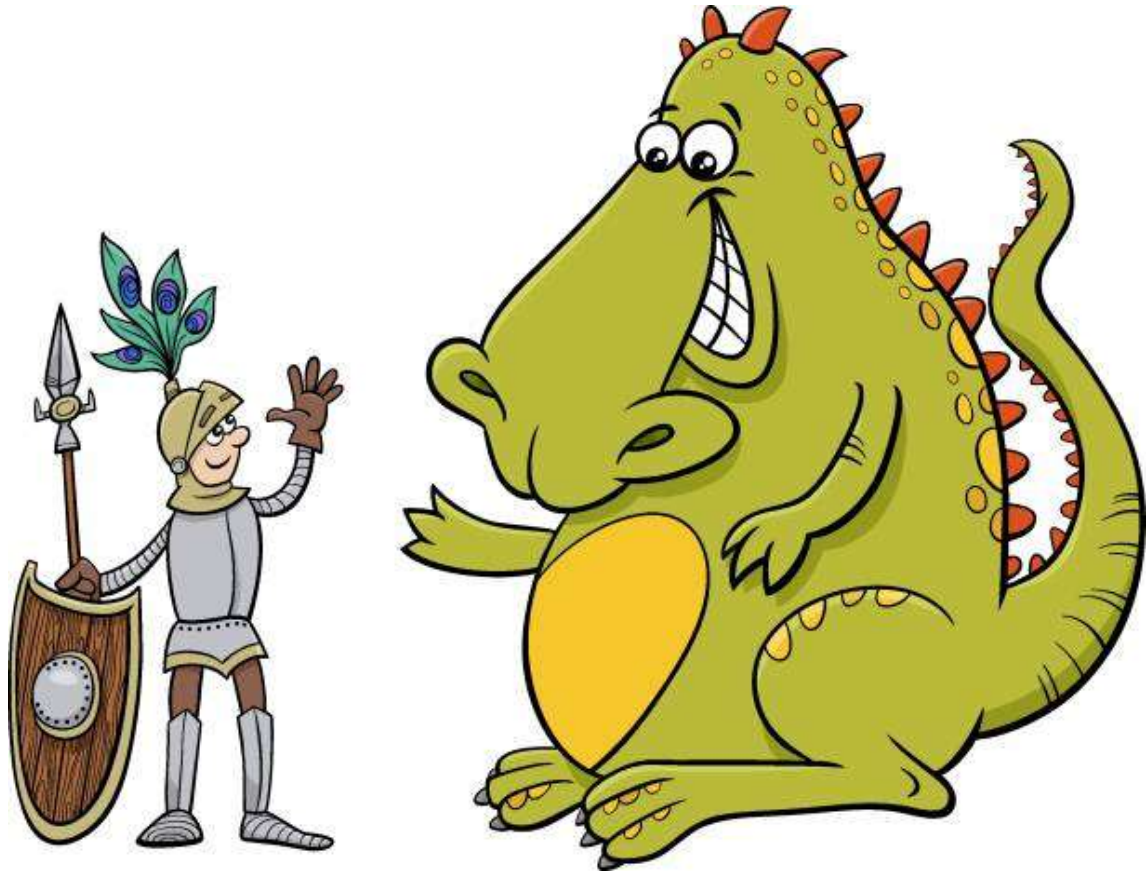


The Chiltern Choir



Summer Concert

Christ Church Chorleywood

5pm - 22nd June 2024



Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo

By Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz

The work opens with God voicing his displeasure with man ("There's nothing but sinning, wickedness and violence there! / Remind me to wash mankind right out of my hair!"). Noah is then commanded to build an ark of gopher wood and fill it with pairs of animals—one male and one female—in spite of the constant mocking by the sinful citizens of Fun City ("Noah! Noah! Don't do any more! Your boat's a laughing stock!"). Noah and his family then load the ark with one pair of every animal imaginable "from antelope to zebra...one pair of each, just as the Lord had planned."

Aboard the ark, forty days and forty nights of ceaseless rain takes its toll, but the mood changes when the rain finally stops and spirits begin to lift. As the floodwaters subside, Noah enlists a terrified raven to scout for dry land.

The following week a dove is sent forth and subsequently returns with an olive branch, an indication of dry land. Shortly thereafter, God commands Noah to emerge from the ark ("Come out with your wife and your sons and daughters there / and set the animals free and the birds of the air"). The work closes with a waltz as God avows never to send another flood, a pledge confirmed by the newly created rainbow.



