



Vivace
Chorus

Rotary in Guildford and
Vivace Chorus present

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

Conductor: Jeremy Backhouse

in aid of
Guildford Veterans' Hub and Matrix

Sunday
15 Dec 2024
at 7pm

Holy Trinity Church, Guildford.

rotaryinguildford.org
vivacechorus.org



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD

Councillor Sallie Barker



I am delighted to be joining you this evening for the Mayor's Annual Christmas Concert; by attending you will be supporting two excellent local charities – The Guildford Veterans Hub and The Matrix Trust.

Even though Guildford Borough remains one of the most affluent areas in Surrey, it still has pockets of deprivation. My theme for the year is 'Making Connections for the Wellbeing of our Communities'. During my Mayoral year I am working with as many small, local charities as possible (reflecting my experiences and interests) to help them to continue to provide services and support to those in need of help across our Borough.

Having served in the Territorial Army for nearly 20 years, I am aware of the sacrifice and service our Armed Forces community provide. The Guildford Veterans Hub is based at Guildford Fire Station. They do great work in supporting our serving and ex-service personnel by providing a safe and secure environment where veterans can meet, enjoy friendship, receive advice, and access services, all under one roof!

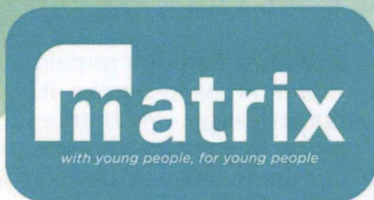
Having been a teacher for 8 years, I am passionate about making a difference to young people's lives, especially those who are vulnerable and at-risk. The Matrix Trust does this very well by building long-term relationships with young people and providing activities that nurture, inspire, connect, and empower them.

I would like to thank Rotary in Guildford for organising tonight's concert and for their charitable support to the Guildford community over the last 100 years. Their support to our local charities has been amazing. I would also like to thank the Vivace Chorus for performing at this wonderful concert. They have been a great part of Guildford's cultural life for over 75 years.

Finally, I do hope you enjoy tonight's concert and may I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

THE MAYOR'S CHOSEN CHARITIES MATRIX TRUST

THE MAYOR'S CHOSEN CHARITY



For nearly 25 years, The Matrix Trust has been a lifeline for vulnerable young people across Guildford Borough. As a dedicated Christian charity, we believe that listening to young people and building positive relationships gives them hope and the opportunity to realise their unique potential.

Operating in both schools and the community, we work with at-risk youth to nurture, inspire, connect, and empower them. Our professional, Mental Health First Aid trained Youth Workers play a vital role within the pastoral system, providing support and guidance as young people navigate life's challenges. We address the growing emotional wellbeing and mental health needs, offering both preventative care and responsive support.

In the community, we create safe spaces for young people to make friends and access opportunities through workshops, work experience, and traineeships. By partnering with local organisations, churches, and schools, we help youth thrive and become active citizens.

As part of Mindworks Surrey and a founding partner of the Surrey Wellbeing Partnership, we are committed to improving the wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. Join us in this mission—your support can help transform lives!

www.matrixtrust.com

Registered Charity Number: 1081852
Company Number: 03977050

THE MAYOR'S CHOSEN CHARITIES GUILDFORD'S VETERANS HUB



A thought, "we need to do more for those who are serving or have served in the military and left". This is the driver for the veteran's hub at Guildford Fire Station

We know that they are a proud group of individuals and as so are very reluctant to ask for help.

With that in mind we in SFRS chose to make a decision about, how can we offer help in a way that would not dent the pride of an ex-service personnel and allow them to still feel valuable for their time in the military and since.

The concept of a bacon roll and a brew on a fire station was born...

We contacted all the major veteran's charities to see if they had contact in our area to advertise the drop in. We also spoke to the local council to see if there were ex service personnel on their accommodation lists. We advertised on social media, contacted the military barracks in Surrey and beyond to advertise our events. We used word of mouth and the message spread.

