Anthony Zerpa-Falcon

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The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is a member of NFMS ("Making Music") and is a Registered Charity No 273310.

For further information about the Society visit our website

[www.rtwcs.org.uk](http://www.rtwcs.org.uk)

## Programme

### ***Zadok the Priest***

George Frederic Handel (1685 – 1759)

### ***Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring***

J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750) arr: Richard Jenkinson

### ***Simple Symphony, op. 4***

Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

### ***Don't Rain On My Parade***

Bob Merrill (1921 – 1998) & Jule Styne (1905 – 1994)

© Warner Brothers

### ***Irish Blessing***

Bob Chilcott (1955 – )

© Oxford University Press

### ***Ave verum corpus***

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791) arr: Richard Jenkinson

INTERVAL – 20 MINUTES

### ***Saint Nicolas, op. 42***

Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

words by Eric Crozier, vocal score by Arthur Oldham, ©1948 Boosey & Co. Ltd.

#### **Note on applause:**

*We are more than happy to hear you applaud if you wish to show your appreciation of the performance! So as to cause as little disruption as possible to the flow of the piece we have indicated places where there is a suitable pause for applause by the symbol:* 🖐

## Programme notes

### ***Zadok the Priest (from Coronation Anthems)***

#### **George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759)**

It is difficult to imagine more festive music than the anthems Handel composed for the coronation of King George II and Queen Caroline in Westminster Abbey on 11 October 1727. For public or royal occasions Handel was the ideal laureate, perhaps the only great artist to rise unflinchingly to the needs of great events, or rather rise above them. He composed the four anthems, *Zadok the Priest*, *The King Shall Rejoice*, *My Heart is Indicting*, and *Let Thy Hand be Strengthened* within four weeks.



## ***Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*** **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)**



*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* is the English title of the 10th movement of the cantata *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben*, BWV 147. A transcription by the English pianist Myra Hess (1890–1965) was published in 1926 for piano solo and in 1934 for piano duet. The British organist Peter Hurford made his organ transcription for the chorale movement as well. Today, it is often performed at wedding ceremonies slowly and reverently, in defiance of the effect suggested by Bach in his original scoring, for voices with trumpet, oboes, strings, and continuo. Written in 1723 during his first year in Leipzig, this chorale movement is one of Bach's most enduring works.

## ***Simple Symphony, op.4*** Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)



The *Simple Symphony* was first published when Britten was 20 years old, having been put together between 23 December 1933 and 10 February 1934. It was based, however, on even more youthful writing, dating back to his school days, when Britten was already a prolific composer. He undertook the process of compiling these earlier efforts into a new piece partly in order to take his mind off his disappointment at being forbidden to go to Europe to study under the notoriously 'modern' composer Alban Berg, of whom his London teachers disapproved. Despite this inauspicious origin, the work has always been a favourite and in 1944 was choreographed for the Ballet Rambert under the name *Pleasures of the Seaside*.

The first movement, *Boisterous Bourrée*, is a piece written in 1923 at the age of 10. It is described as a 'compressed sonata' and has a simple cantabile subject. The scherzo is entitled *Playful Pizzicato* and the third movement, *Sentimental Saraband*, is the longest and most beautiful section of the work. The *Frolicsome Finale* is from Britten's ninth piano sonata, written in 1925 at the age of 12.

## ***Ave verum corpus, K 618*** **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)**



This motet is a setting of the hymn *Hail true body*. It is a perfect example of how Mozart could always find the right means of expression even for the simplest of tasks. It shows also how the 18th-century notion of music as a craft, that is, written objectively, even dutifully to order, coexists in his music with a personal freedom of expression more in keeping with the romantic spirit of the following century.

This miniature was written on 17 June 1791 for Anton Stoll, the village schoolmaster and choir director at the spa, Baden bei Wien. It was the composer's way of returning a favour – Stoll had reserved rooms at the spa for Mozart's wife Constanze, who was expecting their sixth child.

## ***Don't Rain On My Parade*** **Bob Merrill (1921 – 1998) & Jule Styne (1905 – 1994)**



From the 1964 musical *Funny Girl* this song was also featured in the 1968 movie version of the musical. Both the movie and stage versions feature Barbra Streisand performing the song and has since become one of her signature tunes.

