

Sleaford Choral invite you to

SING

Choruses from

**Handel's
MESSIAH**

13.30 - 17.30

Church Doors open at 13.00

Saturday 9th January 2027

This open event is an exciting opportunity to take part in singing Handel's Messiah. All you need in order to take part is a passion for singing. The ability to sight read is not required. People taking part in this event will range in experience but an inability to read music is not a bar to taking part or enjoying the afternoon. Some of you will be very familiar with the Sleaford landscape whilst others, coming from a distance, may be less so. We hope we have designed both the information pack and the afternoon to cater for this wide variation in participants. Please bear with us if you already know much of what the information pack contains, but if it leaves you with further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Contact

Karen Jarvis jarvis589@btinternet.com 07912685037

or

Elaine: at elainehealey@btinternet.com 07885 64435

We hope that you will enjoy the afternoon and look forward to meeting you.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE THE DAY

TICKETS

There will be a nominal fee to help us to cover costs.

This will be £5.00 (non-refundable) for singers who are not members of Sleaford Choral Society (should you subsequently join the society this charge will be reimbursed). Tickets are available in 3 ways:

- Access the Ticketsource booking page for the event at this URL:-

<https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-aayrjmj>

- By scanning the QR code



- Or on the day (cash or cards accepted).

WHAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO BRING

- A soft pencil and eraser.

You are bound to want to make notes. It is generally recommended that musicians write notes on their music using soft pencil such as a 2B pencil. The next music director to use the music may not have the same ideas about dynamics or interpretation and a soft pencil is so much easier to rub out.

- Something on which to make notes.

You may wish to take notes that you can take away with you at the end of the day.

- Water.

It's always good for singers to remain hydrated and a whole afternoon of singing is quite demanding, especially if you are not used to it (tap water is always available should you wish). Although it does not directly affect the vocal cords, a sip of water at room temperature helps the throat feel less dry.

- Music

We will be using the Watkins Shaw edition of the *Messiah*. Copies will be available to borrow, but please bring your own if you have one.

- Tea

There will be a break for tea. Drinks will be available at the venue along with a biscuit or two. You may wish to bring a snack to sustain you.

CHANGE OR CANCELLATION

In the very unlikely event of change to the arrangements or a cancellation, this will be posted on the Choral Society's website.

ON THE DAY

THE VENUE

- St Denys Church Eastgate, Sleaford NG34 7SH

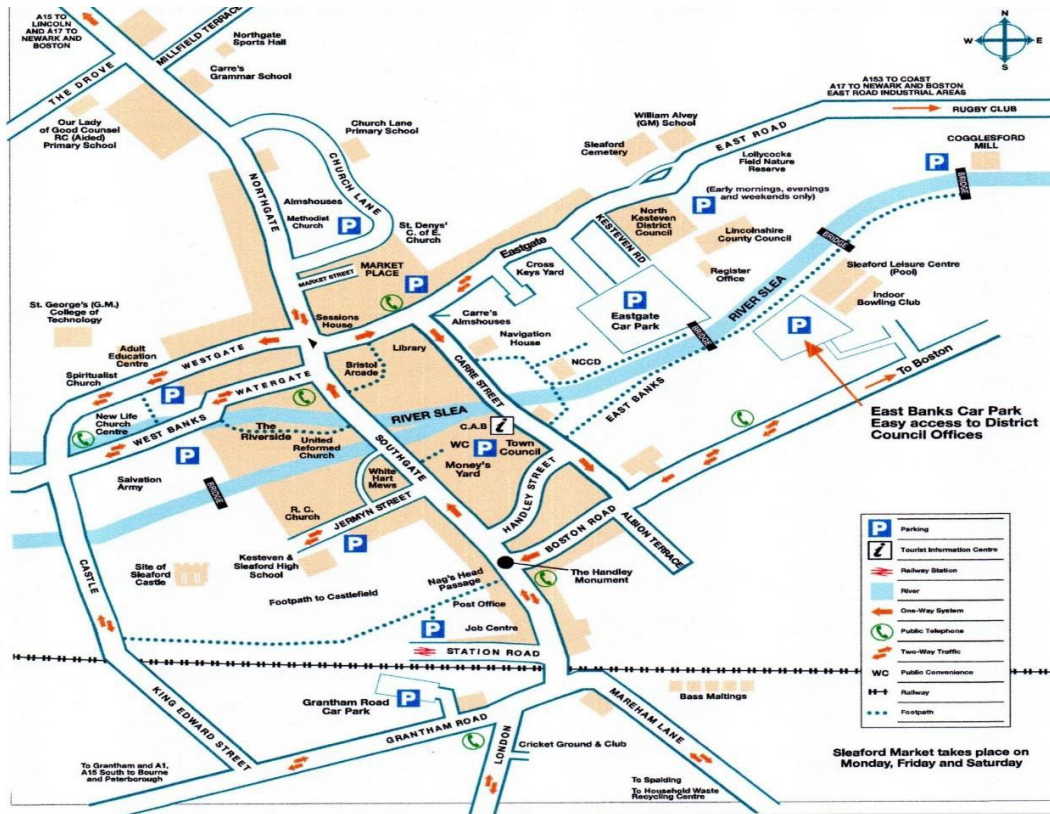


St Denys' is a grade 1 listed Church which is mediaeval in origin. By 1072: it is noted that there was an Anglo-Saxon church on the site, given as part of manor of Sleaford to Remigius, 1st. Bishop of Lincoln. It appears in the Domesday book (1086). Over the years it has been altered and elements added including a medieval rood screen and a communion rail, which may be the work of Sir Christopher Wren. The tower and spire were largely rebuilt in 1884 after being struck by lightning.

Architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner (1902-1983) found it a "delight to follow the mason's inventiveness".

Accessibility

Entry to the Church is flat and, despite its historical significance, there are modern conveniences, including an accessible toilet. Formally trained service dogs are welcome.



PARKING

Eastgate car park at the hub, (Centre for Craft and Design) is a short walk from St Denys and the most convenient (What 3 words prove.prep.bumps . Car park app code 15003 NG34 7DT)

Other local car parks are shorter stay

On Saturday tickets are required between 08.00 and 18.00

Up to an hour is free

Up to 3 hours £2.00

Over 3 hours £4.00

Sadly parking is not free for blue badge holders, but there is free parking for motorbikes at Money's yard car park

There are a small number of blue badge parking spaces in the bay next to Sleaford Library, which is alongside Market Place, also nearby in the Church Lane Car Park and at Money's Yard Car Park. Passengers with limited mobility can be dropped off by the Market square.

IF YOU PREFER TO ARRIVE EARLY AND HAVE LUNCH IN SLEAFORD

There are many places to eat in Sleaford these are just a few that are near to St Denys. As eating out is such an individual thing, their inclusion in this guide does not imply that they are recommended above anywhere else.

Market Place Café just across the square. Open on Saturdays 8.30am to 4.30pm, Tel. 01529 968110. They have an all-day cooked menu but serve coffee and cake.

Diagonally across the square is the **Solo Bar** 6 Market Street 01529 303200 Begins to serve lunch at 12.00 on a Saturday. It's probably wisest to book.

Slightly further away are:-

Costa Sleaford Riverside location on Unit 1, The Riverside, Sleaford NG34 7PD Open 06.00 - 18.00

Based further into Sleaford's Riverside Centre, Unit 13 Riverside Precinct is **Time House Coffee shop**, part of a community impact initiative supported by volunteers. They serve barista coffee, light bites, snacks, amazing cakes and afternoon teas.

Tablez Open Saturday 08:00 - 19.30 20A Southgate, NG34 7RZ 01529 300922 An excellent Bistro.

The Hub coffee shop Navigation Wharf, (at the side of Eastgate car park) Carre Street, Sleaford, NG34 7TW Tel. 01529 308710 open Sat, 10am-5pm. Their fare is ethically sourced with a focus on local sustainable produce.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE CHURCH

(Don't forget that the doors don't open until 13.00)

Please register on arrival. We will lend you music if you need it. This should be returned before you leave in the evening. One of the front of house team will show you to your seat.

HOW THE AFTERNOON WILL GO

13.00-13.30

REGISTRATION

13.30

WELCOME AND WARM UP

INTRODUCTION TO CHORUSES FROM THE MESSIAH

16.00 -16.30 ish or when we look as though we would benefit from a cuppa

TEA

At the end of the afternoon, we will have an uninterrupted run through of everything we have been working on.

