

Patron: Bryn Terfel  
President: Linda Marshall Cole  
Chairman: Dr Stuart Wynne  
Musical Director: Edward Goater



Review of  
**Taunton Choral Society**  
**Handel's *Messiah***  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016**  
**St Mary Magdalene Church, Taunton**

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Hallelujah!

The 'Hallelujah Chorus' is the best known section of Handel's *Messiah* and was sung with tremendous gusto by Taunton Choral Society in their latest concert in Taunton's St Mary Magdalene Church last Saturday. Edward Goater, the choir's new conductor, set a brisk pace - and the choir rose to the occasion with relish and determination.

St Mary's is the biggest capacity venue in Taunton and such was the enthusiasm for this concert that most seats were filled. Taunton Sinfonietta expertly supported the choir with incisive playing and Stuart Paul's trumpet rang out magnificently in 'The trumpet shall sound'. The choir's crisp and dramatic treatment of 'Surely He hath borne our griefs' brought out the full power of the words. Although fewer in number relative to the upper lines the tenors and basses fought through manfully and were impressively undaunted.

A fine line-up of soloists had been engaged, and particularly notable was tenor Eamonn Mulhall's moving performance which fully communicated to the audience the drama of poignant moments such as 'All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn'.

The choir's final romp on the word 'Amen' brought the work to an energetic conclusion, and any loss of majesty caused by the speed was compensated for by the clear enjoyment of the singers! There was much exuberance and energy in this performance which bodes well for the future of Taunton Choral Society.

Miles Quick

19.12.16