### **Irish Blessing Bob Chilcott (1955 – )**

A moving, traditional Irish blessing set to music of great simplicity and beauty. Chilcott perfectly captures the warmth and sincerity of the text, and weaves a memorable melody, which he clothes in rich harmony. Chilcott has been involved with choral music all his life, first as a Chorister and then a Choral Scholar at King's College, Cambridge. Later, he sang and composed music for 12 years with the King's Singers. His experiences with that group, his passionate commitment to young and amateur choirs, and his profound belief that music can unite people, have inspired him both to compose full-time and, through proactive workshopping, to promote choral music worldwide.



### **Saint Nicolas, op. 42 Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)**

Saint Nicolas, patron-saint of children and sailors, was Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor during the fourth century. Little else about him is known for certain, but his life has been the subject of innumerable legends. He is of course the original 'Santa Claus', this being a corruption of a dialect form of his name.

Eric Crozier drew freely on some of these legends for the splendid libretto used by Benjamin Britten for this cantata. The work was composed in 1948 for the centenary celebrations in July of that year of Lancing College, Peter Pears's old school, but the college kindly allowed it to have two performances at Aldeburgh in June. The cantata is scored for tenor soloist, mixed chorus, female semichorus, strings, piano duet, organ and percussion. Some critics who mistake simplicity for naivety have castigated this fine work, but audiences have come to love it and regard it as a masterpiece.



## **Performers**

### **Richard Jenkinson – Conductor**

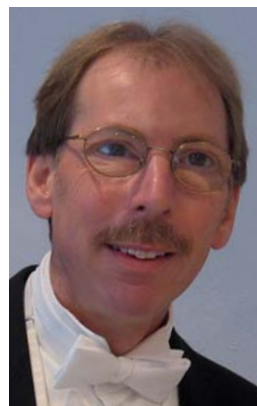
Richard was a scholarship student at the Royal College of Music in London, where he won many prizes and awards for his work, and where Sir David Willcocks was a huge influence and guide.

He works regularly with many choral societies, chamber choirs and church choirs in and around London/Southern England, and has appeared at most of the major venues.

Richard is now enjoying the challenges of his exciting new appointment as Conductor of The London Orpheus Choir, following in the illustrious footsteps of James Gaddarn.

This season will include appearances at Winchester, Hereford and Arundel Cathedrals, and Richard will conduct performances of many great works: Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, Haydn's "*Nelson*" *Mass*, Duruflé's *Requiem* and Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, plus works by Vaughan Williams, Rutter, Buxtehude, Pergolesi - and many more.

Away from music, Richard continues to enjoy sport (mostly viewed from the safety of a comfy sofa!) plus good wine and local beer!



## Jon English – Tenor



Jon English is justly renowned for the flexibility of his voice, which encompasses a wide-ranging repertoire, from liturgical to opera, Baroque to 20th-century, ensemble to solo work. He gained his early vocal experience in church choral groups, and sang professionally in both Sheffield and Ely Cathedral Choirs. In January 1998 he was appointed as a member of the world-famous choir of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Jon also sings regularly with the BBC Singers, European Voices and the Age of Enlightenment Choir, and has recorded for television and radio, and on CD for labels such as Hyperion, Koch and Teldec. He appears regularly with choral societies around the country, where the qualities of his voice make him as at ease with Bach and Handel as with the larger-scale works of Rossini and Elgar.

His recent performances have included Janacek's *Mass in E flat*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, Haydn's *Creation*. Future projects include the *Creation*, Stainer's *Crucifixion*, Schubert's *Mass in E flat* and *Magnificat*, as well as Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes*.

When not singing, Jon indulges in his other favourite pastimes – his dogs, home improvements, golf, football and real ale (although not necessarily in that order!) – all of which provide the antidote to the busy life of a professional musician.

## Jane Gomm – Orchestra Leader



Sussex-born Jane studied the violin at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Since leaving college she has been a member of the London Mozart Players, the London Festival Orchestra and the Orchestra of St. Johns and in 1986 joined the City of London Sinfonia.

Jane also directs her own chamber music group, The Ruskin Ensemble and has performed with them at the Edinburgh and Brighton Festivals, the British Embassy in Paris, Number 11 Downing Street and music clubs and country houses throughout the British Isles and the Netherlands.

# Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society Orchestra

## First violins

Jane Gomm  
Gavin Davies  
Nicky Goodwin  
Tim Good  
Anne Martin

## Second violins

Rachel Hess  
Joyce Fraser  
Julia Chellel  
Shareen Godber

## Violas

Stephen Shakeshaft  
Fay Sweet  
Lynn Whitley

## Cellos

David Burrowes  
William Bass

## Bass

Andrew Laing

## Percussion

John Rockliffe  
Oliver Neil Smith

## Organ

Christopher Harris

## Piano

Anthony Zerpa-  
Falcon  
Jessica Zhu

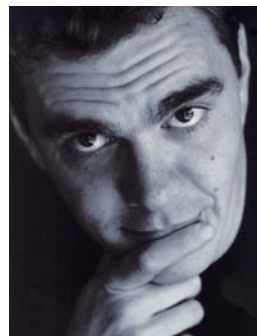


### **Anthony Zerpa-Falcon – Piano**

A prize-winner of both national and international competitions, Anthony Zerpa-Falcon has established a reputation for exciting and individual interpretations of a wide repertoire, ranging from Purcell to Ligeti. He has won prizes at top international piano competitions such as the 44th Maria Canals in Barcelona, the Guerrero Foundation in Madrid and the National Federation of Music Societies Britten/Pears Award.

Born in Kent, into an Anglo-Spanish family, Anthony gave his first recital at the age of twelve, and made his concerto debut three years later playing the Schumann *Piano Concerto*. He has performed at prestigious venues across the UK and abroad – in the South Bank Centre, St John’s Smith Square, the Barbican Centre, the Wigmore Hall, the Accademia Giuseppe Verdi in Milan, the Palau de la Musica in Barcelona, the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid and the Concert Hall of the Forbidden City in Beijing.

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is privileged to have him as our accompanist.



### **Jessica Zhu – Piano**

Jessica Zhu is a Chinese-American pianist who is pursuing postgraduate studies in piano performance at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Having made her debut at age 19 with the Houston Symphony, she has soloed with numerous orchestras in the USA. Jessica has gained prominence for her championing of the works of contemporary American composers, including John Corigliano, William Albright and William Bolcom.

Jessica is a laureate of the Sussex International Piano Competition 2010, receiving Third Prize and the Audience Prize. Named the National Winner of the Young Artist Piano Competition of the 2008 Music Teachers National Association piano competitions in Denver

She was also first-prize winner of the 2008 San Antonio Tuesday Musical Club Young Artist Competition and the silver medalist in the 2004 Junior Isabel Sciolti Piano Solo Competition.



### **Christopher Harris – Organ**

Christopher was born in Tunbridge Wells and now lives in Crowborough where he works as a freelance musician and repetiteur. He studied music at Jesus College, Oxford, as organ scholar specialising in the medieval music of Britain and Europe. Before going to university, he gained the FRCO diploma studying with Alan Wicks at Canterbury Cathedral. Christopher has given organ recitals in venues such as Westminster Abbey, Chichester Cathedral, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Queens College, Oxford and has accompanied services in many of the cathedrals of southern and eastern England. He is continuo player for Crowborough Baroque and the Corelli Ensemble, accompanist to The Sackville Singers and Tonbridge Philharmonic Society and conductor of the Chancel Singers, a group which sings at various cathedrals around the country and recently sang in Canterbury and St Paul’s Cathedrals. He is also conductor of the Hartfield Singers.



# The choir



In November 1904 rehearsals began for the **Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society's** first concert, a performance of Brahms' *Requiem*, under the baton of its founder, Francis J Foote, in May 1905. The Society has been staging concerts almost every year for over a hundred years since that inaugural concert. Recent highlights have been the concert to celebrate our Centenary in 2004, when we welcomed the Bach Choir of Wiesbaden to sing with us, many joint concerts with them, both here and in Wiesbaden and a performance of Haydn's *The Creation* in November 2007 to celebrate the 100th birthday of our distinguished President, Roy Douglas.

The Society continues to flourish as membership and audiences grow and we look forward to a future of many more memorable concerts. If you are interested in joining the choir please email Trevor Hurrell at [hurrellt@gmail.com](mailto:hurrellt@gmail.com).

