



## **Performance at St.Paul's Church, WOLDINGHAM.**

26 November 2022

On Saturday 26th November, at St. Pauls church, Woldingham, a select audience had the good fortune to witness one of the best concerts given by The North Downs consort recently. The opening plainsong chant 'Urbs beata Jerusalem' performed by the choir while processing from different parts of the church provided a dramatic start to the concert as well as establishing the theme for the evening – namely, pieces associated with the city of Jerusalem.

William Boyce's anthem 'I was glad' provided an immediate contrast which in turn was followed by two Tudor era compositions 'The Lamentations of Jeremiah' by Thomas Tallis and 'Civitas sancti tui' by William Byrd. Two twentieth century English choral compositions around a french solo organ piece [mercifully by Felix Guilmant rather than Eugene Gigout] rounded off the first half.

After wine and other light refreshments had been provided at the interval, the choir helped the second half musical offerings - written by J.S.Bach, John Stainer, Edgar Bainton and Felix Mendelssohn - go past pleasantly, each carrying further references to the city of Jerusalem. The audience assisted in making the concert reach a satisfying conclusion by staggering to its feet to join the choir in a rendition of C.H.H.Parry's hymn 'Jerusalem.'

St. Paul's Church Woldingham, with its handy organ provides a very good environment for concerts of this nature particularly when this instrument is played with the skilled discretion of the organist for the night - James Norrey - something that cannot always be guaranteed by others!