

ETCETERA – the Civil Service Choir

Forthcoming performances

HANDEL: MESSIAH PART I

Christmas Concert

1.00pm Tuesday 12 December

St Stephen's, Rochester Row, Westminster

Admission free – charity collection

CAROL SERVICE

1.00pm Tuesday 19 December

St Stephen's, Rochester Row, Westminster

Admission free – charity collection

POULENC –STABAT MATER

BRUCKNER - MOTETS

Part of the St John's Smith Square

Holy Week Festival

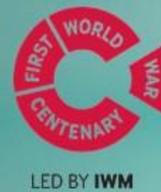
1.00pm Tuesday 27 March 2018

St John's Smith Square, Westminster

Admission free – charity collection

There will be a charity collection as you leave. Please give generously. All proceeds will be shared by:

- The Household Division Charity, providing welfare including help for veterans, especially those wounded on operations, widows and bereaved families
- SSAFA, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association
- The Guards' Chapel



Etcetera
The Civil Service Choir

In Flanders Fields

An Act of Remembrance
on the Centenary
of the Battle of Passchendaele

1pm Friday 10th November 2017

Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks
Birdcage Walk, Westminster

Free admission – Charity collection
civilservicechoir.org.uk

Act of Remembrance on the Centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele

*including the London premiere of
In Flanders Fields by Caz Besterman*

Etcetera – The Civil Service Choir

Conductor: Stephen Hall

Organ: Stephen Axford

Piano: Alan Bowden

CHOIR: O Nata Lux – Morten Lauridsen

WELCOME AND PRAYER: The Reverend Stephen Dunwoody

Teach us good Lord to serve Thee as thou deservest; To give and not to count the cost; To fight and not to heed the wounds; To toil and not to seek for rest; To labour and not to ask for any reward, Save that of knowing that we do Thy will, Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHOIR: In Flanders Fields – Caz Besterman

In Flanders Fields 1 - Who's for the game? (Poem: Jessie Pope 1915)

LCpl Blencowe will be playing by kind permission of Major General B J Bathurst CBE, the Major General Commanding the Household Division. We are also grateful to Major-General B J Bathurst and The Revd S J H Dunwoody CF, Chaplain to the Household Division, for the use of the Guards Chapel.

We would like to thank Westminster Cathedral and the Cardinal Hume Centre for allowing us to use the Sacred Heart Church, Horseferry Road, for our weekly rehearsals.

ETCETERA THE CIVIL SERVICE CHOIR

Choir members are drawn from a wide range of Government Departments and there are currently over 150 active members. Those singing today are listed below.

Sopranos

Topaz Amooore, Katherine Beard, Hannah Brabham, Elizabeth Chrominska, Moira Costello, Nicola Ellis, Carolyn Foxall, Clare Gillett, Daria Gromyko, Laura Haddock, Beverley Howes, Bridget Jones, Diana MacDowall, Catriona Marchant, Gill McManus, Tracie Meisel, Doreen Mitchell, Clare Moriarty, Rosalynd Phillip, Jenny Poon, Alisoun Probert, Rosalind Read-Leah, Maisie Robinson, Rachel Silvey, Adele Stevenson, Olivia Vegh, Tricia Vincent, Anna Wardell

Altos

Judy Addy, Lucy Atkinson, Ayla Bedri, Katharine Charles, Esther Chilcraft, Louisa Chorley, Gillian Clissold, Elspeth Coke, Hannah Crawford, Janet Dixon, Grace Duffy, Maria Freeman, Stephanie Freeth, Janice Grahame, Lottie Haines, Sue Harling, Alison Harvey, Jane Houghton, Diana Killip, Tacey Laurie, Joanne Lowman, Sara Lymath, Sharon Maddix, Jenny Maresh, Eileen Mortby, Mary Obeng, Anne-Marie Pickup, Alicia Pol Mendez, Pamela Roberts, Kim Sibley, Barbara Stewart, Suzanne Verhoven, Edith Walker, Suzanne Wallis, Susan Williams, Rachel Worledge