## Sopranos

Glynis Avis	Patsy Dale	Eve Johnson	Jane Reed
Annalize Bagshaw	Diana Dann	Helen MacNab	Sue Rogers
Diana Blower	Suzie Duke	Barbara Maw	Laura Singleton
Sylvia Byers	Jill Dunstall	Anne Metherell	Christine Smith
Heather Champion	Joyce Eckett	Gill Olliver	Ann Spillman
Susan Chandler	Ann Greenfield	Louise Packham	Audrey Wallin
Jane Clifford	Katy Hawes	Michèle Palmer	Selma Wells
Amy Cordani	Barbara Hazelden	Pat Prior	
Sue Cordani	Rosemary Hughes	Helena Read	

## Altos

Kate Brown	Nicola Gooch	Margaret Lyall	Audrey Stuart-Black
Margaret Butcher	Ruth Gray	Jessica Mookherjee	Celia Sumner
Anne Carwardine	Sharon Harrison	Shirley Morgan	Pauline Taylor
Marion Chase	Shirley Harrison	Shirley Nankivell	Muriel Thatcher
Pauline Coxshall	Heather Herrin	Sylvia Parsons	Marguerite Weatherseed
Judith Day-Robinson	Susan Ingham	Carolyn Ponder	Felicity Wilkin
Jean Finch	Jane Jackson	Catherine Rigby	
Joanna Finlay	Victoria Joyce	Ros Robertson	
Eileen Gall	Liz Lambert	Olivia Seaman	

## Tenors

Donald Haley	José-Luis Parody	Michael Selway	Derek Watmough
Gareth Looker	Peter Puttock	Toby Thompson	Steve Williamson
David Miller			

## Basses

John Adkins	Gavin Grant	John Moffat	Richard Segall-Jones
Clive Brock	Trevor Harrison	Cyril Rogers	John Spary
Gerald Chew	Trevor Hurrell	Eric Scott	Clive Steward
Michael Dowden	David Lyall	David Scott-Cowan	John Wyatt-Clarke
Roy Dunstall			



# Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School

TWGGGS was awarded Specialist Status in Music with English in 2008. This has enabled both the Music and English departments to offer all sorts of new opportunities for the pupils; for example: concert and theatre trips, music workshops and competitions and to work with external organizations such as Glyndebourne, Pro Corda and Opera By Definition. We are very excited to have this fantastic opportunity to work with the Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society.

The girls performing tonight belong to the Cantemos Choir, our Intermediate Chamber Choir for Years 9 and 10. This choir performs regularly in public, taking part in competitions such as the National Festival of Music for Youth and Barnardo's Choir Competition. They have also recently returned from a very successful and enjoyable tour of Tuscany, where they were privileged to open the Summer Festival in the town of Casciana Terme.

Sue Waddington, Director of Music at TWGGGS, was trained at the Royal Northern College of Music where she studied piano and clarinet. She graduated from King's College, London with a Masters' degree in Theory and Analysis in 1994. She began her teaching career in Croydon, and came to TWGGGS in 2001, becoming Director of Music in 2003. Sue was instrumental in the school achieving specialist status as a Music college in 2008, and organizes and conducts many of the ensemble groups which TWGGGS offers to its pupils and to the wider community.

She is a composer and experienced accompanist, and plays regularly for pupils in concerts and examinations. She lives near Tunbridge Wells with her husband Ian and her two daughters.

## Girls choir

Olivia Anderson- Lynch	Imogen Goring Olivia Grainge	Katherine Murphy Katherine Ormsby	Sophie Smith Annabelle Taylor
Abigail Clare	Elisabeth Harding	Keturah Paice	Eleanor Waddington
Camilla Davan- Wetton	Maja Holm-Mercer	Siobhan Patrick Molly Payne	Darcy Williams Beth Wright
Isabel Denman	Isabelle Kushner Georgia Miller	Alice Radley	Eleanor Van Der Zanden
Rachel Edgar	Ella Morris	Sarah Robson	
Harriet Gomersall	Josephine Moore	Natasha Smith	

## Pickled boys


Natasha Smith	Beth Wright	Eleanor Van Der Zanden
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## James Tweedy – young Saint Nicolas

James is age 12 and is in year 8 at Skinners' School. He has sung for as long as he can remember, and has taken lead roles in school productions and solos in carol services. He is also an accomplished violinist, at present leading the junior orchestra at Skinners' and also playing with senior orchestra.

