



Yes, it's coming soon!

Our Big Concert at the Town Hall – Sunday December 11th

...and you can still get tickets – especially bargain tickets in the gallery.



What's in prospect?

A great night of music with the Choir, Colne Valley Boys and probably the best brass band in the world, Brighouse & Rastrick.

To get you in the mood, here is a terrific song the Boys will be doing.

It's called, '*Bethlehem*' and here it is sung by the **Barnsley Youth Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bzpya4Y4Xhq>



And here's another little gem



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ez2kAUhzQVg>

One of the numbers the B&R Band will be performing, is called, '**March of the Wooden Soldiers**'.

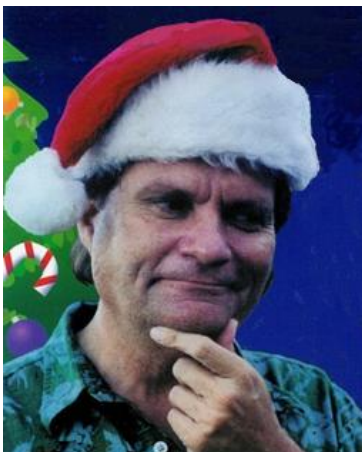
It's by a German chap called Leon Jessel. Jessel (1871-1942) is a composer best known today just for this jaunty march.

The pictorial qualities of his music make it popular, particularly with children, because of its arm-swinging melody and strutting rhythm.

It's played here by **Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra**.

And there's still more.....

The band will also be venturing into Jazz territory with their version, quite different from the Choir's of, '**O Holy Night**'. The arranger, **Tom Kubis**, plays it here with his Big band. You'll like it – and of course it will be better still in the Town Hall with our fabulous instrumentalists.



Tom Kubis



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4mbbnluic>

New boys and old boys

Two new baritones, **John Kilner** and **Kieran Chadha** were welcomed into membership last Monday. They were amongst the newcomers who came to October's **Open Rehearsal**.



Kieran tells VotV, "I've lived most of my life in the Colne Valley, with a short sojourn in Cambridge, and we now live in Netherton. I've followed the Choir for a good many years - attending the Marsden Christmas Concert and Concert on the Hill, on-and-off, over the last decade or so. (crikey!)

I work for a company that's based in Manchester, writing and designing sales and training presentations for a wide range of clients, then coaching their teams to deliver them effectively.

I've not really got a musical background. I've always admired CVMVC and finally plucked up the courage to attend an open rehearsal to give it a try."

As for **John**, he says, "I'm always looking forward to a Monday night; thoroughly enjoy singing. It's both relaxing and rewarding. I'm a Structural Design Engineer, born and bred in Huddersfield with two grown-up children, Claire 36 and disabled Gareth 29.

I started singing out and about maybe 7 years ago - used to be a guest singer in a reggae band... did that for nearly 3 years".

VotV wishes them many happy years of singing with us.

Not so new to membership are **John Radcliffe** and **Ian McCaul**. Here John congratulates Ian for achieving **25 years of membership**. John, it must be said, has been around for 'Donkey's Years'. We're all new boys to him. Only Keith Swallow matches his longevity with CVMVC.

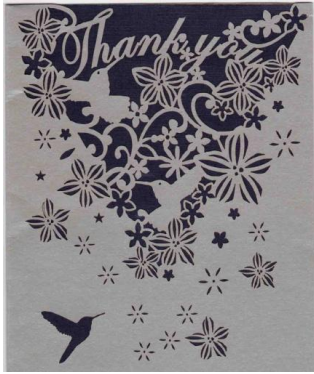
Ian, a Bradford lad, now living in Fixby with Liz (to whom he's been married for 45 years) writes, "I sang very briefly in the school choir but that was it until I met up with a friend, **Kevin Martin**, a former first tenor. We were coaching our sons playing Rugby for the **YMCA** at **Salendine Nook** and Kevin said, 'You sound like a 2nd tenor to me' and the rest is history.



The first event after my test was the Christmas Concert followed by the **1000 voices** at **The Royal Albert Hall**. I've always enjoyed singing, '**Two Roses**,' '**Bon Jour Mon Coeur**' and '**True Love**'."

Well done, Ian! Well done all four of you

A moving occasion



All those who were there at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 6th November couldn't help but be moved by the event.

What a most wonderful service,
thoughtful and uplifting
Thank you

*What a most wonderful service,
thoughtful and uplifting*

It is a secular service, organised by the Staff at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary's Intensive Care Unit. The idea is for the friends and families of patients who didn't make it, to recall the loss of their loved ones and to celebrate their lives.

ICU doctors and nurses talked and read poems, their contributions interspersed by music from the Choir. At one point, people were invited to come down and light a candle in memory of their departed.

What a beautiful ceremony - very poignant
memories and brought together by
an incredibly kind ICU team
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This is an event that the Choir does voluntarily and happily, not least because it's moving for us, too, but also because - as can be seen from the feedback - it is evidently helpful and meaningful to the bereaved who come to take part.