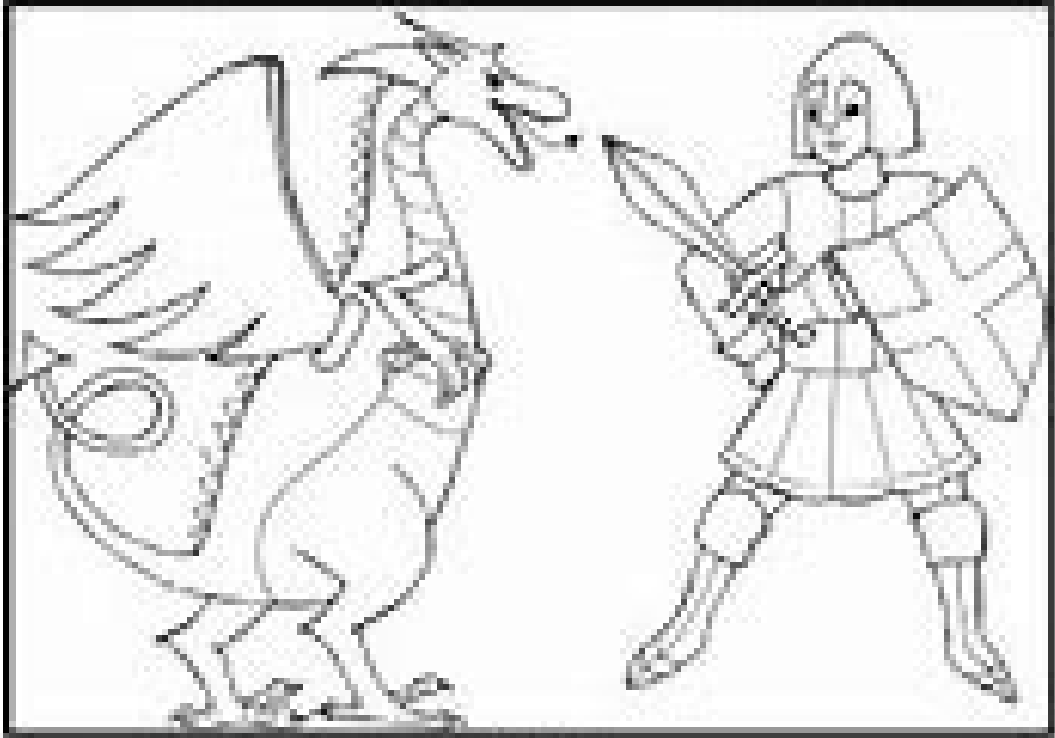
The Reluctant Dragon

By David Grant and John Rutter

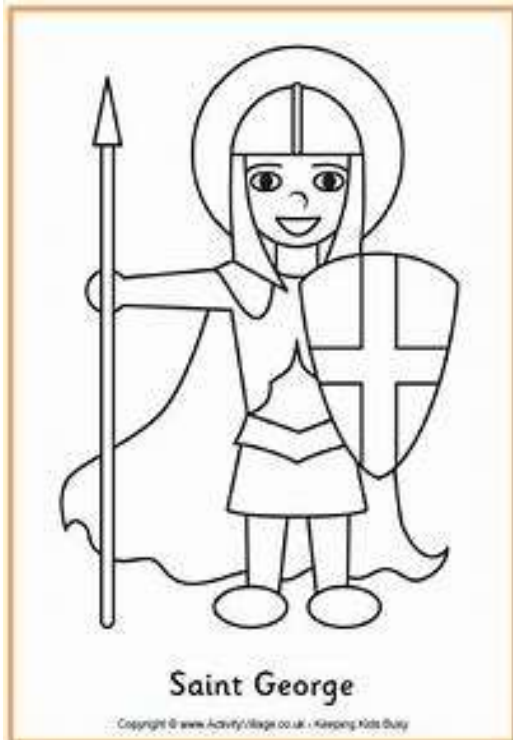
"The Reluctant Dragon" is an 1898 children's story by Kenneth Grahame.

The story takes place in the Berkshire Downs in Oxfordshire (where the author lived and where, according to legend, St. George did fight a dragon).

In Grahame's story, a young person discovers an erudite, poetry-loving dragon in the Downs above his home. The two become friends, but soon afterwards the dragon is discovered by the townsfolk, who send for St George to rid them of him. The person introduces St George to the dragon, and the two decide that it would be better for them not to fight. Eventually, they decide to stage a fake joust between the two combatants. As the two have planned, St George harmlessly spears the dragon through a shallow fold of skin suggested by the dragon, and the townsfolk rejoice (though not all of them, as some had placed bets on the dragon winning). St George then proclaims that the dragon has been reformed, assuring the townsfolk he's not dangerous, and the dragon is accepted by the people.



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The Rhythm of Life

By Dorothy Fields and Cy Coleman

The Chiltern Choir

2024 – 2025 Season

30th November

Vaughan Williams Sea Symphony

Chris Williams Songs of the Coromandel Coast

5th April

Songs of Light

Featuring works by Bach, Tallis, Elgar and Eric Whitacre

28th June

Beethoven Mass in C

Beethoven Choral Fantasia

www.chilternchoir.org.uk