# The performance

## Note on applause:

*We are more than happy to hear you applaud if you wish to show your appreciation of the performance! So as to cause as little disruption as possible to the flow of the piece we have indicated places where there is a suitable pause for applause by the symbol: *

## Zadok the Priest (RTWCS & TWGGS)

Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet  
anointed Solomon King.

And all the people rejoic'd, and said:  
"God save the King, long live the King, may  
the King live for ever! Amen, Alleluia!"



## Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (RTWCS)

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,  
Holy wisdom, love most bright;  
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring  
Soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,  
With the fire of life impassioned,  
Striving still to truth unknown,  
Soaring, dying round Thy throne.



Through the way where hope is guiding,  
Hark, what peaceful music rings;  
Where the flock, in Thee confiding,  
Drink of joy from deathless springs.  
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;  
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.  
Thou dost ever lead Thine own  
In the love of joys unknown.

## Simple Symphony (Orchestra)



## Don't Rain On My Parade (TWGGS)

Don't tell me not to live, just sit and putter  
Life's candy and the sun's a ball of butter  
Don't bring around a cloud to rain on my  
parade

Don't tell me not to fly, I simply got to  
If someone takes a spill, it's me and not you  
Who told you you're allowed to rain on my  
parade

I'll march my band out, I'll beat my drum  
And if I'm fanned out, your turn at bat, sir  
At least I didn't fake it, hat, sir  
I guess I didn't make it

But whether I'm the rose of sheer perfection  
A freckle on the nose of life's complexion  
The Cinderella or the shine apple of its eye

*(continued...)*

I gotta fly once, I gotta try once,  
Only can die once, right, sir?  
Ooh, life is juicy, juicy and you see,  
I gotta have my bite, sir.

Get ready for me love, 'cause I'm a "comer"  
I simply gotta march, my heart's a drummer  
Don't bring around the cloud to rain on my  
parade.



## **Irish Blessing (TWGGS)**

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be ever at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
and the rain fall soft upon your fields,  
and until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.



## **Ave, verum corpus RTWCS & TWGGS**

Ave, verum corpus  
natum de Maria Virgine,  
Vere passum immolatum  
in Cruce pro homine,  
Cujus latus perforatum  
unda fluxit et sanguine,  
Esto nobis praegustatum  
in mortis examine.



## **Saint Nicolas (RTWCS, TWGGS, Skinners' School & RTWCS Orchestra)**

### **I. Introduction**

Our eyes are blinded by the holiness you  
bear.  
The bishop's robe, the mitre and the cross  
of gold obscure the simple man within the  
Saint.  
Strip off your glory, Nicolas, Nicolas, and  
speak, speak, speak!

Across the tremendous bridge of sixteen  
hundred years I come to stand in worship  
with you as I stood among my faithful  
congregation long ago.

All who knelt beside me then are gone.  
Their name is dust, their tombs are grass  
and clay, yet still their shining seed of faith  
survives in you!

I'm gonna live and live NOW!  
Get what I want, I know how!  
One roll for the whole shebang!  
One throw that bell will go clang,  
Eye on the target and wham,  
One shot, one gun shot and bam!  
Hey, Mr. Arnstein, here I am ...

Hail, true body  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
Who truly suffered, sacrificed  
on the Cross for man,  
Whose pierced side overflowed  
with water and blood,  
Be for us a foretaste  
In the test of death

It weathers time, it springs again in you!  
With you it stands like forest oak  
Or withers with the grasses under foot.

Preserve the living Faith for which your  
fathers fought  
For Faith was won by centuries of sacrifice  
And many martyrs died that you might  
worship God

Help us Lord! to find the hidden road that  
leads from love to greater Love,  
From faith to greater Faith.  
Strengthen us, O Lord!  
Screw up our strength to serve Thee with  
simplicity.

## II. The birth of Nicolas

Nicolas was born in answer to prayer,  
And leaping from his mother's womb he  
cried  
GOD BE GLORIFIED!

