

# APPENDIX 1.

## MUSIC DIRECTORS REPORT AGM 2023

When we had our AGM around this time last year, you might remember we were counting ourselves lucky that the choir had survived the lockdown during the pandemic. I am still hearing of choirs struggling to keep going, but we survive thanks to your reliable support and our hard working committee.

As you will expect I have been looking over what we have done during the past year and we were able to celebrate our 10th birthday last April at the Romford golf club, if a little late, thanks to the connections Beryl has. The meal was excellent and the cake made by Joy was incredible.

By this time, rehearsals for the summer concerts were well underway and as always these went smoothly and were well received. After our summer break we started rehearsals for the Christmas concerts. We had a challenging programme to prepare and just 12 rehearsals in which to do this. A good attendance at rehearsals was very important and I remember going home quite worried when at one rehearsal we were 14 members absent, but all with very good reasons. However, with an extra Sunday rehearsal in All Saints, we were ready to go on time.

There were many positive comments on our singing, especially on 'And the glory of the Lord', which if you remember was one of our challenging songs. We did find our audience depended on when England had a match as it was World Cup time. We had an amazing number of male followers in the audience at the Havering Road concert, and I was worried whether anyone would support us at the final concert at

All Saints on the Sunday. However, we did end up with an excellent audience and we were supported at that concert by the Brass ensemble from the Barking Salvation Army Church. Stephen, who is the minister at the church was delighted to receive a donation from the choir and this went straight towards the food bank and the 120 hot lunches that are prepared for the homeless each day in Barking.

One other thing worth mentioning from the Christmas concerts was that we returned after some time to sing at a refurbished Havering Road Methodist Church. We sang in the church hall and the acoustics were wonderful and our singing sounded very good and I remember hoping John had some good recordings from that evening. We were made very welcome and refreshments were excellent. Not only did we sound good, but we looked very professional with the ladies in Black with bling and red silk flowers courtesy of Mary and the gents in Black shirts with red bow ties.

We then had our Christmas break and resumed rehearsals in January. We had another excellent meal at the Romford golf club and enjoyable entertainment from Harvey.

That brings us more or less up to date and summer concert rehearsals are well underway. The concerts will have a 'These you have loved' theme as you have chosen the songs and I have just put them into a programme order. So if anyone is unhappy with the summer programme, I'm afraid this time I can't take the blame..

Personnel wise we have had a few changes of membership during the past year. A number of these have been due to health problems within members families. Some members are taking a break at the moment and intend to return after the summer. We have been delighted to welcome Joanna to the alto section and Paul to the tenor section.

I am thinking about the Christmas programme at the moment and promise that the programme will be a little easier than last year, but still effective. I'm trying to include a little more audience participation.

It's good that the committee are prepared to stay on for another year. It always amazes me at the amount of work that goes on throughout the year in order to make sure the choir runs smoothly. Your committee has unseen talents as was evident at our last dinner. We had some very artistic table lanterns bedecked with musical notes and place settings with treble clefs. I understand we thank Carol for this. She's also rather good at keeping the books in order.

The temperature has often dropped recently in the hall during rehearsals and we are grateful for Claire's tea and biscuits and of course all the publicity she does prior to concerts.

Wendy now has a new home for the music library and I appreciate the updated library list Wendy gives me regularly, with dates performed.

John takes on a huge amount of technical work with rehearsal recordings each week and producing posters and programmes for concerts and dealing with the website..

Barbara has the never ending task of dealing with notices, attendance and queries from choir members.

Carmel has the unenviable task of keeping us all in order, which she does quietly and efficiently.

I think it's time I sat down. Please do your very best to put in a regular attendance at rehearsals. This choir always performs to a high standard and our supporters expect that high standard from us. Let's aim even higher this year.