**View from the choir**

The Chelmsford Singers joined forces with the Chelmsford Cathedral choirs and the Chelmsford Sinfonietta on Saturday 10th November for a sell-out Concert of Remembrance to mark the centenary of the ending of the First World War.

The music featured was by turns beautiful, evocative, powerful – and for a performer, quite challenging – but the occasion warranted it. In the first half of the concert we sang John Ireland’s *Greater love hath no man* and Vaughan Williams’ *Lord Thou hast been our refuge*, and gave the UK première of Australian composer Michael Leighton-Jones’ *Remembrance* – settings of poems by Rupert Brooke, John Gillespie Magee and Edward Thomas. The second half was given over to Herbert Howells’ magnificent *Hymnus Paradisi*. What united the message of the whole evening was the reading of a letter written home from the western front exactly one hundred years ago to the day, on 10th November 1918, by a Chelmsford nurse -Kate Luard. If you already belong to a choir you will no doubt be able to imagine the amount of preparation needed!

If you don’t sing – but you think you might like to – then read on. Musical Director of both the Singers and of Chelmsford Cathedral, James Davy is always ambitious – and Saturday’s performance proved the point, but the rehearsals are fun and there is no audition, you merely need to be keen. We give three or four concerts a year: some are with professional orchestra and soloists, some are unaccompanied, and not all are in English. Our summer concert this year, for example, saw us take our audience on a virtual tour of Europe through the ages, in seven different languages.

If all this sounds good – or even if you’re still not sure - why not come and see us at Galleywood Church on Saturday 30th March 2019.