Set two hours aside once a month on a fire station and invite them. The drop in sessions can be used to signpost and offer support and information about benefits and entitlements that they may not be aware of, or just have a free bacon roll, a coffee and a chat with likeminded people.

The funding we need is to stock up on ancillary's such as cups, hot water boiler, and enough equipment to make hot drinks. We will also use funding to help with transport for those who may find it difficult to travel to the hub at Guildford Fire Station.

We have taken some of the veterans on trips such as the arboretum in Staffs and the Royal hospital in Chelsea. These were able to be facilitated due to funding we received.

We offer the veterans who include blue light services veterans as well as ex military veterans afternoon tea on remembrance Saturday the day before remembrance Sunday.

THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT
with VIVACE CHORUS

Conductor: Jeremy Backhouse
Organist/pianist: Willow Northeald

Welcome by Canon Simon Butler

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

Solo

Once in royal David's city

Stood 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

Up! Good Christian folk and listen (arr. G.R. Woodward)
Sure on this shinning night (Samuel Barber)
Gabriel's Message (Basque carol, arr. Jonathan Rathbone)

Audience Carol (E. H. Sears, English trad. melody, arr. 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 Charles Martin

Luke 1 verses 26-35

Choir

I saw three ships (English trad. arr. David Willcocks)
Nativity Carol (John Rutter)
A babe is born (William Mathias)

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

Candlelight Carol (John Rutter)
O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam, arr. John E West)

INTERVAL

Wine, Soft Drinks & Mince Pies available

Choir

In dulci jubilo (German trad., arr. Robert L. de Pearsall)
Myn Lyking (R.R.Terry)
Birthday Carol (David Willcocks)

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 Lis Martin

Extract from *Cider with Rosie* by Laurie Lee

Choir

Personent hodie (German, arr. Gustav Holst)
In the bleak mid-winter (Harold Darke)

Audience Carol (English trad., arr. David Willcocks)

All

God rest you merry, gentlemen

Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day;
To save us all from Satan's power,
when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

All

From God our Heavenly Father,
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

All

The Shepherds at these tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
This blessed babe to find
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Choir

But when to Bethlehem they came
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

All

Now to the Lord sing praises
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

Choir

Jingle bells (J. Pierpont, arr. Bob Chilcott)
Away in a manger (W.J. Kirkpatrick. arr. Bob Chilcott)
The Twelve Days of Christmas (English trad., arr. John Rutter)

Address by the Mayor of Guildford Councillor Sallie Barker

Introduced by The President of the Rotary Club of Guildford Wey

Mr Michael Ramcharan

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
(Trad., West country, arr. Bob Chilcott)

VIVACE CHORUS MEMBERS SINGING IN THIS CONCERT

First Sopranos: Sandra Adamson, Helen Beevers, Mary Broughton, Jo Haviland, Isabel Holdaway, Isobel Humphreys, Becky Kerby, Suzie Maine, Fran MacKay, Michelle Mumford, Sue Norton, Sian Prentice, Gillian Rix, Sarah Smithies, Barbara Tansey, Joanie Thomas, Georgie von Schweinitz, Miriam White.

Second Sopranos: Jackie Alderton, Gill Backhouse, Jane Barnes, Scarlett Close, Ann Fuller, Margaret Kay, Alex Nash, Alison Palmer, Kate Peters, Weronika Rabsztyń, Mary Somerville, Sarah von Schweinitz, Chris Wilks, Eiri Williams.

First Altos: Barbara Barklem, Jackie Bearman, Jane Brooks, Amanda Burn, Philippa Curtis, Fiona Davidge, Valentina Faedi, Lynne Hargreaves, Sheila Hodson, Jean Leston, Lis Martin, Penny McLaren, Christine Medlow, Ros Milton, Lilly Nicholson, Eleanor Pinnegar, Linda Ross, Catherine Shacklady, Marjory Stewart, Julia Stubbs, Nicola Telcik, Hilary Trigg, Anna Williams, Maggie Woolcock.

