



**Vivace**  
Chorus

Rotary in Guildford and  
Vivace Chorus present

# THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD'S **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Conductor: **Jeremy Backhouse**

*in aid of*  
**The Mayor's Local  
Support Fund**



**Sunday**  
**10 Dec 2023**  
**at 7pm**

**Holy Trinity Church, Guildford.**

[rotaryinguildford.org](http://rotaryinguildford.org)  
[vivacechorus.org](http://vivacechorus.org)



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD

## Councillor Masuk Miah



I am delighted to be joining you this evening for the Mayor's annual Christmas Concert; by attending, you will be supporting the Mayor of Guildford's Local Support Fund, and The Fountain Centre, my chosen charity this year.

The Fountain Centre is a local independent cancer charity located on level B within St Luke's Cancer Centre at the Royal Surrey Hospital. Their aim is to provide holistic and psychological support, information, and signposting, both online and face to face, to as many patients and their families as possible.

Even though Guildford Borough remains one of the most affluent areas in Surrey, it still has pockets of deprivation. The Mayor of Guildford's Local Support Fund provides support to residents who may be struggling to make ends meet, especially during the current cost-of-living crisis with its record increases in energy and food prices. For those in genuine need, a small amount of money from the fund can be vital and make a huge difference to their day-to-day life. On behalf of these residents, I thank you warmly for your generosity.

I must also thank Rotary in Guildford for organising tonight's concert and for their charitable support to the Guildford community over the last 100 years, and to Vivace Chorus for performing at this wonderful concert. They have been a part of Guildford's cultural life for over 75 years.

Finally, I do hope you enjoy tonight's concert. May I wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Mayor of Guildford

## THE MAYOR'S CHOSEN CHARITY



The Fountain Centre is an 100% independent charity based within St Luke's Cancer Centre at The Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RSCH). The service provides information, support, complementary therapies, and psychological support to anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis. This is provided in a calming and relaxed atmosphere for cancer patients, their families, and carers.

Over the last 25 years, the Fountain Centre has evolved a tried and tested level of service for cancer patients and their carers that is respected and valued by both patients and hospital staff. From starting off in a portacabin in a hospital carpark, they now have approximately 100 volunteers who provide therapy and support and currently have 8000 registered users. The operational team is made up of qualified health care professionals and experienced staff who coordinate and manage the chosen support by cancer patients throughout their cancer journey. The Fountain Centre has two dedicated areas within the hospital and a total of 7 therapy rooms. There is a creative arts room for groups, an enclosed garden, specialist children's counselling cabin and a space on the oncology ward set up for families to stay.

It costs over £220,000 a year for the Fountain Centre maintain its service. Like all charities, they rely on the support of local companies and community groups and their supporters' generosity to keep the service running.

I hope you'll agree with me that this is a very worthy cause and I thank you all for your generous support.

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



# THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD'S LOCAL SUPPORT FUND



Established in 1971, the fund was originally known as the Mayor of Guildford's Christmas and Local Distress Fund.

It is a registered charity with a clearly-defined purpose: to provide financial assistance to those in great need within Guildford Borough, who have been referred to the Fund by a third party, for example, a Guildford Borough Council Councillor or officer, Citizens Advice, Social Services, a health visitor, doctor, or school.

The largest grant that can be given is £250, but this can make a huge difference to someone who is struggling to make ends meet, especially at Christmas time and during the current cost-of-living crisis.

Registered Charity number: 258388

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ROTARY IN GUILDFORD AND Vivace Chorus would like to thank the following people and organisations for their help in preparing for and staging this year's Mayor of Guildford's Christmas Concert:

Reverend Ben Cahill-Nicholls  
The Parish of Holy Trinity and St. Mary's, Guildford  
Guildford Borough Council  
Jeremy Backhouse  
Willow Northeald  
Inner Wheel Club of Guildford

THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
with VIVACE CHORUS

Conductor: Jeremy Backhouse  
Organist/pianist: Willow Northeald

\*\*\*\*\*

**Welcome by Rev Ben Cahill-Nicholls**

**Audience Carol** (C. F. Alexander & H. J. Gauntlett, arr. A. H. Mann & David Willcocks)

**Solo**

**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.

**Choir**

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.

**All**

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

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.

**Choir**

Sussex Carol (English trad., arr. David Willcocks)  
A boy was born (Benjamin Britten)  
A child is born in Bethlehem (Samuel Scheidt, ed. David Willcocks)

**Audience Carol** (E. H. Sears, English trad. melody, arr. Arthur Sullivan & David Willcocks)

**It came upon the midnight clear**

That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their hearts of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heav'n'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 heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lonely plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing  
And ever o'er its Babel sound  
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.

