

# Charlton Kings Choral Society

## March 2018 Newsletter

---

Our first event this spring is the St George's Day service in Gloucester Cathedral on Monday 23 April. Always a stirring and ceremonial occasion, this year we will mark the centenary of the death of the composer Hubert Parry, who lived in Gloucestershire at Hingham Court. We will perform his magnificent anthem 'I was glad', a setting of Psalm 122 first performed at the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902, and heard at every coronation since. In addition, we will include his hymn tunes for 'Jerusalem' and 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind'.

For our concert in St Andrew's Church on Saturday 19 May we will celebrate the music of John Rutter, one of this country's most popular and most performed composers. It is now over 50 years since he first achieved recognition as a student at Cambridge composing Christmas carols. His *Requiem* was written in 1985, joining other distinguished settings of this solemn text. Rutter made his own personal selection of words, combining the traditional Latin from the Catholic liturgy with passages in English from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, including Psalms 23 and 130. The work comprises seven sections, forming an arch-like meditation on the themes of life and death. A soprano soloist is used for two of the movements, and we will be performing the version for organ and six instruments. John Rutter has clearly continued to value the *Requiem* highly throughout his long career, as he made a new recording of it in 2016.

*The Sprig of Thyme* shows Rutter at his very best in the art of arranging. Recently we enjoyed his arrangements of Spirituals in *Feel the Spirit*, and here we have a similar compilation of folksongs that he has arranged very skilfully over the years. Folksongs are an important part of our national heritage, and many became more universally known in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when they were collected and written down by Vaughan Williams, Cecil Sharp and others. Rutter has regarded it as one of his duties to preserve this heritage by showing many of these songs in a new light through choral arrangements. There are some lovely tunes to sing here, and both the upper and lower voices of the choir get the chance to sing separately. This concert will have a fine balance of the sacred and the secular.

Looking further ahead briefly, autumn 2018 will have the theme of Remembrance to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1, and Fauré's *Requiem* (in a new arrangement for a small number of instruments) will be the main work. In the first half we will perform several large-scale anthems on the theme of Remembrance by English composers. This concert will also be in St Andrew's Church. We return to the Pump Room on Saturday 25 May 2019 for a concert featuring Haydn's 'Nelson' Mass, together with coronation anthems by Handel. There is much to look forward to, and we appreciate your continuing support of CKCS!

## Fund Raising Events

Our fundraising event **Let the Evening Be Gin** in November 2017 was very enjoyable and thanks must go to Penny and Edward Kain for hosting the event. We raised just over £300.

**Carol Singing in aid of Marie Curie** in December was a warmer event than usual as Waitrose kindly let us sing in the foyer. We made just over £230 (in an hour) and a big thank you to all those who came and sang.

### Quiz Night Friday 23 March 2018 at 7 30 pm for 7 45 pm start

Teams of 6, which you can either make up before the night - or join a team of others on arrival. Civil Service Sports Club in Tewkesbury Road: be there by 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. Contact Hugh Barton (07792 251470) for tickets. (£12 per person) Food provided at the Interval.

## About Charlton Kings Choral Society

Charlton Kings Choral Society consists of around 80 singers. It was founded in 1957 in Charlton Kings, and continues to perform regularly at venues there and around Cheltenham. It has evolved to become one of the leading mixed-voice choirs in the Cheltenham area; the repertoire includes popular choral classics, more rarely heard works and contemporary commissions. The choir's concerts are always conducted by John Wright, and usually accompanied by Cheltenham's professional orchestra, the Regency Sinfonia.

**If you're not already in CKCS, come and join us!** Whether you're an experienced singer or completely new to choral singing, you will be made most welcome. See [ckcsonline.org.uk](http://ckcsonline.org.uk) or phone Val Jordan (Secretary) 01242 510820 or Nick Symondson (Chairman) 01242 573205.

## Dates for Your Diary

### Saturday 19 May 2018, 7.30pm

*St Andrew's Church, Montpellier  
Cheltenham*

John Rutter – *Requiem* and  
*The Sprig of Thyme*

Conductor: John Wright

### Saturday 24 November 2018, 7.30 pm

*St Andrew's Church, Montpellier  
Cheltenham*

Anthems on the theme of Remembrance  
*Fauré – Requiem*

Conductor: John Wright

<http://www.ckcsonline.org.uk/>



find us on

**Facebook**