

HANDEL'S MESSIAH AT HEMPSTEAD (St. Andrew's Parish Church) Sunday 12 November
1972

This oratorio (= a musical work on a sacred theme, performed by soloists, chorus and orchestra) was written by Handel during the autumn of 1741 in London, in the short space of three weeks, and first performed the following year in Dublin.

It begins by using quotation from the Bible to remind us of God's promise to redeem mankind. It continues with passages prophesying the coming of the Messiah and touching on the story of the first Christmas and on episodes in the life of Jesus. (Part one).

There is then a section (part two) depicting his suffering and death, followed by his resurrection and ascension, and concluding with the spread of the gospel and defeat of the forces of evil.

Finally (part three) the work becomes a hymn of praise and triumph, glorifying in his promise of eternal life.

The "sing-through" in St. Andrew's Church, Hempstead, on Sunday 12 November will be a performance in which it is hoped that everybody present will participate. The choruses will be accompanied by young musicians from local schools, and the solos will be sung by local singers, including children and teachers from the local primary and other schools, and by students at university and college, all of whom will also join in the choruses.

The performance and rehearsal will be conducted by Raymond Slee, Head of the Music Department at Hockerill College.

All participants are requested to join in a rehearsal beginning at 3.00 p.m. in the church on the afternoon of the performance. There will be a short break for tea in the Village Hall, followed by the singing of the whole of part one, which will start at 5.00 p.m. and last for about one hour.

There will then be a short interval (to allow those with young children to leave) and we will then continue singing parts two and three and complete the work. It is anticipated that this will last until approximately 7.30 p.m.

Please bring your vocal score if you have one.

Tickets, price 10 p., are obtainable from Alban Graham, Anvil Rise, Hempstead, or from either of the village shops.