

## Who Are The Cromwell Singers?

FORMED in 1976 by Stanley Kirk to perform a single concert, the Cromwell Singers have become well established in the choral life of the Newbury area.

The Cromwells decided to continue after their inception and grew to their present size of approximately 50 voices.

Our current Musical Director is Rosemary Evans, whose day job is teaching at St. Mary's School in Calne. Her weekend work includes being Musical Director and Organist at St. Mary's Church, Kintbury and in the evenings, when she is not training choirs, she teaches private pupils in the local area.

## When and Where We Meet

We are a friendly group of folk whose philosophy is one of combining musical enjoyment for our members and for our audience, whilst allowing members to develop their musical skills in a supportive environment.

We welcome new members in the Alto, Tenor or Bass sections—currently there is a waiting list for Sopranos.

Rehearsals are held in Speen Village Hall, Speen Lane, Newbury on Tuesday evenings between 7:45 pm and 9:45 pm from August to July.

We start rehearsing for the upcoming season on the 11th January 2011.

## What We Sing

The Cromwell Singers have a long tradition of singing a variety of different styles of music, mainly shorter pieces, including medleys of songs from musicals, classical pieces and lighter items. A music committee meets regularly to discuss the programme content, with feedback from the choir members.

## What We Do

Each season we perform concerts by invitation for charitable causes. Over the years many thousands of pounds have been raised and we have given pleasure to those who come to support both our endeavours and the cause.

During 2009 we raised around £2,500 for charities including 'Swings and Smiles', 'Children in Distress' and local churches.

We welcome enquiries from local charities and fund raisers who may wish to consider a concert as part of their programme of events.



**Cromwell Singers**

**making  
music**



**Of Newbury**

# It's Beginning To Look Like Christmas!

Musical Director: Rosemary Evans

Accompanist: Daphne George

**Saturday 20th November 2010 3pm**

**St Mary's Church, Speen, Newbury**

**with guests**

**Barfield Handbell Ringers**

**Saturday 4th December 2010 3pm**

**St Mary's Church, Shaw, Newbury**

**with guests**

**Downwind Early Music Consort**

**"The choir produced a good harmonious sound and their  
enthusiasm was apparent in their performance"**

**Arthur Cook, Newbury Weekly News Dec 2009**

# PROGRAMME

## The Cromwell Singers

It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas  
Meredith Willson arr. Mac Huff  
The Twelve Days of Christmas  
English traditional carol arr. John Rutter  
Children go where I send thee  
Christmas Spiritual arr. Daryl Runswick

## Audience Carols

## Guest Artists

## INTERVAL

## Guest Artists

## The Cromwell Singers

Ring out the bells  
Roger Emerson  
Angels' Carol  
John Rutter  
Christmas-tide  
Bob Chilcott

## Audience Carols

A Bit of Holiday Cheer  
Christmas medley arr. Teena Chinn

## Thanks

The Cromwell Singers would like to thank the Greenham Common Trust for their grant to the choir.

## The Barfield Handbell Ringers

The team was started by Bill Butler in 1865, drawing its members from the tower bell ringers at St Mary's Church, Thatcham. They met once a week at his home in Barfield Road - hence the name - to practise tune ringing on the sixteen handbells purchased by the Thatcham ringers from James Shaw of Bradford in 1885. They had been preserved in the ringing chamber of the tower and were in remarkably good condition. These same bells will be used by Barfield's ensemble group of eight ringers in today's concert.

The full Barfield team currently numbers 14 ringers and uses a complete five and a half chromatic octave set of bells with another two and a half chromatic octave set as duplicates, making ninety-five bells in all. They also have a three chromatic octave set of handchimes.

## Downwind Early Music Consort

*Downwind* is a renaissance band that plays mainly 16th and 17th century music on recorders and various reed instruments such as crumhorns and cornamuse. The band performs in period costume; the music and spectacle serving to enhance the atmosphere of the occasion. The consort has performed for mediaeval banquets, mystery plays, early dance events, Shakespearian plays, themed events and various local festivals and concerts. There is an abundance of tuneful music dating from this period and *Downwind* specialises in unusual arrangements that can be tailored to suit the occasion. Its range of historically-accurate instruments includes pipe and tabor, Glastonbury pipe, gemshorn, rauschpfeife, crumhorn, cornamusa and recorder.

## Future Cromwell Singers concerts

Saturday 4th June 2011—St Mary's Church, Shaw, Newbury  
Proceeds for Christian Aid

Saturday 11th June 2011—The Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Lambourn  
Proceeds for church funds

Saturday 18th June 2011—West Berkshire Mencap Centre, Newbury  
Proceeds for West Berkshire Mencap

## Further Information

For further choir information please  
e-mail [cromwell.singers@googlemail.com](mailto:cromwell.singers@googlemail.com)  
Or visit our website <http://cromwells.newbury.net/>