

“Do not forget me quite...”

A Concert to mark the centenary of Ivor Gurney's “Severn Meadows”

Cranham Church on Saturday 11th February 2017 at 11.00am

Ivor Gurney wrote his Song, “Severn Meadows” in the Spring of 1917 and the concert will set the context for this using a mixture of his music, poetry and readings, which, in conjunction with the programme notes, will make the connections between Gurney (and his poet friend Will Harvey) with Cranham and men from Cranham who perished in that War.

During 1917 Ivor Gurney, whilst on active service in Northern France, was planning the publication of his book of poems “Severn & Somme”. In a letter to his friend Marion Scott in February of that year he wrote:

“What I want to do with this book is:

- 1) To leave something definite behind if I am knocked out
- 2) To say out what Gloucester is, and is to me; and so to make Gloucester people think about their county
- 3) To have *some* good stuff in it, whatever one might say about the whole.
- 4) To make people realise a little what the ordinary life is.”

Part of the purpose of the concert is continue to remember the First World War. Part of it is to remember his ambitions for the book and continue to “make Gloucester people think about their county”.

The performance will be given by “Sabrinensis”, a newly formed group of singers who have been rehearsing in the village hall, together with Cranham Hand Bell Ringers, Royal Oak Brass (from Cheltenham) and accompanists Beryl Berry and Sylvia Ardron. The conductor will be Judith Sheridan, who has been giving singing lessons to a number of the singers in the village hall during the course of this year.

Music will include Purcell's Funeral Music for Queen Mary, Malcolm Arnold's John Clare Cantata (both Ivor Gurney and John Clare suffered from mental illness and spent the closing parts of their lives in Mental Asylums), and settings of Gurney's poems by Gloucestershire composers Hugh Barton and Bartholomew Mason (certain of which have been written specifically for Cranham Handbell Ringers, brass and voices for the concert).

Proceeds from the concert will be given to Red Cross and the Cranham charity “Lifting the Blues”.

Tickets £10 from Peter Holmes (Email: Peter@gcs.me Tel: 07881-621201) or on door.