

*Notes for your Diary  
2011/12*

Bolton Festival	April 14th
Exeter Festival	April 21st
Ballymena Festival	April 28th
London (Central) Festival	April 28th
Newport	May 12th
South Wales Area Festival	June 16th
Powys Festival	July 7th
Kork Festival	September 15th
Bristol Festival	September 29th
North of Scotland Festival	September 29th
Tendring	October 6th
Uxbridge	October 13th
Cheltenham Rally	October 27th

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It should be noted that this magazine is published independently of the Council of The Festivals of Male Voice Praise, and any views expressed Or statements made do not necessarily reflect those of the Council



Editors Note

Here we are in 2012 and we look back over the past year and review all that we have accomplished in the past year. I find myself looking at the places I have been and the people I have met and the blessings I have enjoyed in fellowship with others. I am reminded that we have so much to be thankful for and not least of all for the blessings bestowed upon us by our Heavenly Father.

So often we in the west of the country are envious of all the sunshine enjoyed by the eastern part, but as I write this they are talking of hose -pipe bans while in the west we have green fields to look upon. It reminds me that we are so ready to see the down side of things rather than the good side. Of course a hymn comes to mind

“Count your blessings name them one by one”

As we look forward to our programmes for the coming months we need to thank our Lord and Saviour for the ability to sing His praises and to be able to share the Good News.

Talking about sharing, have you a testimony of God’s grace and blessing upon your life that you would like to share with others to Encourage and bless them too? Remember that God gives us these blessings, not to keep to ourselves, but to pass them on. Someone today may be going through an experience and you have passed that way before and sharing may help them just now. Put your testimony down on paper and send it to me and I will include it in a future edition of Interlink.

Sometimes I have shared personal things with others only to find that they too have been blessed. Again a hymn comes to mind

“Make me a blessing to some soul today”

I look forward to hearing from you soon

*Tony Brookes*

*Pause for Thought*

**THE PEACE THAT JESUS OFFERS**

**A. PEACE WITH GOD...** 1. Jesus makes it possible for us to be a peace with God 2. Consider [Ro 5:1](#) --

**Without peace with God, no real peace is possible**

**B. PEACE WITH MANKIND...** 1. Jesus breaks down the barriers between mankind 2. Consider [Ga 3:28](#) --

**Jesus makes peace between mankind**

**C. PEACE WITH ONESELF...** 1. Jesus offers peace within, unfazed by the world 2. Consider [Php 4:6-7](#) --

**Jesus provides peace that surpasses all understanding**

**D. PEACE WITH FAMILIES...** 1. Jesus provides peace for families seeking love and stability 2. Consider [Col 3:18-21](#) --

**Following Jesus' doctrine leads to peace in the family**

**E. PEACE WITH BRETHREN...** 1. Jesus provides peace between brethren 2. Consider [1Pe 3:8-12](#) --

**Following Jesus' doctrine will lead to harmony among brethren**

**F. PEACE WITH CHURCHES...** 1. Jesus offers peace for the ills of denominationalism 2. Consider [Jn 17:20-23](#); [1Co 14:33](#) --

**Heeding the prayer of Jesus is the cure for denominationalism**

**G. PEACE WITH ENEMIES...** 1. Jesus shows us how to have peace with our enemies 2. Consider [Mt 5:44](#); [Lk 23:34](#) --

**Through precept and example, Jesus shows us how to make peace**

“What a Wonderful change in my life has been wrought

Since Jesus came into my heart”

Up until almost four years ago now, my life was empty. No interest, no belief, no belonging, no love, just guilt and regret. Illness and divorce had taken their toll , death seemed like it might have been a blessing.

Then a light shone on my life, through my grandchildren. I went to their baptism and then started to go to church and I received Eternal Life. Since then I have attended church regularly and sing with the Swansea Gospel Male Voice Choir. I meet with friends and relatives with joy and happiness in my heart and I have to keep a diary now to organise my busy life. God has been good to me!

