

# SINGERS BRING JOY TO THE WORLD

THE Eden Singers, a mixed choir of 60 voices under the leadership of their conductor, Gareth Cozens, held their Christmas concert at Penrith Methodist Church on two days.

The soloist was Jonathan Millican, who currently teaches music and performance at the University of Cumbria and participates in the Outreach program run from Carlisle Cathedral, where he is also a bass lay clerk. The piano accompanist was Janet Wilkinson.

Part of the Eden Singers' concert proceeds are donated to local charities, and a cheque for £500 was

presented to SARDA Lakes, a voluntary organisation dedicated to the training a use of mountain rescue search dogs.

The concert offered a good mix of secular and non secular pieces and was well received by the audiences. The performance opened with a rousing rendition of Handel's *Joy to the World*, and other items particularly enjoyed by the audience were the *Huron Carol* (apparently the first Canadian Christmas carol), *Today the Virgin* (with words written by a Russian nun, Mother Thelka), an eight-part arrangement of *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, and *The*

*Three Kings*, in which the choir was joined by soloist Jonathan Millican.

Special mention must be made of the song *Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming*, beautifully sung by the men, and of the ladies who coped admirably with the difficult and unusual offering *There is No Rose*.

In the first half of the concert Jonathan Millican sang two gentle songs which were in keeping with the Christmas season. The beauty of his voice and his clear diction made his performance much appreciated by the audience. In part two he sang excerpts from the *Messiah*, with his

own accompanist at the piano.

Audience participation was encouraged in the popular Christmas carols interspersed throughout the concert and accompanied by Michael Cannon on the organ. The highlight of the evening for the audience was the *Hallelujah Chorus*, in which the choir gave a spirited and confident performance, again to Mr. Cannon's organ accompaniment.

The next concert, "Song-time", will be held on Wednesday, 21st, and Thursday, 22nd April, at Penrith Methodist Church, Wordsworth Street.



**CONCERT CASH:** Anne Timmins, chairman of Eden Singers, presents David Ellis and David Watt, of SARDA, with a cheque for £500 raised from the past year's concerts, with members of the Singers looking on.

**Herald 26 December 2009**