Swaddling-bands and crib awaited him  
there,  
But Nicolas clapped both his hands and  
cried  
GOD BE GLORIFIED!

Innocent and joyful, naked and fair,  
He came in pride on earth to abide.  
GOD BE GLORIFIED!

Water rippled Welcome! In the bathtub by  
his side,  
He dived in open-eyed: he swam: he cried  
GOD BE GLORIFIED!

## III. Nicolas devotes himself to God

My parents died.  
All too soon I left the tranquil beauty of  
their home  
And knew the wider world of man.  
Poor man! I found him solitary, racked  
By doubt: born, bred, doomed to die  
In everlasting fear of everlasting death:  
The foolish toy of time, the darling of decay  
Hopeless, faithless, defying God.

Heartsick, in hope to mask the twisted face  
of poverty,  
I sold my lands to feed the poor.  
I gave my goods to charity  
But Love demanded more.

## IV. He journeys to Palestine

Nicolas sailed for Palestine  
Across the sunlit seas.  
The South West Wind blew soft and fair,  
Seagulls hovered through the air,  
And spices scented the breeze.

Everyone felt that land was near:  
All dangers now were past:  
Except for one who knelt in prayer,  
Fingers clasped and head quite bare,  
Alone by the mizzen mast.

The sailors jeered at Nicolas,  
Who paid them no regard,  
Until the hour of sunset came  
When up he stood and stopped their game  
Of staking coins on cards.

When he went to Church at Christmastide,  
He climbed up to the font to be baptised.  
GOD BE GLORIFIED!

Pilgrims came to kneel and pray by his side,  
He grew in grace, his name was sanctified  
GOD BE GLORIFIED!

Nicolas grew in innocence and pride,  
His glory spread a rainbow round the  
ountryside.  
"Nicolas will be a Saint!" the neighbours  
cried.  
GOD BE GLORIFIED!

Heartsick, I cast away all things that could  
distract my mind  
From full devotion to His will; I thrust my  
happiness behind  
But Love desired more still.

Heartsick, I called on God to purge my  
angry soul,  
To purge my angry soul, to be  
My only Master, friend and guide.  
I begged for sweet humility  
And Love was satisfied.

Nicolas spoke and prophesied  
A tempest far ahead  
The sailors scorned such words of fear,  
Since sky and stars shone bright and clear,  
So "Nonsense!" they all said.

Darkness was soon on top of them,  
But still the South Wind blew.  
The Captain went below to sleep,  
And left the helmsman there to keep  
His course with one of the crew.

Nicolas swore he'd punish them  
For mocking at the Lord  
The wind arose, the thunder roared,  
Lightning split the waves that poured  
In wild cascades on board.

Water spouts rose in majesty  
Until the ship was tossed  
Abaft, aback, astern, abeam  
Lit by lightning's livid gleam,  
And all aboard cried, "Lost!"

Lightning hisses through the night,  
Blinding sight with living light! Ah!  
Man the pumps! Axes!  
Winds and tempests howl their cry  
Of battle through the raging sky! Ah!

Spare us! Save us! Saviour!  
Waves repeat their angry roar,  
Fall and spring again once more! Ah!  
Let her run before the wind!  
Shorten sail! Reef her! Heave her to!

Thunder rends the sky asunder  
With its savage shouts of wonder! Ah!  
Pray to God! Kneel and pray!  
Lightning, Thunder, Tempest, Ocean  
Praise their God with voice and motion.

Nicolas waited patiently  
Till they were on their knees  
Then down he knelt in thankfulness  
Begging God their ship to bless  
And make the storm to cease.

## **V. Nicolas comes to Myra and is chosen Bishop**

Come, stranger sent from God!  
Come, man of God!  
Stand foremost in our Church, and serve  
this diocese,  
As Bishop Nicolas, our shield, our strength,  
our peace!

I Nicolas, Bishop of Myra and its diocese,  
Shall with the unfailing grace of God,  
Defend His faithful servants,  
Comfort the widow and fatherless,  
And fulfil His will for this most blessed  
Church. Amen.

## **A hymn for choir and audience**

All people that on earth do dwell  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice!  
Him serve with fear  
His praise forth tell,  
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise  
Approach with joy His courts unto,

O God! We are all weak, sinful, foolish  
men.

