



CHOIRLINK

*The Prayer and Praise bulletin of the
Festivals of Male Voice Praise*

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Editor: Vaughan Reynolds, 26 Longfellow Road,
Banbury, Oxfordshire OX16 9LB, UK

☎ 01295 369289

✉ vaughan.reynolds@talktalk.net

It has been a momentous three months, in many ways, since the last Choirlink. Even so, this edition is shorter than many, as there is less choir news to report. All the same, Council had its regular Zoom meeting in September, so we begin there.

COUNCIL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2022

Ian Stangoe, Chairman

Council met through Zoom on Wed 7th September. In attendance were Alfred Tarring, Allan Turner, Colin Carbert, Houston Ogilby, Ian Stangoe, John Buchanan, Keith Youngman, Mike Dewhurst and Vaughan Reynolds. Apologies had been received from Paul Davies and Huw Jones.

Chairman opened with a reading from Col 1:24-29 reminding us that we strive to make known 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'.

Paul had issued a financial state-

ment which shows a small increase in funds, despite Council paying for the choirs' Liability Insurance again this year.

Vaughan gave an update on how Choirlink would be circulated in the future. Contributions from choirs and individuals still come in well, but please continue to send Vaughan your news and updates.

Each area leader reported on events happening and planned. There are a few areas where opportunities to take engagements

are happening but these are very few as many places are still not hosting choirs.

Ian proposed that the two choirs in Glasgow officially combine. (This has been confirmed since the meeting. The choir will be known as McRoberts Festival

Male Voice Praise.).

Please continue to pray that the Lord will lead and guide and that choirs will be enabled to serve in outreach and meet together for fellowship in His name.

Mike closed the meeting in prayer.

United Kingdom

HIGHLAND GOSPEL MALE VOICE CHOIR

Eric Halkett

After a couple of years of the Covid pandemic we have unfortunately lost members, some due to the after effects of the virus causing them to lose their singing voice. I remember the first time going back to church after over a year of live-streamed services. I couldn't sing for long before I had a coughing spasm due to my voice box not being used to singing out - a bit of a shock. Thankfully the Lord heals.

We are now meeting regularly under the watchful direction of Eileen Mackintosh and had our first engagement at the Isobel Fraser Care home where a truly inspirational Gospel message was brought by John de la Haye. The hymns chosen enabled the older

residents to sing out the well-known hymns that they loved.

What a joy it was to sing at the Moray Festival in Buckie on 24th September [details in the Moray report]. The fellowship of meeting together was greatly appreciated by everyone. We couldn't help talking joyfully to one another, enabling the choirmen and congregation to sing gloriously to our Lord and Saviour.

Onwards and upwards they say, and we will now be in full practice for our planned engagements this year at Cameron House Care home, Fundraiser for Bear Necessities and our annual Farming Community Service in the Dingwall Auction Mart to sing of and celebrate the wonder of Jesus' birth and raise some money for Alzheimer's. We are also hoping to return to being able to extend

our gospel outreach to the residents of our local prison during Prisoners Week.

God willing, in the New Year we will return to many of our 'normal' engagements but are really excited about a weekend to Ballymena in April to mark their 75th Anniversary, delayed due to the pandemic.

Thanks for the opportunity to share some of the news from the Highlands and may the Lord richly bless you!

MORAY GOSPEL MALE VOICE CHOIR

John Scott

On the 24th September 2022 we held our Male Voice Gospel Festival at Buckie Methodist Church. It was indeed with great pleasure, and thankfulness to God that we did so. Since the pandemic we have been unable to meet together as a joint Choir for three years. The turnout was very encouraging, with support from members of the Peterhead, Inverness, Glasgow, Ballymena (Northern Ireland) and Moray Choirs - plus one First Bass from Wales.

Our chairman and speaker was the Rev. Matt Moeller, Pastor of

the Hopeman Baptist Church, who near the end of the programme preached a very timely and challenging message. Also on the evening the Rev. Moeller's wife Ericka, as our soloist, sang four beautiful songs in a very professional way touching many hearts.

We were delighted to welcome a good sized congregation to worship with us, and an offering of £750 was received for the work of the Scottish Air Ambulance. We do not forget to give God all the glory for such a wonderful evening of praise.

Our continuing prayer as a Choir is that as we seek to "tell all the world about Jesus" and worship Him in song, that hearts may be touched, and turned to The Saviour whom we love.

CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT MALE VOICE PRAISE CHOIR

David Kendrick

We have some wonderful news! We are reforming the Cheltenham Male Voice Praise Choir on Friday 7th October 2022 with 12 men: 1, possibly 2 + Mark (Leader) 1st Tenor; 3 x 2nd Tenor, with the possibility of 1

other, although not over hopeful; 1 x 1st Bass; and 4 x 2nd Bass, plus our faithful Accompanist, Dr David Tingley. We are thrilled the Lord has answered our many prayers in a positive way. We have also changed our venue for practising to a church where the parking is easier. To make life easier for those travelling a fair distance we will meet fortnightly on a Friday afternoon.

We have 3 or 4 longstanding invitations for Carol Services, hence we will be commencing by singing carols in October. I will need to be in contact with the Activities Co-ordinators at some of our previous Care Homes, to ascertain their desires to welcome us back, and under what conditions of entry. Hopefully, they have missed us and will be keen to welcome us back to sing!

LONDON & HOME COUNTIES CHOIR NEWS

Keith Youngman, Chairman

With now only 5 choirs in the Area, each with choirmen num-

bers in single figures, it is more important that we support each other at engagements. This is proving possible and successful with men from Luton and Hertford able to support the Uxbridge choir who have 4 engagements before Christmas. It is more of a challenge as to how we support brothers in the Suffolk and Whitstable choirs, not forgetting Associate Members in the Area who might still like to be involved. We pray that opportunities will arise which will allow us to gather and praise the Lord.

We give thanks that the Whitstable choir is continuing and has affirmed this with the election of new officers including Ron Ashman as their leader. We pray that the Lord will sustain them in their efforts and bring forward new opportunities for their ministry. In Hertford we are expecting to visit some care homes before Christmas, a planned visit earlier in September having been called off at the last minute because of sickness – another likelihood with small choirs!

With Queen Elizabeth's passing we thank the Lord for the reign of a monarch whose Christian faith, quietly but firmly expressed, underpinned her entire life of service. Let us pray that King Charles will find a similar measure of faith in the true and living God. Items for the next Choirlink by Saturday 7th January, please.

Yours in Christ, Vaughan