The guilt that weighed down on my shoulders has been lifted, my sins of which there were many during my 66 years, have been forgiven, I now belong to a loving and caring family, my heart now pumps joy and purpose through my body. From being bed-bound to the active life I now lead is all due to the transformation by the love God and the love He has for me and I for Him.

Now as a “born again Christian” I have led my first person to the Lord Jesus and what great joy I experienced from this man’s salvation.

I am part of a four man team that take the Good News into old peoples homes where we sing, read the Bible, pray and preach as well as make friends with the residents. To date 34 older folk and 4 staff have made a commitment to Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is using each of us four men.

In my case I marvel at the change that Jesus has brought about in my life, a sinner, one of the worst, but now washed clean by the shed blood of Christ.

Praise God Almighty for His Son Jesus.

*Fred Bradley (Swansea)*

**Council Report**

The meeting of council met in Bothwell, near Glasgow on Wednesday 21 March. All members were present with the exception of Ray Hall who had an unavoidable doctor's appointment. Please pray for Ray as he undergoes tests to ascertain his health state.

Mike Dewhurst opened devotions with Psalm 17 with the encouragement that in our times of trouble we can turn to the Lord to sustain and keep us as the psalmist prayed. The psalm ends with the psalmist expressing his contentment in the Lord and it is also through our contentment in God that we can become more like our Lord Jesus Christ. There followed with a round of prayer as we looked to the Lord to bless the meeting and the work of the movement.

The main areas discussed were:

1. Finance – It was agreed that the financial year would be 1 August to 31 July. The affiliation and indemnity fee remains at £4 per choirman for the incoming year. All payments from choirs should be sent directly to Paul Davies, Treasurer. A separate letter to choirs will be issued from the Secretary with details.
2. Music – there are a number of books now out of stock, but requests should still be sent to Bill Lewis and will be monitored for replenishment if required.
3. Interlink – The editor requires you to submit your articles in order to continue to have sufficient material for future publication.

this weekend Special for all of us

Thank you again to all those choirmen who made our festival weekend a success and a blessing to all.

We look forward to 2012 as we go forth with the message of Salvation to a needy people

N B Banbridge festival 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012 DV) which will be our 45<sup>th</sup> (DV)

*Albert Bickerstaff*  
(Secretary)

Bristol & West of England 60th (Diamond Jubilee) Festival

29th September 2012 commencing at 6:45 pm

Colston Hall, Bristol

Special Guest:

Helen Shapiro

**BANBRIDGE MALE VOICE TESTIMONY CHOIR  
REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2011**

Greetings in the Lord's name from Banbridge (NI)

The following is a report for Banbridge Male Voice Testimony Choir 44th Festival of Male voice praise which was held on Saturday 26th November 2011 in Banbridge Baptist Church (kindly granted) when approximately 90 men from all over the province, Inverness, Moray and Dublin joined together to sing the Gospel. The weather was very good and we had a big crowd out to here the Gospel message in word and song, we had a rich time of Blessing singing the Gospel.

We were Blessed by the singing of our Guest Soloist John Buchanan from Moray in Scotland John also sang at the Sunday night service The conductors this year were Bill Croly from Dublin, Houston Ogilby from Ballymena, Norman Deering from Newtownards, Frank Gilmore from Newtownbreda and our own Conductos Winston Annett. and Jackie Wills The Chairman and Speaker was Pastor S Hilliard from Banbridge

Mrs Barbara Baird was our pianist and Mrs Sadie Abernethy from Newtownbreda choir was the organist, we would like to thank Barbara for playing for us all year she is a great help to the Banbridge Choir. On Sunday night the Banbridge Choir and some from other Choirmen sang at the evening service in the Baptist Church and our Conductors were Jackie Wills, John Buchanan and Winston Annett and Pastor K Wilson from Banbridge Baptist also a Choir member brought the closing word.