We pray from fear and from necessity at  
death, in sickness or private loss.  
Without the prick of fear our conscience  
sleeps, forgetful of Thy Grace.  
Help us, O God! To see more clearly.  
Tame our stubborn hearts.  
Teach us to ask for less and offer more in  
gratitude to Thee.  
Pity our simplicity, for we are truly pitiable  
in Thy sight. Amen!

The winds and waves lay down to rest  
The sky was clear and calm.  
The ship sailed onward without harm  
And all creation sang a psalm  
Of loving thankfulness.

Beneath the stars the sailors slept  
Exhausted by their fear, while I  
Knelt down for love of God on high  
And saw his angels in the sky  
Smile down at me, and wept.

Place the mitre on your head to show your  
mastery of men! Amen.  
Take the golden robe that covers you with  
Christ's authority! Amen.  
Wear the fine dalmatic woven with the  
Cross of Faith. Amen.  
Bear the crozier as a staff and comfort to  
your flock! Amen.  
Set the ring upon your hand in sacramental  
sign of wedlock with thy God! Amen.  
Serve the Faith and spurn His enemies!  
Serve the Faith!

Praise, laud and bless His name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good:  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure. Amen.

## VI. Nicolas from prison

Persecution sprang upon our Church  
And stilled its voice.  
Eight barren years it stifled under Roman rule:  
And I lay bound, condemned to celebrate  
My lonely sacrament with prison bread,  
While wolves ran loose among my flock.  
O man! The world is set for you as for a king!

Paradise is yours in loveliness.  
The stars shine down for you, for you the angels sing,  
Yet you prefer your wilderness.  
You hug the rack of self,  
Embrace the lash of sin,  
Pour your treasures out to bribe distress.

## VII. Nicolas and the pickled boys

Famine tracks us down the lanes,  
Hunger holds our horses' reins,  
Winter heaps the roads with snow.  
O we have far to go!

Starving beggars howl their cry,  
Snarl to see us spurring by  
Times are bad and travel slow.  
O we have far to go!

We mourn our boys, our missing sons!  
We sorrow for three little ones!  
Timothy, Mark and John are gone.

Landlord, take this piece of gold!  
Bring us food before the cold  
Makes our pangs of hunger grow  
O we have far to go

Day by day we seek to find  
Some trace of them, but oh! Unkind!  
Timothy, Mark and John are gone!

Let us share this dish of meat.  
Come, my friends, sit down and eat!  
Join us, Bishop, for we know  
That you have far to go!

## VIII. His piety and marvellous works

For forty years our Nicolas,  
Our Prince of men, our shepherd and  
Our gentle guide, walked by our side.

You build your temples fair without and  
foul within:  
You cultivate your wilderness.  
Yet Christ is yours, yours!  
For you he lived and died.

God in mercy gave his Son to bless You all,  
To bring you life,  
And Him you crucified  
To desecrate your wilderness.

Turn, turn, turn away from sin! Ah! bow  
Down your hard and stubborn hearts!  
Confess Yourselves to Him in penitence,  
And humbly vow Your lives to Him, to  
Holiness.

Mary meek and Mother mild  
Who lost thy Jesus as a child,  
Our Timothy, Mark and John are gone!

Come, your Grace, don't eat so slow!  
Take some meat.  
O do not taste! O do not feed on sin!  
But haste to save three souls in need!  
The mothers' cry is sad and weak,  
Within these walls they lie  
Whom mothers sadly seek  
Timothy, Mark and John  
Put your fleshly garments on!  
Come from dark oblivion! Come.

See! See! Three boys spring back to life,  
Who, slaughtered by the butcher's knife,  
Lay salted down!  
And entering,  
Hand in hand they stand and sing  
Alleluia to their King! Alleluia!

Let the legends that we tell,  
Praise him with our prayers as well.  
We keep his memory alive  
In legends that our children and  
Their children's children treasure still.

We turned to him at birth and death,  
In time of famine and distress,  
In all our grief, to bring relief.



He led us from the valleys to  
The pleasant hills of grace. He fought  
To fold us in from mortal sin.

