



## The History of Thames Vale Singers

Thames Vale Singers started life in 1958 when some local Womens' Institute ladies formed the choir and used Purley Memorial Hall for rehearsals. The choir's name was derived from the view from the window of the hall. In the beginning we performed concert versions of musicals in costume in the Memorial Hall, and have given many concerts of Gilbert and Sullivan. Through the years there have been a number of Musical Directors each making their own contribution to the choir. The choir's repertoire has now a much broader base which includes part songs, spirituals, madrigals, popular music, and the sacred and classical - almost anything in fact.

Although we strive for the highest musical standards, irrespective of what we are currently singing we always have fun. Rehearsals are usually punctuated with hilarity (even those for Mozart's Requiem!). We believe that the social nature of the choir, the wide repertoire and the accent on enjoyment gives the Thames Vale Singers its unique character. We are very much a community choir and support local churches and other organisations.

Our base is Purley Memorial Hall (where we started) and we rehearse on a Tuesday night. We believe in open access and require no auditions or demonstration of previous musical experience from potential members. However in order to preserve the current size of the choir, and to maintain balance, we place a limit on the numbers to each part and operate a waiting list system when parts are full.

Bernard Soper has been musical director since 2005. A music teacher by profession he has brought a wealth of experience of directing choral and musical groups, as well as technical knowledge in the art of singing. Under his guidance the choir has developed and is still improving.

Peter Bernard, our accompanist has been with us many years and we never cease to be in awe of his keyboard skills either as accompanist or soloist.

# The Thames Vale Singers Christmas Concert

including

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

by Heinrich Schütz

at

## The Barn Purley on Thames

Musical Director: Bernard Soper

Accompanist: Peter Bernard

### Future Concert

Thames Vale Singers will be performing a concert as part of the Purley on Thames, Diamond Jubilee celebrations. This will be held at the Barn on Tuesday 5 June 2012.

Keep watching our website for further details.  
[www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk)

Friday 16 December 2011

Saturday 17 December 2011

website: [www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk](http://www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk)





# PROGRAMME



"The Christmas Story" (items shown **bold**)

- Choir      **No 1 Overture**
- All        O Come all ye faithful (verses 1, 2, 6)  
*J.F.Wade, arr. D Willcocks*
- Choir      **Evangelist**
- Choir      **Angel Aria**
- All        The First Nowell (verses 1, 2, 4, 6)  
*English traditional carol, arr. D Willcocks*
- Choir      **Evangelist**
- Choir      **Angels Chorus**
- All        While shepherds watched their flocks  
*From Este's Psalter (1592), arr. D Willcocks*
- Choir      **Evangelist**
- Choir      **Shepherds in the field**
- Choir      **Evangelist**
- All        Once in Royal David's City (verses 1, 2, 6)  
*H J Gauntlett, words by C F Alexander, arr. D Willcocks*
- Choir      **Evangelist**
- Choir      Birthday Carol  
*Words & music by David Willcocks*
- Choir      **Evangelist**
- Choir      **Wise men from the east**
- All        We Three Kings  
*Words & music J H Hopkins, arr. D Willcocks*
- Choir      **Evangelist**
- Choir      **Herod's Aria**
- Choir      **Evangelist**
- Choir      **Angel Aria**
- Choir      Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
*Polish Carol, arr. D Willcocks*
- Choir      **Evangelist**
- Choir      Coventry Carol  
*Words from the 'Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors', arr. Martin Shaw*
- All        Hark the Herald Angels Sing  
*Words by Charles Wesley, Music by F Mendelssohn, arr. D Willcocks*
- Choir      **Final Chorus**
  
- Soloists**
- Soprano    Sally De Frates - 'Angel Aria'
- Tenors      Norman Bagshaw - 'Evangelist'
- Paul Livingston - 'Herod's Aria'

- Choir      White Christmas  
*Words and music by Irving Berlin*
- Reading    A Legend of Robin Redbreast    *by Louise Batts Egan*  
*read by Dilys Rogers*
- Choir      Winter Wonderland  
*Words by Dick Smith, music by Felix Bernard*
- Reading    Ashes to Ashes    *by Nigel Smith*  
*read by John Wigmore*
- Choir      Jingle Bells  
*J Piermont, arr. Wilcocks*
- Reading    Just Doing My Job    *by Clare Bevan*  
*read by Dave Waldock*
- Choir      Mary Had a Baby  
*Spiritual, arr. Maurice Gardner*
- Reading    The Innkeeper of Bethlehem *by Marian Swinger*  
*read by Jo Day*
- Reading    Nativity    *by Jan Dean*  
*read by Mike Adnett*
- Choir      Diamond Bright  
*Words and music by Lin Marsh*
- Reading    Turkey's Lament    *by Sheila Allen*  
*read by Sheila Allen*
- Choir      Mistletoe and Wine  
*Words by Leslie Stewart & Jeremy Paul, music by Keith Strachan*

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Christmas Story, by Heinrich Schütz was composed in the mid to late 17th century at a time when the glories of harmony were being focused into our modern system of keys and tonality.

German composers revelled in the joys of the new rich full harmony and the 'Christmas Story' is no exception. Written as a part of a religious service, Schütz would have included chorales for the congregation to sing to mark their part in the story and anthems as moments of meditation and prayer. Although Schütz would not have used carols, we are incorporating well known carols and invite you to join us in taking part of this drama of the biblical story of Christmas.



## INTERVAL - REFRESHMENTS



Staging provided by **PURLEY PLAYERS**

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

