

Sussex Harmony West Gallery Quire.

Evensong at Ripe Church on Sunday 19 May at 6pm.

Evensong with a difference.

The music will be performed, in period costume, by the singers and players of Sussex Harmony. They research and perform music from village churches, from a time before churches had organs and choirboys.

Quires in village churches would encourage their congregations to sing, and were accompanied by such musicians as were available (and sober) in each village. Originally, they would have been sitting in the gallery at the west end of the church, hence the name for this musical tradition.

Sussex Harmony sings with vigour and enthusiasm, making the most of the tunes written before the period of Victorian formality. Each part has its own instrument, including oboe, violin, clarinet, and bass curtal (an ancestor of the bassoon).

There will be some familiar tunes for the hymns, as well as music from Sussex and the surrounding areas which may be new to you.

Many of the pieces were by amateur composers, and who would expect one of our best to have been a cobbler from Canterbury?

The evening will finish with refreshments in the church.

All are welcome to attend.

Peter Teager.

sussexharmony.org.uk