**Reading by Val Morcom**

**Choir**

Angelus ad virginem (14th-century Irish, arr. David Willcocks)  
Christmas Lullaby (John Rutter)

**Audience Carol** (J. F. Wade, arr. David Willcocks)

**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:  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore him ....*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:  
*O come, let us adore him ....*

Yea, Lord we greet thee,  
Born that happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us adore him ....*

**Choir**

A maiden most gentle (French trad., arr. Andrew Carter)  
Mary's Lullaby (John Rutter) [  
O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam, arr. John E West)

\*\*\*\*\*

**INTERVAL**

Wine, Soft Drinks & Mince Pies available

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## Choir

The Holly and the Ivy (English trad, arr. Reginald Jacques)  
Infant King (Basque Noel, arr. David Willcocks)  
Past three a clock (English trad., arr. Charles Wood)

## Audience Carol (English trad., arr. R. Vaughan Williams)

### **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.

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.

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.

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.

## Reading by Rob Walker

### Choir

Rocking (Czech carol, arr. David Willcocks)  
Zither Carol (Czech folk tune, arr. Malcolm Sargent)

**Audience Carol** (Words & melody from *Piae Cantiones*, arr. David Willcocks)

**All** **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.

### **Choir**

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.

### **Lower** **Voices**

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.

### **Upper** **Voices**

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!

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

## Choir

Child in a manger (Celtic trad., arr. John Rutter)  
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day (English trad.,  
arr. David Willcocks)  
I believe in Father Christmas (Greg Lake, arr. Adam Johnson)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Address by the Mayor of Guildford Councillor Masuk Miah**

Introduced by The President of the Rotary Club of Guildford Wey

### **Mr Andrew Day**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Audience Carol** (Felix Mendelssohn, arr. David Willcocks)

### **Hark! the herald-angels sing**

Glory to the new-born 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 host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
*Hark! The herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb;  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! The herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
*Hark! The herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

## **Encore**

We wish you a Merry Christmas (English trad., arr. Arthur Warrell)

## VIVACE CHORUS MEMBERS SINGING IN THIS CONCERT

**First Sopranos:** Sandra Adamson, Sel Adamu, Amelia Atkinson, Jan Barklem, Helen Beevers, Mary Broughton, Jo Haviland, Isobel Humphreys, Nicola Kalimeris, Becky Kerby, Fran Mackay, Suzie Maine, Michelle Mumford, Sue Norton, Robin Onslow, Gillian Rix, Sarah Smithies, Barbara Tansey, Joanie Thomas, Hilary Vaill, Miriam White

**Second Sopranos:** Jackie Alderton, Gill Backhouse, Sarah Badger, Jane Barnes, Scarlett Close, Ann Fuller, Alex Nash, Alison Palmer, Kate Peters, Mary Somerville, Christine Wilks, Eiri Williams, Natalie Wojcikeiwicz

**First Altos:** Anna Arthur, Barbara Barklem, Jane Brooks, Amanda Burn, Philippa Curtis, Fiona Davidge, Valentina Faedi, Lynne Hargreaves, Sheila Hodson, Jean Leston, Charlotte Matthieson, Penny McLaren, Christine Medlow, Ros Milton, Lilly Nicholson, Jackie Payne, Linda Ross, Catherine Shacklady, Marjory Stewart Julia Stubbs, Hilary Trigg, Maggie Woolcock

**Second Altos:** Geraldine Allen, Sheena Ewen, Liz Hampshire, Pauline Higgins, Lois McCabe, Kay McManus, Val Morcom, Pamela Murrell, Sonja Nagle, Lucy Schonberger, Jo Stokes, Rosey Storey, Alison Vincent, June Windle, Elisabeth Yates

**First Tenors:** Bob Bromham, Andrea Dombrowe, Rosie Jeffrey, Audrey Kueh, Barbara McDonald, Martin Price, John Trigg

**Second Tenors:** Ewan Bramhall, Simon Dillon, Peter Norman, Graham Vincent

**First Basses:** Paul Barnes, Richard Broughton, Brian John, Jeremy Johnson, Jon Long, Keith McClurey, Malcolm Munt, Chris Newbery, Robin Privett, David Ross, Phil Stanford, Rob Walker

**Second Basses:** Peter Andrews, Norman Carpenter, Stuart Gooch, Mike Johns, Chris Peters, Richard Wood

## ABOUT VIVACE CHORUS



[Photo © Ash Mills]

**Jeremy Backhouse**    *Music Director*  
**Francis Pott**        *Accompanist*  
**Peter Norman**       *Chairman*

Vivace Chorus is a flourishing, ambitious and adventurous choir based in Guildford, Surrey. We enjoy singing traditional choral classics alongside the challenge of contemporary and newly-commissioned music – there's something for everyone at Vivace!

