

Monday 16 December 2024, 8:00pm  
St John's Church, Harpenden

## Ring Out, Wild Bells

Traditional and contemporary carols for choir and audience

Supporting Harpenden Mencap

Richard Hills - Organ  
Matthew Woodward - Piano

Michael Veazey - Conductor

Join us for seasonal refreshments in the Church Hall

Programme notes included in ticket price.

Tickets: Unreserved £18; Students £9; Under 16 Free  
Book online; click [here](#)

We were very pleased to have a good audience at St Johns Church.

The Choir opened the concert with **A Great and Mighty Wonder**, an Old German tune harmonised by M. Praetorius, followed by the popular **Ding Dong! Merrily on High**, based on a C.16 secular French dance tune. Then the audience joined in **O little town of Bethlehem**, a traditional English tune arranged by Vaughan Williams.

The first reading was an excerpt from **How Green was my Valley** by Richard Llewellyn. Then the choir sang **Deck the Hall**, a traditional Welsh carol, and **Nativity Carol**, one of John Rutter's earliest pieces.

After a reading of **Why the Bells Chimed** by Raymond Alden, the audience joined in the popular **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**.

In keeping with the concert theme, the choir sang **Carol of the Bells**, a popular Christmas carol based on the Ukrainian New Year's song "Shchedryk." This was followed by **The Coventry Carol**, a more serious C.16 English Christmas carol.

A reading of **Ring out, Wild Bells** by Alfred Tennyson, was followed by the choir singing, **Adam lay ybounden**, a C.15 macaronic English text of unknown origin. Then the audience joined in, **It Came Upon The Midnight Clear**, a traditional English tune adapted by Sir Arthur Sullivan.

As in previous years, Richard Hills delighted us all with an improvised organ solo on Christmas melodies.

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**, an anonymous C.18 carol, was the last piece which everyone sang.

Matthew Woodward & Michael Veazey treated us to a delightful **Sleigh Ride for Piano Duet** by Leroy Anderson.

The choir ended the concert with the light hearted **Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas** and the traditional West Country Carol, **We Wish You a Merry Christmas**.



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