Tenors

Andrew Davis, Andrew Frost, Jan Gladysz, Giles Lindon, Tim May, Richard Vidal, Paul Whiteside, Pam Whittingham-Webb

Basses

Anthony Aderogba, Chris Bailey, Ian Boughton, Simon Croft, Andrew Cunnane, Michael Denniss, David Freeman, Paul Gillett, Warwick Hawkins, Graham Hysted, Rob Kirtley, Richard Shand, Philipp Thiessen, Christopher Thom, Jonathan Tillson, Ed Walkington

Rehearsal accompanists: Stephen Axford, Alan Bowden

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

The Exhortation: Colonel (Retd.) Hugh Boscawen

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning

We will remember them. **(All) We will remember them.**

Last Post – LCpl Robert Blencowe

Two Minutes Silence

Reveille and Dedication:

When you go home, tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow, we gave our today

(All) HYMN: Be still my soul

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Leave to thy God to order and provide;

In every change, He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend

Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,

And all is darkened in the vale of tears,

Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,

Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.

Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay

From His own fullness all He takes away

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on

When we shall be forever with the Lord.

When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,

Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

BLESSING

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all His servant's life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

(All) NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen!

Long live our noble Queen!

God save the Queen!

Send her victorious,

Happy and glorious,

Long to reign over us,

God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store

On her be pleased to pour,

Long may she reign.

May she defend our laws,

And ever give us cause,

To sing with heart and voice,

God save the Queen.

The Third Battle of Ypres started well with the attack on 7 June 1917 against Messines Ridge, South of the Belgian town of Ypres – ‘Wipers’ to the troops. The offensive then switched to the low-lying ground North East of the town, overlooked by the gentle rise of the Passchendaele Ridge. That August proved unseasonably wet. In October, heavy rain further soaked the ground and hampered the attacking Allied troops and their artillery. An attack on 9th October achieved only limited success, and German defences held firm. As the rain continued, the battlefield began to resemble, in many places, a sea of mud.

The first push towards Passchendaele village on 12th October saw minor advances and heavily involved the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – the ANZACs – and the Guards Division. On that day alone there were 13,000 casualties and in terms of lives lost it remains the greatest disaster in New Zealand's history. German counterattacks soon recaptured lost ground. The Canadian Corps took the lead in a renewed attack on 26th October; on 10 November they finally secured the ruins of the village on the Ridge. The Allies were now on the higher, drier ground and the offensive was closed down; the Third Battle of Ypres was over.

The 15th Battalion of the London Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) fought at Messines, and in the preliminary stages of the Passchendaele battle.

Official records were of 244,897 British Empire casualties killed, wounded or missing, though recent estimates suggest a higher total of around 260,000. The French Army suffered around 8,500 casualties and German losses have been estimated at around 260,000. Tens of thousands of these Allied and German soldiers have no known grave but the Flanders Memorial Garden just outside this Chapel contains soil from each of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries in Flanders.

In the spring of 1918, German forces began major offensives along the Western Front. In Flanders, they swept through much of the ground won by the Allies the previous autumn. Ypres came close to falling, but by late April the German onslaught had been halted. In August, the Allies began their own offensive which continued until the signing of the Armistice.

Ultimately, no less than a quarter of servicemen from across the British Empire killed in action during the First World War lost their lives in the area known as the Ypres Salient. What was known by the British as the ‘Flanders Offensive’ was officially termed ‘The Battles of Ypres, 1917’. By the 1920s, however, it began to be referred to as the ‘Passchendaele Offensive’ and in time simply ‘Passchendaele’.

