



Festive Fun in Staffordshire 2024

Thursday 28th November to Sunday 1st December 2024– 3 Nights, 4 days

Where can we go this Christmas that we haven't already been and what can we do that we haven't done before?

So, we're heading to Staffordshire for our 2024 festive revelry and were adding a pottery to our list of unusual singing locations! We are also delighted to add the National Memorial Arboretum to our itinerary – I was asked many years ago if we could include this special place in a tour at some point – it's taken a while, but I hadn't forgotten.

Our seasonal merriment is to be based in Lichfield, where of course we will visit the beautiful Cathedral. We will also be singing in some very fine Churches, the homes of two of Lichfield's famous inhabitants and a beautiful stately home. We are also thrilled that our much-loved tour guide Ian, will be joining us to take us on a guided tour of Lichfield, and joy of joys we will be going to another pantomime. (oh yes we will!) On top of all this, we will get the chance to be creative when we visit the pottery as we will be taking part in a workshop!



Festive Tour Information

Accommodation and Food

We are staying at The George Hotel in Lichfield - 12-14 Bird St, Lichfield WS13 6PR. A family owned and run hotel in the heart of the city.

Our accommodation is on a half board basis with bed, breakfast and evening meal included

Travel

You will make your way to and from Lichfield

We will have a coach for our visits on Friday morning, Saturday and Sunday.

Music

Joe Diggle is to be our musical director for the tour. We will sing from books on the tour, but Joe is keen to have some of the music sung without books!

Our programme will be a festive one drawn from our existing library together with some new songs.

The rehearsals will take place on the following days:-

Saturday 21st September 2024 12.30 to 5.30 pm – Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church, Ramillies Ave, Cheadle, SK8 7AL

Saturday 19th October 2024 12.30 to 5.30 pm – Salendine Nook Baptist Church, Moor Hill Road, Salendine Nook, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD3 3SF

Saturday 23rd November 2024 12.30 to 5.30 pm – Garden Studio, Midlands Art Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH - 12.30-16.30

You will receive your music and CD electronically. If you wish to have a copy of the music printed and the CD sent to you **please email Colette Foan - cefoan@gmail.com, not Linda or Teresa**. There will be a £10 fee for this which you can add to your singing fee.

Our rehearsals will be recorded and if there is a suitable signal at the venue they will be live streamed and if not they will be recorded and put up online afterwards.

Please make sure you attend as many rehearsals as possible either in person or on zoom or using the link afterwards.

The Festive Tour Itinerary

Day 1 – Thursday 28th November 2024

Today we start with a rehearsal, have a guided tour of Lichfield Cathedral and end the day at a Pantomime!

You will make your own way to Lichfield and to the hotel.

11.30 am to 1 pm Rehearsal at the hotel

(The rooms at the hotel may not be ready but you can store luggage there until later)

1.00 Free time for lunch

2.00 pm Tour of Lichfield Cathedral – we meet at the Cathedral for our guided tour. We are hoping that we can sing at some point during our guided tour as we are unable to book a recital due to the Cathedral programme at this time of year

Lichfield Cathedral is a treasured landmark with a fascinating history. It has three spires which are unique amongst medieval cathedrals and are often referred to as 'the Ladies of the Vale'.

Following our tour we return to the hotel for an early dinner

5.00 pm Early Pre-theatre dinner at the hotel. After dinner you make your own way to the Garrick Theatre

6.45 pm for 7.00 pm performance – Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime at The Garrick Theatre

Day 2 - Friday 29th November 2024

Today we have a morning visit and singing at Chillington Hall. Followed by an afternoon guided tour of Lichfield, including tours and singing at the former homes of Samuel Johnson and Erasmus Darwin

Breakfast at the Hotel

09.00 am Depart the hotel

9.30 am Coffee and tea on arrival followed by a private tour and singing in the saloon at Chillington Hall, the private residence of the Giffard family for over 800 years. Described as one of South Staffordshire's finest stately homes, set in a beautiful 'Capability' Brown landscape

12.30 pm Depart Chillington Hall and return to Lichfield

1 pm Free time for lunch

1.45 pm We meet at Erasmus Darwin House for a guided tour of the house and singing after our tour. It was the former home of the English poet and physician Erasmus Darwin, grandfather of naturalist Charles Darwin

3.00 pm We have a guided tour and sing at the Birthplace of Samuel Johnson, where the literary giant spent the first 27 years of his life

4.00 pm We have a walking tour of Lichfield with our wonderful guide Ian, a now familiar face amongst the group!

7.30 pm Dinner at the hotel

Day 3 – Saturday 30th November 2024

Today it's Churches and Ceramics. We sing in 2 wonderful Churches – and we celebrate the industry which Staffordshire is known for – pottery!