The choir began in 1946 as the Guildford Philharmonic Choir and was rebranded as Vivace Chorus in 2005. We have an enviable reputation for performing first-class concerts across a wide range of musical repertoire. Particular successes include a sell-out performance in May 2011 of Mahler's Symphony No. 8, the "Symphony of a Thousand", at the Royal Albert Hall, a highly acclaimed performance in November 2012 of Britten's War Requiem and another Royal Albert Hall success in May 2014 when we performed the Verdi Requiem. In 2017 we celebrated our 70th birthday with the Philharmonia Orchestra in the Royal Festival Hall and 2018 saw a sell-out performance at G Live Guildford for our "Concert for Peace".

Just before the first Covid lockdown, we performed the incredible African Sanctus by David Fanshawe, complete with the dancers of the Mighty Zulu Nation Theatre Company, enthusiastically wielding their assegais.

Vivace thrives under the exceptional leadership of our conductor, Jeremy Backhouse. Jeremy's passion for choral music and his sheer enthusiasm for music-making are evident at every rehearsal and performance. He is supported by Francis Pott, who is an academic and composer of international repute and an accomplished concert pianist – who better to accompany our rehearsals?

We have also enjoyed successful European and UK tours, including trips to France, Italy, Germany, Austria, the Baltic states and, most recently, northern Spain.



### **The Mayor of Guildford's Christmas Concert**

We are always happy to welcome new members, so if you would like to try us out, do come along to any of our regular rehearsals on Monday evenings at 7.15 in the Guildford Baptist Church, Millmead, Guildford.

Just contact our membership secretary Becky Kerby at **[membership@vivacechorus.org](mailto:membership@vivacechorus.org)** or pay a visit to our website, **[vivacechorus.org](http://vivacechorus.org)**. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter - **@VivaceChorus**.

## JEREMY BACKHOUSE



Jeremy Backhouse [Photo © Ash Mills] is one of Britain's leading choral conductors. He began his musical career in Canterbury Cathedral where he was Senior Chorister.

Jeremy has been the sole conductor of the internationally-renowned chamber choir, Vasari Singers, since its inception in 1980. Since winning the prestigious Choir of the Year competition in 1988, Vasari Singers has performed regularly at major concert venues and cathedrals throughout the UK and abroad.

Jeremy and Vasari Singers broadcast frequently on Classic FM and BBC Radio 3 and have a discography of over 25 CDs on EMI, Guild, Signum and Naxos. Their recordings have been nominated for a Gramophone award, received two Gramophone Editor's Choice awards, the top recommendation on Radio 3's Building A Library programme, and two recent CDs both achieved top ten status in the Specialist Classical Charts. Jeremy is totally committed to the performance of contemporary music and, with Vasari, he has commissioned over 25 new works.

In January 1995, Jeremy was appointed Music Director of Vivace Chorus. Alongside the standard classical works, Jeremy has conducted Vivace Chorus in some ambitious programmes including Howells' *Hymnus Paradisi*, Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*, Mahler's "Resurrection" *Symphony*, Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* and *Ivan the Terrible*, Mahler's "Symphony of a Thousand" and Verdi's *Requiem* in the Royal Albert Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

From January 2009 until July 2022, Jeremy was the Music Director of the Salisbury Community Choir. It celebrated its 21st Anniversary in 2013 with a concert in Salisbury Cathedral that premiered a specially-commissioned work by Will Todd, *The City Garden*, which they toured to Lincoln (2014) and Guildford (2015) Cathedrals. A new work from Alexander L'Estrange was premiered in Winchester Cathedral in November 2018.

Jeremy has also worked with a number of the country's leading choirs, including the BBC Singers, the London Symphony Chorus, the Philharmonia Chorus, and the Brighton Festival Chorus.

## Vivace Chorus dates for your diary

### Come & Sing 2024

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024, 10:30am-4pm** Holy Trinity Church, Guildford

Would you like to spend a day singing in our choir? Then join us, together with our professional musicians, Jeremy and Francis, to rehearse and perform one or more choral works; this year it's Mendelssohn's wonderful *Elijah*. Tickets include drinks and lunch. Our Come & Sing is always popular, so book your place today!