We as a Choir have had a very busy year in 2011 singing in Churches, Mission halls and five Festivals one of which was in Dublin for there 75th and that was something special, a time of blessing and meeting friends from many parts.

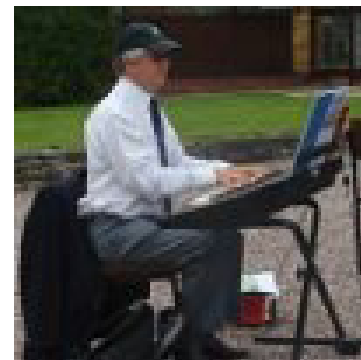
On behalf of the Banbridge Choir I would like to thank Bill Croly

4. Future All Britain Festivals – Roland Bugden from the London Area has suggested a possible venue for the next ABF and this will be investigated further.
5. Constitution – Scripture references have been added to the revised constitution to strengthen our stand on the importance of Christian living.
6. Concern for Choirs – a number of choirs have ceased to operate including Birmingham, Carlisle and Dunfermline but we can also take encouragement of some who are expanding.

The meeting closed with a short epilogue and prayer from a number of those attending.

Please continue to pray for Council and each other as we look to continue to serve the Lord through our ministry in song.

***Ian Stangoe***  
***Chairman, Council of FMVP***



Guess who?  
Guess where?

*Answers next issue!!*

*Received from Geoff Shaw of the Morecambe Choir*

My wife and I were on a Shearings holiday based in St Ives last September and my wife had a mini stroke and was admitted to the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro. She was discharged on the 3rd October but we were unable to return home until the 7th October. Whilst in Truro we visited the Methodist Church coffee shop several times and noticed the poster for the West Country Rally. It was a reassuring reminder that we are never far from god no matter what happens. We were very much at peace as we knew that we were part of a much bigger Christian family.

As a result of this experience I felt that I had to do something further. Therefore on Saturday night 12th May I am arranging an evening of MVP singing in Bare Methodist Church, Morecambe. We expect to be supported by members from other choirs (Yorkshire, Bolton and from Carlisle)

There will be a practice in the afternoon followed by the meeting at night and during the evening there will be an Offering taken for the work of the Stroke Association (North West). Tea will be provided between the practice and the evening meeting when we shall be able to enjoy fellowship together and meet friends both old and new. Wives and families often join the menfolk and enjoy a day out in Morecambe while the men practice.

We met many lovely people on our enforced stay in Cornwall and we thank God for each and every one of them

*Geoff and Marje Shaw*

*(Editor's Note.- Have you got a story of God's undertaking to share, if so please let me have it for inclusion in a future issue. )*

Brangwyn Praise 2012  
Swansea

The first Saturday in March of each year signifies the gathering of Male Voice Praise songsters from far and wide to Swansea.

This year saw over one hundred choirmen making their way to the Brangwyn Hall just off the Swansea sea front for the Festival of Praise. Representative opened their lungs in honour of our Lord with men from Swansea, Cardiff, Newport, Bristol, Exeter, Cheltenham, Torquay, Derbyshire, Leicester, Bolton, Queensferry (Deeside), St Ives, Bridgewater, Purley (Surrey), and Welshpool. We must not forget the guest trio, "Ministry in Song" who had travelled from the West of Scotland on Friday to be with us, arriving in Swansea on Saturday morning and made the return trip on Sunday. That is quite a commitment for a few hours in the city to share the Gospel Message.

Many old acquaintances from past gatherings were renewed and the times of fellowship was good as memories were shared and we caught up on what had been happening. The chairman for the evening was Rev. Owen Jones and the message was brought by Rev. John Treharne

The auditorium was quite full with some eight hundred people gathered to hear the praises to our God ring out. Only a week earlier a well known local choir had only managed to muster half that number to a concert.

It is always good for the Lord's people to gather in a festival of song and praise such as this. Not only did we enjoy ourselves but we had been blessed and we look forward to next year (DV) on the 2nd March 2013.

*Keith Thomas*