CHOIR: In Flanders Fields 2 - In Flanders Fields (Poem: John McRae 1915)

READING: Tariq York, Civil Service Reservist

Private Bert Ferns, 2nd/6th Lancashire Fusiliers, describing an attack in October 1917

Mr Kay came up and said 'Come on lads, it's our turn', and we just walked round the corner of the pillbox and up the hill. The Germans didn't have much to fear from me that morning – there was no fire in my belly – no nothing. I staggered up the hill and then dropped over a slope into a sort of gully. It was here that I froze and became very frightened because a big shell had just burst and blown a group of lads to bits; there were bits of men all over the place, a terrible sight, men just blown to nothing. I just stood there. It was still and misty, and I could taste their blood in the air. I couldn't move. I stood there staring. Then an officer came across and shouted we were too far left and must go half right, I would have probably been dead but for him jolting me out of it. These men had just been killed and we just had to wade through them to get on. That's one thing I'll never forget, what I saw and what I smelt.

CHOIR: In Flanders Fields 3 - Perhaps (To R.A.L) (Poem: Vera Brittain 1916)

READING: Rebecca Lefort, Civil Service Reservist

Excerpt from a letter by the mother of Private Ernest Gays, X Corps Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps, Killed in action aged 19

Dear Friend, I am addressing you as friend as any friend of my Boy's is a friend. I thank you for sending us word of how our Dear Ernest died. It is dreadful though to lose our Dear Boy in this way. We would not believe it till we had the letter from someone who saw him.

Did you see my boy after he died, could you tell us how he was? I should like to know what time of day or night it happened (or thereabouts). I am sure we are all the while thinking of you dear lads, hoping for you to be kept safe, and then when these awful tidings are sent us it shakes us. I sent Ernie a parcel off on 21st August; if you could see anything of it, will you share what is good between you and his friends. I shall never forget you and hope you will write often to me. So thanking you I close.

Yours truly, Mrs. Gays p.s. Write soon

CHOIR: In Flanders Fields 4 - The End (Poem: Wilfred Owen 1917)

READING: Tariq York, Civil Service Reservist

Letter from an unknown German officer, 20 September 1917

Dear Mother, On the morning of the 18th, the dug-out, containing seventeen men, was shot to pieces over our heads. I am the only one who withstood the maddening bombardment of three days and still survives. You cannot imagine the frightful mental torments I have undergone in those few hours. After crawling out through the bleeding remnants of my comrades and the smoke and debris, and wandering and fleeing in the midst of the raging artillery fire in search of refuge, I am now awaiting death at any moment. You do not know what Flanders means. Flanders means endless endurance. Flanders means blood and scraps

of human bodies. Flanders means heroic courage and faithfulness, even unto death. Your Otto

CHOIR: In Flanders Fields 5 - The Poet as Hero (Poem: Siegfried Sassoon 1917)

READING: John Manzoni, Civil Service CEO

MEMORIAL TABLET By Siegfried Sassoon (1918)

Squire nagged and bullied till I went to fight,
(Under Lord Derby's Scheme). I died in hell—
(They called it Passchendaele). My wound was slight,
And I was hobbling back; and then a shell
Burst slick upon the duck-boards: so I fell
Into the bottomless mud, and lost the light.
At sermon-time, while Squire is in his pew,
He gives my gilded name a thoughtful stare:
For, though low down upon the list, I'm there;
'In proud and glorious memory' ... that's my due.
Two bleeding years I fought in France, for Squire:
I suffered anguish that he's never guessed.
Once I came home on leave: and then went west...
What greater glory could a man desire?

CHOIR: The Lord is My Shepherd – Will Todd

READING: Revd Stephen Dunwoody, Chaplain

Ecclesiasticus Chapter 44, Verses 1-4, 7-14

Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us.

The Lord hath wrought great glory by them through his great power from the beginning. Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophesies.

Leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent are their instructions.

All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times. There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported.

And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them.

But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten.

With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance, and their children are within the covenant.

Their seed standeth fast, and their children for their sakes.

Their seed shall remain for ever, and their glory shall not be blotted out.

Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore.