



# **THE DEANERY CHOIR**

## **FEBRUARY DIARY 2026**

### **FEB 8th**

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS** at the 11am communion service.

The choir will sing 'Lord, make me to know thy ways' by William Byrd. **Byrd** (1540 – 1623) was an English Renaissance composer considered among the greatest composers of the Renaissance, he had a profound influence on composers both from his native country and on the Continent. He is often considered along with John Dunstable and Henry Purcell as one of England's most important composers of early music.

In 1577, the same year that recusancy (the refusal to attend Anglican services) laws began to be enforced, Byrd and his family moved to Harlington, Middlesex. As a devout lifelong Roman Catholic, he probably preferred the greater privacy of living outside London. Yet, in spite of his close social contact with many other Catholics, some of whom were certainly implicated in treasonable activities, his own loyalty to the government was never questioned.

Also in 1591 a manuscript volume of Byrd's keyboard music was prepared for "my Ladye Nevell" (probably Elizabeth, wife of Sir Henry Neville), and many more keyboard pieces found their way into the early 17th-century volume known as the *Fitzwilliam Virginal Book*, copied by another well-known Catholic, Francis Tregian, during his imprisonment in the Fleet Prison.

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