Breakfast at the Hotel

8.45 am Depart the hotel

9.45 am Visit and sing at St Giles Catholic Church in Cheadle. St Giles' is considered to be the finest of all the churches built by the celebrated nineteenth century architect and designer A.W.N Pugin. So it is known as "Pugin's Gem"

10.30 am Depart the Church

11.00 am Arrive at Gladstone Potteries in Stoke-on-Trent where the Great Pottery Throw Down is filmed. Here we have a guided tour and do some singing and we also get involved in the craft itself! We have a workshop where we each have the choice of what we do – clay vessel hand building, art deco style plate painting or bone china clay flower making! Lunch is also included

3.30 pm Depart Gladstone Potteries

4.15 pm Visit and sing at St. Mary The Virgin's Church, Ingestre. The only Christopher Wren Church outside London! It has a pulpit and tester carved by Grindling Gibbons which have his famous peapods motif

5.00 pm Depart the Church and return to the hotel

7.30 pm Dinner at the hotel

Day 4 – Sunday 1st December 2024

Today we visit and sing at The National Memorial Arboretum

Breakfast at the Hotel

9.45 am Depart the Hotel and travel to the National Memorial Arboretum

10.50 am We attend the Millenium Chapel to participate in an Act of Remembrance and observe a moving two-minute silence. We must be seated by 10.50am in the Chapel

11.30/45 am We have a guided walking tour of the site and then the wonderful opportunity to sing there

The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance. It is a huge 150-acre site with over 330 thought-provoking memorials. Military and Civilian associations are represented as well as tributes for individuals

Following this you are free to wander and take lunch at your leisure

2.30 pm Depart and return to the hotel, expecting to arrive at 3.00 pm when we say our fond farewells

Prices and Booking

The singing fee is £105 payable either with your application or by Monday 10th August 2024. Please make a note of this day in your diary as a payment reminder!

For the package prices please see the booking form below.

Please complete the booking form below and return it to us by Friday 1st March 2024. After this bookings can still be taken but prices and places cannot be guaranteed.

Please refer to our terms and conditions on our website or request a copy directly from us.

Please ensure you supply us with an up to date e-mail address for yourself so that we can correspond with you through email. Please advise us if you are unable to receive emails and we will post things out to you.

Please tick this box to give your consent to us using your data to keep you informed of news, events, rehearsal details and schedules for UVT. Please see privacy statement on our website.

Please note once we have sufficient numbers we will confirm your application to you.

Please make sure we have confirmed your place before you book your transport.

Please return your application forms as soon as possible to:- Festive Tour 2024, Unlimited Voices Travel, 92 Thirsk Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1PL.

Festive Tour 2024 – Booking Form - Thursday 28th Nov to Sunday 1st Dec 2024

Lead Name	
Address	
	Post Code
Home Phone No.	Mobile No
Email address	

Please note that all correspondence relating to the payment for this tour/singing day will be forwarded to the lead name only as our system does not enable us to duplicate it. **PLEASE THEREFORE MAKE SURE YOU PASS IT ON TO EVERYONE ON YOUR FORM.** With regard to other information relating to the tour/singing day if you wish us to send it to everyone on your form please include their email address below.

Individual names of all participants including lead name	If singing please indicate voice type including 1 or 2	Age/DOB	Are you a National Trust Member Insert Yes or No (applicable to tour participants only)	**E-mail address

Room Requirements - Please circle - **Single Double Twin**

The Package – As detailed above	Price Per Person
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Single – Price per person	£795
Double/Twin – Price per person	£670

Special Requirements (i.e. Mobility) and dietary requirements

<p>PLEASE CONFIRM IF YOU REQUIRE COACH TRANSPORT ON THE FINAL DAY – SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER</p> <p>Please circle YES or NO</p>

Please note an administration fee of £50 will be applied to all changes after the initial booking and to any late payments.

Deposit & Balance Due

Deposit on Application - £150 per person, Balance due Monday 30th September 2024.

Please pay by bacs (details below) or alternatively send a cheque payable to **Unlimited Voices Travel**, **noting on the back of the cheque what the payment is for.** Please note that all monies are strictly non-refundable once the tour/singing day has been confirmed.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU FILL IN AN APPLICATION FORM AS WELL AS PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

By applying and paying a deposit you agree to our terms and conditions which are available on our website. If you are unable to obtain access to these please request a copy directly from us.

Please make sure you have valid and adequate travel insurance to cover this trip. Once the trip is confirmed all monies are strictly non-refundable and the full balance is due whether you or your party travels or not. Unlimited Voices Travel can take no responsibility for changes in the economic climate that might affect the services of the suppliers.

Please return as soon as possible to: Festive Tour 2024, Unlimited Voices Travel, 92 Thirsk Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1PL.

Please note that our system only allows us to generate receipts to the lead person. Please therefore help us by sending in just one payment each time an instalment is due, e.g. if you are sharing a twin room please just send in one deposit payment to cover both people, and the same for the interim payment and final balance. However, with regard to the singing fee we can accept payments individually.

Please make sure that you make a note of when the singing fee and the balance for the tour is due to help us with our administration and ensure prompt payment as sadly we don't have the resources to chase up individual cases.

Please note once we have sufficient numbers we will confirm your application to you. Wherever possible we will send all correspondence by e-mail. If however you prefer to receive things by post, please send us 2 self-addressed, C5 stamped envelopes.

BANK TRANSFER DETAILS – please quote **Festive Tour 2024** and send an email to confirm transfer to teresa@unlimitedvoices.uk **Remember to tell us if any of your personal details have changed**

Account Name: Unlimited Voices Travel Ltd **Sorting Code:** 20 61 46 **Account No:** 23999343

REF: Festive Tour 2024