

David Burgess is Musical Director of Botley Choral Society and has led the choir in numerous successful performances. He has established links with a number of local ensembles who now regularly perform with the choir. At Christmas 2019, Rutter's *Magnificat* was performed to a capacity audience, and at Easter 2022, following a pandemic-driven period of silence, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and some favourite anthems heralded the return of live performances at our home venue of All Saints' Church.

Since 2017 David has also been Director of Music of the Hampshire Choral Festival (formerly known as the Winchester and County Music Festival) which performs great works from the choral repertoire at concerts in Romsey Abbey and other large local venues in May each year. This organisation has recently celebrated its centenary with a massed performance of Handel's *Messiah* at the Anvil, Basingstoke, with celebrity conductor, David Hill.

David was born, educated and trained in Hampshire and was one of the early recipients of a County Music Exhibition. He read music and education at King Alfred's College, Winchester and studied the organ with Christopher Gower and David Thorne at Portsmouth Cathedral. David holds diplomas in piano performing, teaching and accompaniment and teaches piano and recorder at Botley, Durley and Droxford schools as well as running a private teaching practice.

David is Director of Music at All Saints' Church, Botley, where he oversees the monthly programme of musical events as well as being Musical Director of Botley Music Festival. He is a member of the Society of Recorder Players and is one of the regular conductors of the Wessex Branch in addition to guest conducting at the London, Guildford, East Berkshire and Dorset Branches.

David's own group, the Upham Recorder Orchestra, affectionately known as 'URO', is a wonderful community venture which provides an opportunity for over thirty adults and children to make music together once a month for the sheer pleasure of doing so.

The opportunity to talk about Scottish islands, producing a meal for a special occasion or playing a hand of canasta will bring a sparkle to his eyes only surpassed by the bubbles in a champagne glass.