

## About our Director

**BENEDICT PREECE** is principally a conductor and is currently Music Director of Caritas Chamber Choir, East Bridge Chorale and Sandwich Concert Band.

He began his career as a Chorister of Canterbury Cathedral and continues to sing in the choir as a Deputy Tenor Lay Clerk. His chamber choir is regularly engaged to deputise for the Cathedral Choir in holiday times.

Study at St Edmund's School, Canterbury was followed by Trinity College of Music, London where he specialised in horn and natural horn under tutelage of Roger Montgomery and subsequently with Anthony Halstead. As an organist Benedict studied with Dr. David Flood and now develops both organ and composition skills with Neil Wright. Currently, Benedict is a freelance organist throughout the south east of England having spent two years as Director of Music of Folkestone Parish Church.

He maintains a busy schedule with all his ensembles. Recent performances have taken place in Lille Cathedral and in the future he will be taking his chamber choir to perform in the Netherlands

(with Cantica Sacra) and Sweden (with Hagamotettkör).

A keen composer, many of his choral works are performed by Caritas in cathedral services and concerts and recently his *Crossing the Bar* was performed in Gothenburg, Sweden.

He has the pleasure of developing his conducting skills through Stephen Portman, himself a former student of George Szell and Pierre Monteux among many others. Benedict continues to attend Peter Stark's renowned conducting courses each year.

When not making music, Benedict spends his time refereeing rugby matches for the RFU across the South East of England.

### Forthcoming concerts

**Saturday 29th October, 7.30pm**, St Stephen's church, Canterbury "The Lord is my Shepherd" from plainsong to polyphony. Retiring collection.

**Evensong in Canterbury Cathedral**  
4th and 25th October; 26th December

● We will be singing the services in Bath Abbey on 1st January, 2017

## HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Visit our website to find out more about the choir and listen to recordings of our performances  
<http://www.caritaschamberchoir.com>

Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Caritas-Chamber-Choir/182654448493205>

Get in touch with Benedict: [benedictpreece@live.co.uk](mailto:benedictpreece@live.co.uk)

Find out about Benedict's other choir: [www.eastbridgechorale.com](http://www.eastbridgechorale.com)

 Follow us on Twitter @caritas\_choir

Programme design: [www.tonygarrett.eu](http://www.tonygarrett.eu)

Caritas  
Chamber  
Choir

Directed by  
Benedict Preece  
with

Cantica Sacra  
of Steenwijk,  
Netherlands

Directed by Claartje  
van Dokkum

# SACRED SONGS

Friday 30th September, 7.30pm

St Peter's Methodist church,  
St Peter's Grove, Canterbury CT12BE

Retiring collection



# Programme

## BOTH CHOIRS:

*Heilig* Mendelssohn

*Northern Lights* Gjeilo

## CANTICA SACRA:

*Flight Song* Arnesene

*Zum Abendsegen* Mendelssohn

*Four Days that Changed the World* Chilcott

## CARITAS:

*Meditabor* Rheinberger

*Peace* Meador

*Ave Maris Stella* Grieg

*My soul there is a country* Parry

*Crossing the Bar* Preece

## BOTH CHOIRS:

*The Ground* Gjeilo

## About Caritas

CARITAS CHAMBER CHOIR is an auditioned choir based in Canterbury, Kent, directed by Benedict Preece. It was formed in 2011 with the aims of performing a varied repertoire to a high standard and raising funds for a range of good causes.

In its relatively short life, the choir has performed hundreds of works and gained an enviable reputation for the quality of its performances and breadth of its repertoire.

Recent highlights include Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, Bruckner's *Masses No.1 and No. 2*, Bach's *Magnificat* and Motets. The choir also performs much contemporary music, regularly programming works by Arvo Pärt, Morten Lauridsen and Ola Gjeilo. We have given the UK premieres of works by Mikael Carlsson and world premieres of pieces by Oliver Lambert.

In 2015 the Choir collaborated with both East Bridge Chorale and Elham Valley Voices. We hope to work more with professional orchestras this year and to strengthen links with our friends in Sweden (Haga Motettkör) and in Holland (Cantica Sacra). We are keen to produce a recording of our favourite works by the end of 2016.

We are privileged to have a strong relationship with Canterbury Cathedral and are regularly invited to sing there.

## About Cantica Sacra



### CARITAS CHAMBER CHOIR



### CANTICA SACRA

CANTICA SACRA is from Steenwijk, a town of around 17,000 inhabitants in the Overijssel province of the Netherlands. It started in 1980 as a small interdenominational choir and now has about 45 members, singing a varied, sometimes surprising, repertoire.

Concerts are held several times a year and the choir can also be heard at events such as Steenwijk's three-day "Kopje Cultuur" festival.

Its Christmas concerts, where English Christmas carols often take centre stage, have become a tradition of the town and the spring concerts are now

indispensable dates for lovers of choral music in the region.

CLAARTJE VAN DOKKUM, the choir's director, started her musical career at an early age, learning trumpet and piccolo. She went on to sing with the Heerenveen Vocal Ensemble where she became aware of a talent for management which led her to a full-time musical career.

Claartje studied voice with Maria Rondel and choral conducting with John Bacon at Leeuwarden Conservatoire. She has been conductor of Cantica Sacra since January 1992.

● For more about Cantica Sacra, visit their website at [www.canticasacra.nl](http://www.canticasacra.nl)