

**The Following comments are taken from the review of the concert by Paul Dyson which appeared in the Harrogate Advertiser on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2004**

**Harrogate Choral Society - Handel's *Messiah*, Ripon Cathedral**

..... A fresh and stimulating performance of Handel's timeless classic, *Messiah*, under the imaginative direction of Jeffrey Wynn Davies, enthralled a capacity audience at Ripon Cathedral on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Harrogate Choral Society responded with singing of considerable contrasts epitomised most of all in the chorus *For Unto Us a Boy is Born* with its melismas articulated with delicate precision and its homophonic passages receiving real vigour and rhythmic enunciation .....

..... The choir was at its most dramatic in *Surely* and responded thoughtfully to the unusual dynamic contrasts, especially the *diminuendos* in *All we like sheep*. Although a single tenor was an early entrant on a handful of occasions and the notoriously difficult opening of *Let us Break* was untidy, the choir gave one of its most articulate performances of recent times. The attention to phrase-shaping and the relative strength of the four sections ensured a well-balanced ensemble throughout .....

..... This fine performance marked the conductor's penultimate concert with the choir. If their fine form is reproduced in May with the Brahms *Requiem* he will be assured of a memorable finale .....