

“Christmas Music in Sowerby, Thirsk

The Mowbray Singers, the mixed-voice chamber choir based in Sowerby, performed “Christmas Carols, Songs & Words” on 20th December in Sowerby Methodist Church. This was their final concert of 2022 and their first Christmas concert since 2019 because of the Covid outbreak. The programme, conducted by Trevor Wilson, featured well-known seasonal songs and carols selected from the 16th to the late 20th centuries. Some of these, such as Berlioz’s “The Shepherds’ Farewell” and “In the Bleak Midwinter” by Harold Darke, had organ accompaniment, played by Helen Proudley. Others, such as Rutter’s “Nativity Carol” and Adolph Adam’s “O Holy Night” were accompanied on the piano by Evelyn Wilson. The lively Ukrainian song “Carol of the Bells” as well as “Ding Dong Merrily on High” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” were among those songs that the choir confidently and expertly performed unaccompanied. Three seasonal readings by members of the choir and organ solos by Helen Proudley were included in the programme which, together with the large audience joining in with the final carol, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”, concluded a splendid evening. There was a retiring collection for the charity “Goodwill Children’s Homes” which raised over £300. The choir’s next concert will take place on the first Saturday in April when they will perform “Olivet to Calvary” by John Maunder.”