17.30

CLOSE

Don't forget to return any music you have borrowed and thank you for being with us

WHO IS WHO

ROWLAND LEE (Conductor)

Rowland studied Composition and Piano at the Royal School of Music. His career as a composer, arranger and conductor encompasses the worlds of TV, theatre, ballet and concert music. For the choreographer Sir Matthew Bourne, Rowland re-orchestrated *Swan Lake*, now the world's most performed dance production, which received its 30th anniversary tour in 2024 and was in production at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London.

Rowland's *Requiem*, published by Edition Peters, has been performed in Sacramento, St. Petersburg, by Sleaford Choral in April 2025 and many places in between. Among his 700-plus TV composer credits, he is probably best known for the children's series *Cloudbabies*, *64 Zoo Lane* and *Engie Benjy*, although he also orchestrated most of Seasons V and VI of *Endeavour*, and has worked as arranger and orchestrator on many other programmes.

In 1986, he was the first recipient of the British Film Institute's Anthony Asquith Young Composer Award (now a BAFTA) and he was one of the Judges for the 2023 Ivor Novello Awards.

Rowland is proud to have been associated with the Sleaford Choral Society, firstly as an accompanist and now its Musical Director and conductor, for more than 15 years.

OTHER INTERESTS

Rowland both collects and restores player pianos and reed organs, reproducing pianos and associated instruments and he is the committee chair of the Player Piano Group of Great Britain. He is a passionate student of architecture of all periods, with special interest in that of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, being a former voluntary case worker for the Victorian Society.

Rowland is also a scholar of the life and works of the composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold, and an author of a dissertation on this subject, published in 1983. He is also co-author of the programme note for the British premiere of Korngold's opera, "Die Tote Stadt" at the South Bank Centre, performed in 1998.

ED WELLMAN (organist)

Born in 1972 in Lincoln, Ed was a chorister in the Cathedral Choir and was inspired by the musicianship of Philip Marshall and Roger Bryan. He went on to study organ and piano at Huddersfield Polytechnic School of Music, alongside being Organ Scholar at Bradford Cathedral. He then held Assistant Organist positions at Chester and Chelmsford Cathedrals, before training to teach and spending 9 years as Head of Music at Brentwood County High School in Essex.

Ed returned to Lincoln in 2012 and joined the University of Lincoln as an Associate Lecturer in Music and Drama. He is now Programme Leader for the growing MA Music course at Lincoln and combines this with a busy schedule as accompanist for choirs in the region.

In his spare time, Ed is Director of LCR FM Community Radio.

SING MESSIAH IN CONCERT WITH SLEAFORD CHORAL

On March 20th 2027, Sleaford Choral will be performing Messiah for a paying audience! If you have enjoyed the session today and would like to continue to rehearse with us and sing in the concert, we would love to have you join us. **Sleaford Choral meets every Wednesday for rehearsal, from 7 to 9pm, at the Northgate Methodist Church in Sleaford.**

The Choir meets between September and June, during which time we perform at least three concerts a year, usually in St Denys' Church. We are a friendly, mixed choir of between 55 to 65 regular members with a reputation for high-quality performance, Sleaford Choral's repertoire is made up of major choral works as well as lighter themes, under the direction of our Musical Director, Rowland.

We welcome new and returning singers. A passion for music is all that you need to become a member and we don't require you to audition. Come along to a few rehearsals to see if you enjoy it with no commitment, you will be warmly welcomed and supported. We look forward to seeing you soon.

If you are interested in joining Sleaford Choral, please see Karen Jarvis (Chair) or contact her on jarvis589@btinternet.com 07912 685037

AT THE END OF THE DAY

- If you have borrowed music, please erase any marks you have made and return to the box provided.
- If by any chance you forget to leave the music, please contact sleafordchoralsociety@yahoo.co.uk to make arrangements for its return.
- As this is an experimental afternoon for Sleaford Choral, we would be grateful if you could let us know how you felt about the experience, perhaps whether you would attend another such afternoon in the future. Any useful suggestions that you might have would be very much appreciated. Paper is provided for your comments. Please return this at the end of the day.

Sleaford Choral Easter Concert

Saturday Mar 20th, 2027

St Denys' Church, Sleaford, 7.30pm

MESSIAH

Conductor: Rowland Lee

Accompanist: Ed Wellman

Tickets £12