

# Pianist Philip is ready for a festive directorial debut

By ADRIAN MULLEN

**T**HE build up has begun for the most vocal month of the year, when choristers across the area provide a welcome festive glow on dark winter nights.

Among the many warming up are Staveley Choral – with a fresh conductor at the helm.

Philip Burton took over the baton from Sue Osmaston in September and makes his directorial debut on Monday, December 14, at Staveley Village Hall (7.30pm).

Philip trained as a classical pianist both at Liverpool University and at Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music and also studied percussion at university.

He was a senior manager with the NHS for 20 years but maintained his love of all things musical as director of music at a local parish church in Buckinghamshire as well as Huddersfield Parish Church.

And so to the rest...

● **Arnside Choral Society:** with Ian Allan conducting, the choir's Christmas offering will be on Saturday, December 19 (7.30pm) at Arnside Methodist Church. The acclaimed outfit will be

singing Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass* and Cecilia MacDowall's *Christus Natus Est*.

● **Cartmel Choral Society:** the Christmas concert will take place at Cartmel Priory on Saturday, December 12 (7.30pm), accompanied by Ann Bond on the organ and under the baton of Adrian Self. The main piece is *Jesu, Priceless Treasure* by J.S Bach.

**December is the most vocal month of the year across Lakes**

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● **Kendal South Choir:** conducted by Mark Swinton, presents *The First Nowell...* the title derived from the Christmas work by Ralph Vaughan Williams, on Saturday, December 12 (7.30pm) at Kendal Parish Church along with many other festive tunes.

● **Kirkby Lonsdale Choral Society** perform selections from the *Messiah* in the first half of a St Mary's Church concert on Sunday, December 13 (7.30pm). Handel's oratorio is arguably one of the most popular masterpieces of all time. Favourite carols will follow, with soprano Tracie Penwarden as

soloist.

● **Lakeland Singers:** the first festive foray will be at the Methodist church at Grange-over-Sands on Friday, December 11 (7.30pm), followed by a performance at Ambleside Brathay Church on Friday December 18 (7.30pm).

● **Levens Choir** has registered its December 15 (7.30pm) concert at Kendal's United Reformed Church as part of the BBC national *Sing Hallelujah* programme to communicate the joys of choral singing. Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* will be in the programme.

● **Ulverston Choral Society:** on Friday, December 18 (7.30pm), conductor Heather Payne's choristers present a concert at Ulverston Parish Church, performing Poulenc's *Gloria* with Tracie Penwarden (soprano) and Brian Paynes (piano) and other Christmas music.

● Last, but not least, the four choirs within Charlotte Jackson's award-winning Amabile ensemble will perform at Kendal Parish Church on Saturday (December 5, 7.30pm) and K Shoes Male Voice Choir stages its Christmas concert at Kendal Town Hall on Friday, December 11 (8pm).



**BATON CHARGE:** New Staveley Choral musical director Philip Burton will lead the singers for the first time on Monday, December 14