



## **THE CHOIR OF ST ANDREW'S, ALFRISTON**

### **Sunday Services and Festivals**

There are usually two services of Holy Communion each month, at which the choir leads the singing, and, currently, two different regular settings of the service are used. The St Thomas setting is sung most often, but at Christmas and Easter the choir sings Masses composed by Haydn, Mozart and Schubert, which although technically more demanding give the choir a huge sense of satisfaction and uplift the congregations. An anthem is also often sung during these services.

On the first Sunday of each month there is usually either Morning Worship or Matins (Book of Common Prayer), which both focus on hymn-singing with psalms, canticles and an anthem.

There are a number of special services throughout the year, all importantly supported by the choir. Most notably are the Christmas services (including a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, and Midnight Mass), and the Festival of Remembrance in November. The latter is a very meaningful and traditional service in memory of the Fallen, and over the years the choir has sung anthems, including Fauré's "Sanctus", Sibelius' "Be Still My Soul" (arranged by Mack Wilberg), and Paul Mealor's "Wherever You Are" (written for Gareth Malone and the Army Wives' choir).

Also in November we celebrate All Souls' with a special Service of Communion commemorating the departed. Names of loved ones are read out and candles are lit during the service, and the choir sings a Requiem (e.g. by Fauré and Rutter), to create a most moving and meaningful occasion.

Easter Sunday Service is marked by uplifting music and in previous years, as well as the Communion anthem, the choir has sung Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus", Mascagni's "Easter Hymn" and "The Heavens are Telling" from Haydn's "Creation".

### **Family Service and Worship Group**

There is usually a Family Service (with Sunday School) at St Andrew's each month, and this is less formal in style, and often lively. At these services the choir moves from the choir stalls to below the transept crossing, to be closer to the congregation in what is a large church. A keyboard or piano accompany the choir at these services, and there is also a small worship band with violin, flutes, guitars and percussion.

### **Weddings and Services of Thanksgiving**

The choir is very popular for weddings (the vast majority taking place on Saturdays), when it is often enhanced with extras voices, and, as well as leading the singing of hymns, an anthem is often sung. Funerals and Services of Thanksgiving are increasingly including the choir, and these services take place on a weekday.