the barnby choir

If you really enjoy Elijah…
come and sing some of the

FABULOUS CHORUSES

from

Mendelssohn's St Paul

at

The Barnby Choir Singing Day

Director Lloyd Buck

Saturday
6 February 2027

10.00am – 4.30pm

Wilmslow Methodist Church
Kings Close
Wilmslow SK9 5AR

St Paul - Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)



Mendelssohn was a prodigiously gifted musician from an early age and by 1831, still only 22, when he was commissioned to write his first oratorio, he had already composed a large number of mature works, including his first symphony, the String Octet, and the overture, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Though of Jewish ancestry, Mendelssohn was converted to Christianity. He acquired a thorough knowledge of the Bible, and invariably turned to it for inspiration when considering a new choral piece. It is likely that he chose St Paul's experience as a subject for his first oratorio quite simply because it offered tremendous dramatic possibilities.

There is much to admire in the work's classical elegance and its romantic lyricism, but most noticeable of all is Mendelssohn's apparently effortless outpouring of melody as he reflects all the drama and pathos of the great Apostle's life.

The chorus participates gleefully in the action variously as Christians, gentiles, Hebrews, multitudes, and congregations, with choruses ranging from the furious 'Stone him to death!' to the sublime (and famous) 'How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace'. Melodious and fugal, exciting and dramatic, it's an experience not to be missed!

Timetable

Registration and coffee 9.30

Session 1 10.00 – 11.15

Break 11.15 – 11.30

Session 2 11.30 – 12.30

Lunch 12.30 – 1.30

A light lunch of soup and a roll (£6) is available, or you can visit one of the many supermarkets or cafés in Wilmslow. Cake will also be on sale.

Session 3 1.30 – 2.30

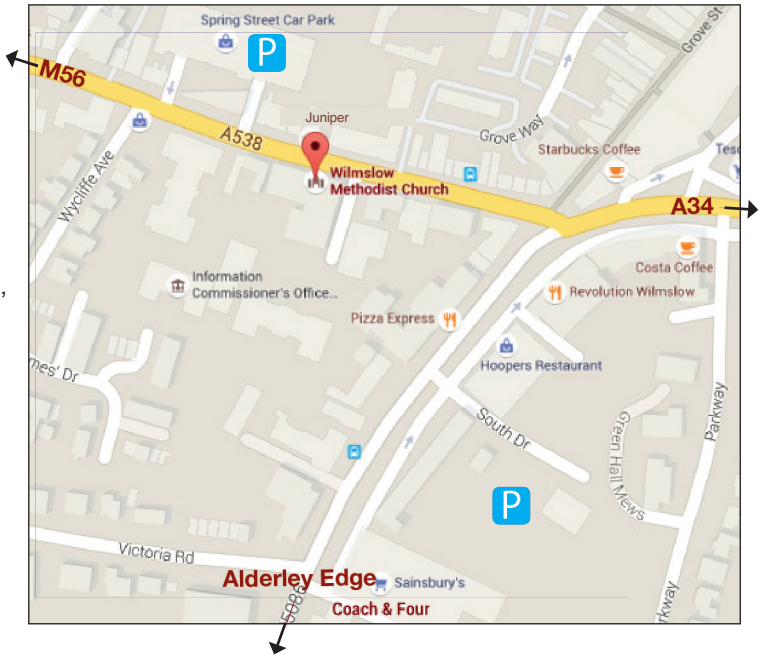
Break 2.30 – 2.45

Session 4 2.45 – 3.45

At 4.00 pm family and friends are invited to join us for an informal performance lasting for approximately 30 minutes

Map

There is a multi-storey car-park opposite the Church on Water Lane, and further public car-parking behind Hooper's department store (approx. 5 minutes' walk).



Lloyd Buck Director



Lloyd is a versatile and experienced musician who has been conductor of The Barnby Choir since 2013. He studied piano at the Royal College of Music in London and subsequently at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester before embarking on his career as a performer and conductor. He was Musical Director of the Ellesmere Port Musical Society for 14 years until 2026, and is deputy conductor and accompanist for Vocal Expressions, a ladies' choir based near Holmfirth.

During his time with The Barnby Choir, Lloyd has introduced much new music alongside the traditional choral masterpieces. The choir's repertoire now includes a number of Lloyd's own compositions, notably his Missa Fidelis, to be performed again in March 2027, and his anthem, Let the Music Sound!, commissioned to mark the choir's 75th aniversary in 2021.

In addition to conducting and composing, Lloyd is a virtuoso pianist and has professionally recorded two discs with Amemptos Music. He is also much in demand as a piano teacher.

Mackenzie Paget Accompanist



Mackenzie is a Welsh-born musician who studied under Murray McLachlan at the Royal Northern College of Music, where he gained a distinction in his Master's degree in 2021. He gives frequent solo recitals, collaborates with other musicians in a chamber setting and accompanies both individual artists and ensembles, receiving numerous commendations for his sensitivity in accompanying. In 2019 he won the Chris Petty English Song Prize Accompanist Award.

Mackenzie also trained as a ballet pianist under Royal Ballet pianist Nicky Williamson and regularly visits Pineapple Studios in Covent Garden to accompany classes. He is delighted to have been appointed accompanist with The Barnby Choir and also enjoys accompanying Gatley Choir. In addition, he regularly accompanies Hallé choral ensembles at Hallé St Peters.

Mackenzie's passion is in teaching, and he has helped students gain some of the highest marks in their region and secure places at prestigious music schools such as Chetham's. He is currently a member of the piano faculty at Terra Nova Prep School, Brabyns Prep School and Stockport Grammar School.