Second Altos: Geraldine Allen, Sheena Ewen, Jo Glover, Pauline Higgins, Penny Macfarlane, Kay McManus, Val Morcom, Pamela Murrell, Sonja Nagle, Lucy Schonberger, Jo Stokes, Rosey Storey, Esther van Rooyen, June Windle.

First Tenors: Bob Bromham, Andrea Dombrowe, Martin Price, John Trigg

Second Tenors: Stephen Linton, Charles Martin, Tim Wray.

First Basses: Paul Barnes, Richard Broughton, Andrew Linden, Jon Long, Keith McLurey, Malcolm Munt, Phil Stanford, Rob Walker, Chris Newbery, Brian John, Jeremy Johnson.

Second Basses: Peter Andrews, Stuart Gooch, Mike Johns, Chris Peters, Andrew Robertson, Richard Wood.

ABOUT VIVACE CHORUS



[Photo © Ash Mills]

Jeremy Backhouse *Music Director*
Francis Pott *Accompanist*
Richard Dacey *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** or pay a visit to our website, **vivacechorus.org**. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter - **@VivaceChorus**.

Vivace Chorus is a Registered Charity No. 1026337

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 and Sing: Berlioz *Te Deum*

Saturday 15th Feb 2025 10:00am Guildford Baptist Church

We'll be singing this wonderful work in the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday July 13th 2025 – with around 500 singers, the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra and soloists Lucy Crowe and Nicky Spence. Why not come and experience this wonderful music for yourself at our Come & Sing? As always, your ticket includes music hire, tea and coffee and a Vivace lunch.

Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*

Saturday 22nd March 2025 7:30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Guildford

"Dear God, there you have it, finished, this poor little Mass. Is it really sacred music or is it damned music that I have created? I was born for opera buffa, as you well know! Little technique, a little heart, that is all. So may you be blessed and grant me Paradise." This is what Rossini wrote at the end of his manuscript for the *Petite Messe Solennelle* – not a 'poor little Mass' at all. In fact, it's quite unlike any other Mass for several reasons, and is beloved of audiences and musicians alike.

Berlioz *Te Deum*, Ravel *Daphnis and Chloe*, Poulenc *Gloria* Sunday 13 July 2025 Royal Albert Hall

This will be an epic performance!

The thrilling combination of the combined voices of four adult choirs, two youth choirs, the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra with Royal Albert Hall's organ and world-renowned soloists Lucy Crowe and Nicky Spence will guarantee a night to remember.

Further details at vivacechorus.org

ROTARY IN GUILDFORD



Over a century ago on July 14th 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.

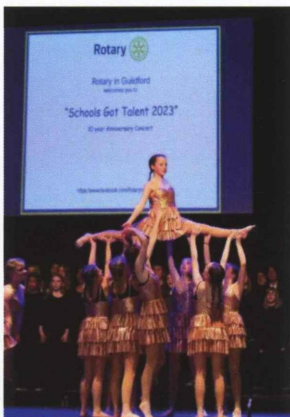
In 1951, the Rotary Club held its first Christmas Carol Concert in the town's Methodist Church to raise funds for the Mayor's Christmas Fund. The Club is still staging it... over 70 years later!

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 charities.



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



A J Benne ith & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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Services

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Whatever your Finance needs we can help, whether its accounting, auditing or just your personal tax return.

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Email: info@bennewith.co.uk

A full list of our services is available on our website:

www.bennewith.co.uk



A J Benne  ith & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ROTARY IN GUILDFORD & 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:

*Canon Simon Butler, The Parish of Holy Trinity and St. Mary's, Guildford
Guildford Borough Council, Jeremy Backhouse
Willow Northeald, Inner Wheel Club of Guildford*