### Duruflé Requiem

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, 7:30pm** Holy Trinity Church, Guildford

Duruflé's beautiful *Requiem* is where "Gregorian chant meets the sumptuous sound world of 20th century France" according to BBC Music Magazine. Our wonderfully meditative concert also includes works by Ešenvalds, Dubra and Jonathan Dove.

### Verdi Requiem

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 7:30pm** G live, Guildford

Join Vivace Chorus, the Liverpool Welsh Choral and the National Symphony Orchestra for a performance of the magnificent *Requiem* by Giuseppe Verdi, written in memory of his friend and novelist Manzoni. It was intended for the concert hall rather than a church and premiered in May 1874. This concert marks its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Further details at [vivacechorus.org](http://vivacechorus.org)**

Vivace Chorus is a Registered Charity No. 1026337

# ROTARY IN GUILDFORD



Over a century ago on July 14<sup>th</sup> 1921, the Rotary Club of Guildford was formed when 10 local businessmen and councillors met at the town's Ward Street Hall to pass a resolution to establish a Rotary Club in Guildford. In those days, very few clubs existed in the whole of Great Britain. Today, there are 1,700 Rotary Clubs in the UK, with over 45,000 members and 1.2 million members in 35,000 Clubs in 220 countries across the globe.

Two further Rotary Clubs were subsequently formed in the town, in 1975 the Guildford District Club, and in 1991 the Guildford Chancies Club. In 2022 The original Guildford Club and Guildford District Joined together to form The Rotary Club of Guildford Wey, and now with the Chancies Club work closely on a variety of projects in and around Guildford under the banner of Rotary in Guildford.

One of Guildford's earliest fundraising projects in the 1920s was its 'Big Brother' scheme, which was launched to help the town's youngsters, who had lost their fathers during the First World War. In 1927, Rotary embarked on a project to raise enough money to install radio sets in the wards of the Royal Surrey County Hospital, so the patients could 'listen in'.



In 1939, Rotary in Guildford played a crucial role in establishing one of the first Citizen's Advice Bureau in Great Britain.

June 1940, saw Rotary help at Guildford Station with the reception of the survivors from the beaches of Dunkirk, when their special troop trains arrived back.

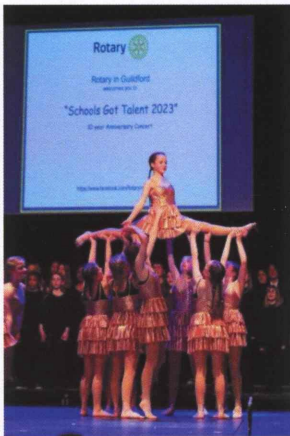
In 1951, the Rotary Club held its first Christmas Carol Concert in the town's Methodist Church to raise funds for the Mayor's Christmas Fund. The Club is still staging it.... over 70 years later!

In 1963, the Rotary played a significant fundraising role to establish the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and in 1965 the Club successfully lobbied government departments to establish the University of Surrey in Guildford the following year.

To mark the centenary of the Rotary International in 2005, Guildford's three Rotary Clubs established their '**Guildford Historic Trail**' and presented it to the Borough of Guildford. The trail takes visitors on a circular tour around the town centre and its historic landmarks.

Other projects initiated by Rotary in Guildford in recent years include the setting up of the **Guildford Eye Project** in Kolkatta to establish specialist eye surgery hospitals in India and Africa to cure blindness in the developing world.

Rotary in Guildford continues to support its **Jaipur Limb Project**; and Rotary's '**End Polio Now!**' campaign;



Current projects include an annual '**Schools Got Talent**' held at G-Live., a **Charity Walk** arranged for local charities to raise money for their own causes. A **Charity Quiz Night**, assisting with **Guildford's Repair Café** and recycling unwanted tools to Africa through '**Tools with a Mission**' (TWAM). Helping to clear the gardens of **Gosden House School**, and of course tonight's annual **Mayor's Christmas Concert**, raising funds for the Mayor of Guildford's Local Support Fund and the Fountain Centre.



Rotary in Guildford is always keen to welcome new members to join in with their various ongoing projects, and can be contacted through: [www.rotaryinguildford.org](http://www.rotaryinguildford.org)



# A J Benneith & Co

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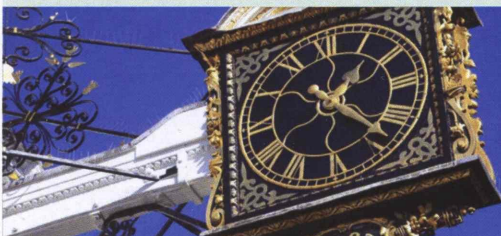
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**Email: [info@bennewith.co.uk](mailto:info@bennewith.co.uk)**

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