Put M and M – 7:30pm Saturday 6 December at St Mary's Church SL4 4SF down in your diary!

The Music and Merriment Concert is a community concert that is a great evening out for everybody, not just church goers. It has lots of numbers of different kinds, so there is something for everybody to enjoy. Christmas, here we come!

Do come. Tickets only £14 each, concessions £7. Tickets at www.fosmw.com/fosmw-online.html or access the QR code below.

A concert of this kind is unique in our area. It has run successfully each year since (except 2020 because of Covid), taking place at 7:30pm on the first Saturday of December in St Mary's church.

It features seventeen or so varied Christmassy items, changing a little each year, and has been accepted as "a wonderful way to start the Christmas Season".

At its heart is singing and celebrating the Christmas message audience carols, an adult choir singing popular anthems or carols, and a children choir that is put together each year from children from local primary schools, many without previous choral singing experience, but all coming away with increased confidence and having enjoyed a



special occasion. They are turned into a choir of angels each year by an experienced director. The concert starts with the children singing 'Once in royal David's City' in a darkened church, only lit by the coloured glowsticks that each child carries.

The choirs are supported by a capable organist, and we have instrumental support as well, not to mention St Mary's own enthusiastic Hand-bell ringers. We are currently supported by an excellent brass quintet, but were on some occasions able to put together a chamber orchestra.

A very special feature of the concert is having outstandingly talented young musicians who amaze with their virtuosity. Sarah Aizawa now aged 16, is a regular and popular performer on the violin since 2017; when she was 8 years old, when she performed an Accolay violin concerto movement from memory. We have had young singers, oboists, bassoonists, saxophonists, and pianists. All who were present will remember super-talented Darcey Bovill-Fryer (then 13 years old) and her lively performance on the Marimba, before going to the piano for a virtuosic Chopin piece.

That's not all – we have moving or humorous readings, sometimes with several performers, and sometimes special features. In the centre of the proceedings is an interval at which mulled wine is offered, to go with the St Mary's Women's Guild's tasty mince pies.

What an evening! Needless to say, putting it on is a great team effort,

with performers supported by kitchen helpers and front-of-house, stage managers, etc. – usually about 50 people or so. Since nearly all the team are amateurs, the concert is a successful fundraiser, helping the PCC with its responsibilities for the maintenance of our beautiful St Mary's church. Grade 2 listed building. We are deeply grateful to all our helpers.



Use QR code for online tickets