

Kent and Sussex Courier

28th March, 1919 (Forthcoming Events)

Holy Trinity Church
Tunbridge Wells
Wednesday April 9th 1919
at 6.30p.m.

Handel's immortal
MESSIAH

by

Francis Foote's Choir and Orchestra
(nearly 150 members)

Organist Mr. G.D. Cunningham A.R.A.M.

(the eminent organist of Alexandra Palace)

Special programmes can be obtained at Mr. S. Hunt
Monson Road; Mr. C. Baldwin, Grosvenor Road;
Messrs. Hepworth and Co., Vale Road: Church doors
open at 6. Oratorio ends at 9.

(Repeated on April 4th, 1919.)

28th March, 1919 (local news)

FRANCIS FOOTE CHOIR. On Wednesday, April 9th at 6.30, in Holy Trinity Church, by kind permission of the Vicar, Canon Stather Hunt, this fine choir will give a special thanksgiving rendering of Handel's immortal "Messiah", with leading soloists; Miss Ada Forrest, Miss Gertrude Lonsdale, Mr. Cynlais Gibbs and Mr. Dan Richards, the last-named being powerfully effective in the great bass solos of the oratorio. Mr. John Solomon, England's most eminent trumpet player, will render the highly impressive trumpet obligato "The trumpet shall sound". This will be a special feature. A deeply impressive occasion is keenly anticipated. The collection will be devoted to the ruined homes in France (after the expenses are met).

4th April 1919 (local news)

FRANCIS FOOTE CHOIR.—On Wednesday, April 9th, at 6.30, in Holy Trinity Church, by kind permission of the Vicar, Canon Stather Hunt, this fine choir will give a special thanksgiving rendering of Handel's immortal "Messiah," with leading soloists: Miss Ada Forrest, Miss Gertrude Lonsdale, Mr. Cynlais Gibbs and Mr. Dan Richards, the last-named being powerfully effective in the great bass solos of the oratorio. Mr. John Solomon, England's most eminent trumpet player, will render the highly impressive trumpet obligato, "The trumpet shall sound." This will be a special feature. A deeply impressive occasion is keenly anticipated. The collection will be devoted to the ruined homes in France (after the expenses are met).

11th April 1919

THE FRANCIS FOOTE CHOIR.—On Wednesday evening last, in Holy Trinity Church, through the kindness of the Vicar (Canon Stather Hunt), a thanksgiving rendering of Handel's "Messiah" was given by the above choir and orchestra (of nearly 150 members). Probably for the first time in Tunbridge Wells has a great oratorio been rendered on so complete a scale within any of our local churches, and judging by the happy and inspiring results of this effort, it is much to be desired that this will prove to be the beginning of many similarly impressive and memorable occasions. No unbiassed person present last Wednesday could have failed to be deeply stirred as the wonderful oratorio was unfolded with such illumination and penetration by the splendid forces under Mr. Foote's conductorship, the choir soloists, orchestra and organist uniting in common purpose with their conductor to render the great words and great music as powerfully as possible, and very noble and uplifting was the result. The large choir really sang gloriously. The event partook of a two-folk character—firstly, intended to be an offering of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God for His great mercies and victory to us in the war; secondly, to augment that most deserving fund for alleviating the sufferings of the stricken villagers of France. Mention should be made of the beautiful trumpet obligato played so brilliantly by Mr. John Solomon; also the masterly organ playing of the eminent organist of Alexandra Palace, Mr. G. D. Cunningham. These were features of this memorable service. Miss Ada Forrest, Miss Gertrude Lonsdale, Mr. Cynlais Gibbs and Mr. Dan Richards sang the exquisite and appealing solos of the "Messiah" in a manner which becomes the great singers they are. Canon Stather Hunt conducted the opening service and later made an appeal for the Fund. It was worth going to hear the effect of the singing of the two great hymns by the combined choir and congregation. It should prove very gratifying to Mr. Foote and his devoted choir to know that their good and generous work was so much appreciated by the huge congregation (estimated at 1,000) which thronged our Parish Church from end to end. Fully a thousand people were unable to obtain admission at all. The Choir and their Conductor have accepted an invitation from the Vicar of St. Peter's to give the "Messiah" there shortly, and take a collection for the Bells Fund. Rehearsal of "Judas Maccabaeus" resumed next Monday.