O! he was prodigal of love!  
A spendthrift in devotion to  
Us all and blessed as he caressed.

We keep his memory alive in legends that  
our children and  
Their children's children treasure still.

A captive at the heathen court  
Wept sorely all alone.

"O Nicolas is here, my son!  
And he will bring you home!"

"Fill, fill my sack with corn," he said:  
"We die from lack of food!"  
And from that single sack he fed  
A hungry multitude.

Three daughters of a nobleman  
Were doomed to shameful sin,  
Till our good Bishop ransomed them  
By throwing purses in.

## **IX. The death of Nicolas**

Death, I hear thy summons and I come  
In haste, for my short life is done;  
And O! My soul is faint with love,  
For Him who waits for me above.

Lord I come to life  
To final birth I leave the misery of earth,  
For light, by thy eternal grace,  
Where I shall greet Thee face to face.

Christ receive my soul with tenderness,  
For in my last of life I bless Thy name,  
Who lived and died for me,  
And dying, yield my soul to Thee.

## **A hymn for choir and audience**

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines  
Of never-failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs  
And works His sovereign will.

The gates were barred, the black flag flew,  
Three men knelt by the block,  
But Nicolas burst in like flame,  
And stayed the axe's shock!

"O help us, good Nicolas!  
Our ship is full of foam!"  
He walked across the waves to them  
And led them safely home.

He sat among the Bishops  
Who were summoned to Nicaea:  
Then rising with the wrath of God  
Boxed Arius's ear.

He threatened Constantine the Great  
With bell and book and ban:  
Till Constantine confessed his sins  
Like any common man.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in  
peace, according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation  
Which thou hast prepared before the face  
of all people  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to  
be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and  
to the Holy Ghost  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever  
shall be world without end  
Amen!

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy, and shall break  
In blessings on your head.



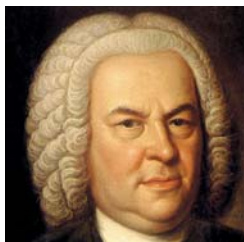
# Forthcoming concerts to be given by the choir

## Christmas Concert 2010

Sunday December 12th, 6.30pm  
St Mary's Church, Goudhurst TN17 1AN

Bach: *Christmas Oratorio (excerpts)*  
Karl Jenkins: *Celebration of Christmas*  
Plus traditional carols performed by choir  
with audience participation.

With the Mayfield Brass Band.



## Spring Concert 2011

Sunday April 10th, 3.00pm  
The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells,  
TN1 2LU

Dvořák: *Stabat Mater*

With the RTWCS Orchestra.



## Autumn Concert 2011

Saturday November 12th, 7.00pm  
The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells,  
TN1 2LU

Mendelssohn: *Elijah*

With the RTWCS Orchestra.



## Other local concerts

### East Grinstead Choral Society

Saturday 11th December 2010 at 7.30pm;  
Jubilee Community Centre, Charlwoods Rd,  
East Grinstead RH19 2HL

Buxtehude: *Newborn Jesus Child*  
Vaughan-Williams: *Fantasia on Carols*  
Karl Jenkins: *Celebration of Christmas*

[www.egcs.co.uk](http://www.egcs.co.uk)

### Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra

Sunday 6th February 2011 at 3pm;  
The Assembly Hall Theatre

Mozart: *Overture from Don Giovanni*  
R.Strauss: *Oboe Concerto*  
Mahler: *Symphony No. 1 'Titan'*

[www.rtwso.org](http://www.rtwso.org)

### Tonbridge Music Club

Tuesday 8th February 2011 at 8.00pm;  
Big School, Tonbridge School

The Belcea Quartet  
Beethoven: *String Quartet in F, Op 18 No. 1*  
Turnage: *Twisted Blues with Twisted Ballad*  
Beethoven: *String Quartet in F, Op 135*

[www.tmc.org.uk](http://www.tmc.org.uk)

### Penshurst Choral Society

Saturday 12th February 2011 at 7.30pm;  
Holmewood House School, Langton Green

Fauré: *Requiem*; *Cantique de Jean Racine*  
Haydn: *Piano Concerto No. 11*  
*Soloist –Jong-Gyung Park*

[www.penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk](http://www.penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk)