

## Highworth Musical Notes

Two Amateur Concerts were given on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> ult in the large new schoolroom for the purpose of paying off the debt upon the building. The band was supplied by the Amateur Orchestral Union, an association of clergymen and gentlemen of the south-western counties. They were aided by several members of the Royal Italian Opera band, Covent Garden, and under the direction the Rev Dr **Haking**, vicar of Rodbourne, played the overtures to *Ruy Blas*, *Fidelio*, *La Gazza Ladra*, Weber's *Jubilee* and Dr **Haking's** own *Hilda* and *Nymph of the Stream*. The solo vocalists were Mrs **Sartoris** and Mrs **Nassau** senior. The large audiences included the principal county families for many miles round Highworth. *The Musical Times 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 1868*

The members of the Highworth Harmonic Society gave their first concert on New Year's Day. The programme consisted of two parts, sacred and secular. The choruses from the Messiah were sung with commendable accuracy and precision. In the second part of the programme, too, the careful training of the conductor, Mr **H V Fletcher** was very apparent, the glees and part songs being given without accompaniment in excellent tune and with good expression. A word of praise must be given to Miss **Kitty Fletcher** of London who sang "*With verdure clad*" and two or three other songs with much effect. Mr **Read** the organist of the parish church and Mr **George Rivers** presided at the harmonium and pianoforte and accompanied with skill and judgement. We are glad to find that the funds of the Society were considerably augmented by this, the first concert given by the members. *The Musical Times 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1872*

The Highworth Parish Church Choir assisted at the Anglican Choral Festival held in St James' Church on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult Handel's Grand Coronation Anthem, *Zadok the Priest* was sung with vigour. The performance of the whole of the festal music was most devotional and impressive. Mr **Read**, organist of Highworth, presided at the organ. *The Musical Times 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 1887*

On Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> ult, general thanksgiving Services were held in the parish church and offerings made on behalf of the Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts. There was a celebration of the Holy Communion at 8.30am, Matins at 11.00am and Choral Evensong at 6.30pm with a sermon by the Rev **Herbert Ault**, Vicar of Bishopstone. The service was *Hudson in E flat*; *Tallis's Responses* were used and the *Psalms* sung. The Anthem was "*O come, let us sing unto the Lord*" Berthold Tours. The service was well rendered by the choir. Mr **F A Clarke** presided at the organ and after the service played Wely's *Grand Offertoire in F (Op.35)*. *The Musical Times 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1889*

The Highworth (Wiltshire) Choral Society which was started in war-time, will give its first concert on July 25. An all British programme of part songs has been arranged and **Kenneth Ellis** will sing. The Conductor is **Colin McLeod Campbell**. *The Musical Times Jul 1941*

Choralists who are unable to practise during the winter because of blackout difficulties may well consider the plan adopted by the Highworth Wilts Choral Society – namely summer practices for an autumn concert. The innovation has resulted in an increased membership. This is not surprising as the long summer evenings have to be occupied; one can't be always gardening and now that cars and motorcycles are laid up and organized games are scarce, choral singing offers a more than usually pleasant diversion. (Moreover the practice room won't be cold!) *The Musical Times May 1942*