



ON SONG:
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Choral
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singing at
St Mary's.

Singers lead fund appeal

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The group was joined by singers from across the country for the three-hour concert on Saturday night.

Society vice-chairman Anne Barnard said: "People came from as far as Middlesbrough to take part in the concert.

"We had between 180 and 200 singers and I think there was about that in the audience."

The proceeds will go towards £1 million church renovations.

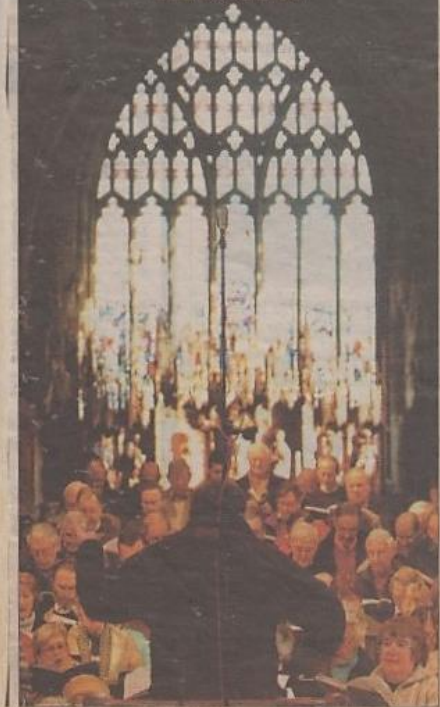
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The Messiah was a joy!

HALLELUJAH! This chorus rang out from St Mary's Church, Nantwich, when singers took part in a "Come and sing *Messiah*" organised by Nantwich Choral Society in aid of the restoration appeal.

Both singers and audience flocked to the church on a day when temperatures sank to below freezing.

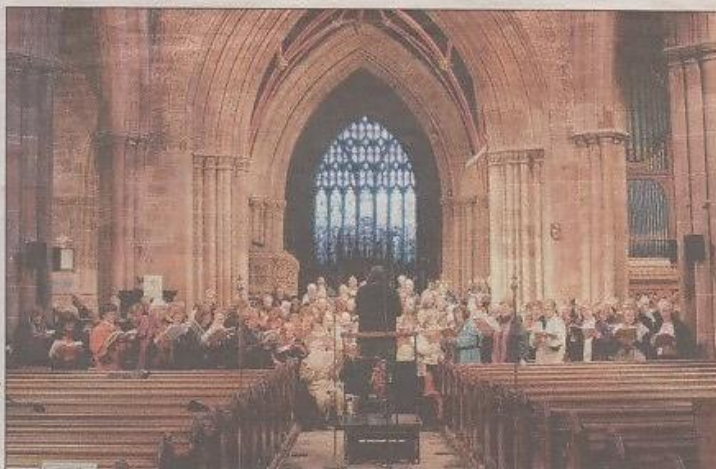
Singers came from as far away as Middlesbrough, Ormskirk, Wigan, Ludlow and Market Drayton to take part in this well-known work.

The choral society will be presenting a cheque for £1,800 to the church as a result and I'd like to thank everyone who took part, either as a singer or audience, for making the day so special.

ANNE BARNARD
Vice chairman,
Nantwich Choral Society

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UNITED EFFORT: More than 150 choir enthusiasts helped raise about £1,000 for St Mary's Church's £1m appeal.

Songs of praise boost £1m appeal

MORE than 150 singers turned out at St Mary's Church in Nantwich to sing Handel's *Messiah* together for its £1m church appeal.

The "Come and Sing *Messiah*" event was organised by Nantwich Choral Society in aid of the church's appeal, launched in July last year.

Event organiser Anne Barnard was thrilled with the number of people who turned out and the enthusiasm of the singers.

She says people came from far and wide, including baritone soloist Richard Strivens who travelled through the snow from Yorkshire to perform.

Rector Peter Chantry took part in the choir and said: "Handel's *Messiah* is the most impressive of works to be a part of

By Will Harris

Trying to sing the tenor part was a great challenge but an inspirational one.

"I'm so grateful to the members of Nantwich Choral Society for their support for our appeal."

"And many thanks too to the audience who turned out on a very cold night. We hope to have raised at least another £1,000."

The concert was conducted by John

Naylor and the other soloists were mezzo-soprano Imogen Garner, soprano Alison Phillips and tenor Stephen Newlove.

St Mary's Church is hoping

to raise £1m during its campaign - backed by the *Chronicle* - to provide the 600-year-old building with a kitchen, toilet facilities and new lighting.

Committee members also hope to raise enough cash to renovate the organ and restore its historical and unique misericords. The concert was the first St Mary's Appeal event this year.

■ Anyone with further fundraising ideas can contact Mr Chantry by phoning 01270 625268.