Lovely Service, Choir beautiful & provided a lovely focus at an
emotional time - Also lovely to see friendly, familiar faces in
the ICU Staff & nurses Thank you

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Sad News

Peter Denby and Jenny Baxter informed *VotV* that sadly **David Halstead** died a couple of days ago. (23rd November)

"He had been a member of the bass section for 22 years and he will be greatly missed."

Here we see David at Cornwall's Eden Centre in 2009 surrounded by fellow basses; Stuart Baxter, Noel Clark and John Wimpenny (in the front). The other two are Neil Jennings (deceased) and John Morrison.



Readers will note the green jackets we used to sport.

For many years David was 'wardrobe master'. He would meet up with new members and get them kitted out with green jackets, grey flannels, shirt and tie – the Choir's 'day wear' at the time. So every new recruit got to meet him. He was unfailingly helpful, very efficient and always kindly - the face of the Choir to us new boys.

At Monday's rehearsal, the first meeting since the news, as is traditional, the Choir sang the 'Fourfold Amen' in his honour. This short but very beautiful piece, written by former conductor, George Stead, was followed by a few moments of silent reflection about a brother departed.

Jenny continues, "Our thoughts go out to Aileen and his family. I can tell readers that the funeral service is to be held at St John's Church in Newsome (Jackroyd Lane, HD4 6JH for satnav purposes). It will be at 3:30 pm on December 7th.

No doubt the Choir, all those who can, will want to turn out in his memory."



Boys Concert at St James

December 3rd at 3 o'clock in **St James Church Slaithwaite**, come and see **Colne Valley Boys** and their guests in their Christmas concert.

I know some of you will be thinking, 'I can't be bothered to turn out.'

But it would be a huge mistake. VotV can tell you that from past experience it'll be a fantastic afternoon.

The Choir had its 'joint rehearsal' with the Boys on Monday night. Be assured they are in fine form. They sound great!

It's not only the Boys who will be superb, there's also a terrific brass ensemble. It's now called '**Musica Youth Brass**' but fans will recall this band as the former '**Kirklees Music School**' outfit.

Then there is the '**Teacher's Choir**', that will be determined to show they can have fun and sing beautifully, too.



Do make the effort - we can guarantee it will be rewarded!

And don't forget to put the Marsden Christmas Concert in your diary, either

It's fast becoming an essential part of the Marsden Christmas.

Local people love it. And it's not just folk from the village. People come from all around the Colne Valley and from much further afield, too. In fact, VotV knows of one couple who come especially from Southern Germany to be there.

The **Marsden Silver Prize Band** may be the village band – but there is nothing parochial about their performance standards - they can hold their head up against competition from anywhere in the country. Conductor, **Alan Widdop**, will bring out the best in them.

This year, there's a fine new soprano, **Esme Barber**, to add to the pleasure.

The **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir** will be relaxed and in the mood for fun and with compere, **Peter Armitage** doing the talking there will be a warm and welcoming atmosphere.



A festive poster for the Marsden Christmas Concert. It features a large white bow at the top against a red background with a subtle floral pattern. The text is arranged in a circular frame. At the top, it says 'MARSDEN PARISH CHURCH presents a Christmas Concert'. Below this, it lists the featured acts: 'MARSDEN SILVER PRIZE BAND' with Musical Director Alan Widdop, and 'COLNE VALLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR' with Musical Director Thom Meredith and Accompanist Keith Swallow. A soloist, Esme Barber (Soprano), is also mentioned, along with compere Peter Armitage, M.B.E. The concert is held at St. Bartholomew's Church on Saturday, 17th Dec. 2016, from 7.30pm. A note indicates that wine and soft drinks will be served throughout the concert. At the bottom, a green box contains ticket information: £10.00 for adults (including tea or coffee) and £5.00 for children, available from the band, choir, church, or Duncan (Hairdresser) at Warehouse Hill, Marsden. A photograph of the Marsden Silver Prize Band playing brass instruments is at the bottom of the poster.

MARSDEN PARISH CHURCH
presents a
Christmas Concert
featuring
MARSDEN SILVER PRIZE BAND
Musical Director: Alan Widdop
COLNE VALLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR
Musical Director: Thom Meredith Accompanist: Keith Swallow
Soloist: **ESME BARBER** (Soprano)
Compere: **PETER ARMITAGE, M.B.E.**
St. Bartholomew's Church
Sat. 17th Dec. 2016 - 7.30pm
Wine & Soft Drinks served throughout the concert

Tickets £10.00 (including tea or coffee at the interval) - **Children £5.00**
Available from the Band, Choir, Church or
Duncan (Hairdresser), Warehouse Hill, Marsden. Tel: 01484 845311 (shop hours only)

MARSDEN SILVER PRIZE BAND



Voice of the Valley Editor: John C Clark

Ring Choir Secretary, Jenny Baxter
on 01484 645192
with your queries or
to join our VotV Readers' List

And see our website to get the full story

colnevalleymvc.org.uk

