

Choir Newsletter

September 29th 2020

Since our previous newsletter the committee has met to review the accounts as part of the AGM process and discuss plans for the remainder of the 2020/21 season.

We promised to update you once the AGM process had been completed which it now has.

Firstly thank you to Mrs Dot Hunter (assistant treasurer) and Simon Bircher (independent examiner) for all their hard work helping our treasurer prepare the accounts. Also thank you to those eagle eyed choir members who picked up on some points and contacted the treasurer. The queries have been responded to as promised in the AGM notice.

As before, once choir Friends have received this newsletter a letter will be sent to non choir Friends to keep them informed of future plans.

December 5th Concert

We had hoped there would be further relaxing of Government and C of E restrictions on public gatherings to allow us to go ahead with performing Messiah with a reduced choir and organ. Alas it seems restrictions are steadily tightening.

On that basis we have decided to release the date held in the cathedral diary as we felt it unlikely we would be able to perform the concert. To inform our decisions we met with the cathedral administrator to explore options and also received an update on cathedral service and concert plans for December from Jeremy.

We realise this is disappointing news but we felt we had to be realistic. As explained in the previous letter, plans to make this happen needed to have already commenced and it was agreed there were too many uncertainties to go ahead.

March 27th Concert

We recognised that the same Government restrictions may still be in force in January 2021. For that reason we are proposing to perform Handels Messiah in March with local soloists and organ for the following reasons:

- The music is very suitable for the weekend before Easter
- Less rehearsals would be required therefore these could be delayed until the beginning of March when it is hoped Government restrictions on large public gatherings will be sufficiently relaxed.
- There would be less financial risk associated with this plan by using organ and local soloists.

Please remember the above plan cannot be assumed to be definite during this period of uncertainty and arrangements may have to change accordingly.

Should the above plan come to fruition it was proposed we should waive membership subscriptions for the Jan - March period. In the meantime some kind members have offered to donate their subscription to the WCOS charity fund. Should you wish to do this, please contact the Treasurer Mr Philip Lemanski at treasurer@wcos.org.uk .

The committee will meet again in late October to review the situation and plan for the 2021/22 season. Once this meeting has been held we will write to you again. As always please share this newsletter with any choir members who do not have an email facility.

In the meantime we wish everyone well and look forward to when we can meet to resume the pleasure of singing together.