

Many years ago I organised two very successful Christmas performances called '**MINI MESSIAH**'. The basis for these performances was to encourage anyone and everyone to come and hear this wonderful music. The emphasis was on those who have never been, or are no longer able to be, regular 'concert goers', Three important factors were that the performance should be of an excellent standard, in the daytime and **Admission Free!** In 2003 there were 240 members of the audience which included pensioners, students, children, young parents, people with learning difficulties and their carers and other generally interested members of the public. After our collaboration for the madrigals in the summer at the Plough Inn, my dear friend Celia Garrick has proposed that The Walton String Quartet and Ayres and Graces get together under the umbrella of *Vital Recitals* for a Bash at Part 1 (the story of the nativity) plus what happened next in Handel's Messiah with the addition of some eminent soloists (Peter Burrows, Quentin Hayes) and conductor (John Owen Edwards). The delightful and peaceful church of **St Mary's, Cogges, Witney** has been chosen for its good acoustics, easy parking and access and enthusiastic vicar! The date is **Tuesday 15th December 2009 @ 1.30pm**. The performance will last about one hour, programmes will be for sale but Admission is free. The church has 200 seats and we want to fill every one of them for this special performance in the 250th anniversary of Handel's death. **Everyone is welcome!**