

CLYST VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERTS

Paul Stock has completed twenty years as Musical Director of Clyst Valley Choral Society. In celebration, he chose two of his favourite works for their recent concerts on 28 April 2018 at St Margaret's, Topsham, and on 29 April at Holy Trinity, Exmouth. The opening work was *Mass in G* by Schubert, followed by Schubert solos from Carolyn Harries (mezzo-soprano) and Sue Stock on her cello. The second half was filled by *Stabat Mater* by Rossini. The choir rose magnificently to the occasion and Paul was rightly delighted by both performances. A talented orchestral ensemble enhanced the singing; Paul arranges the parts for each instrument to support the vocal parts. The soloists were Janet Macdonald (soprano), Carolyn Harries, Gordon Pike (tenor) and Jason Bomford (bass), who had leading roles in the Rossini and contributed with flair and professionalism to the whole programme; Gordon Pike had taken on the tenor part only two days before. Paul Stock was thanked for his consistently sensitive and encouraging direction of the choir and he paid tribute to the 'family ethos' of the choir and the regular support from instrumentalists, soloists and the loyal audience.

This autumn the society will be celebrating its fiftieth year with performances of Handel's *Messiah* on 17 and 18 November and Haydn's *Creation* in spring 2019. These were the first works performed by the society and it is hoped that former members will return to sing in them.

Carolyn Keep