



CHOIRLINK

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

No. 7

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2019**

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COUNCIL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2019

Ian Stangoe, Chairman

Council met at Bellshill Liberty Church on 4th September. In attendance were Mike Dewhurst, Paul Davies, Alfred Tarring, Houston Ogilby, John Buchanan and Ian Stangoe with apologies received from Colin Carbert and Gordon Wells. Allan Turner was welcomed to his first Council meeting as London Area representative.

John read Psalm 100 where we are exhorted to sing for joy to the Lord reminding us that we should give thanks to Him and praise His Name for the Lord is good and his love endures forever.

Paul had issued a financial statement for the previous full year which showed a small deficit mainly due to the purchase of the music memory sticks and new stock of CDs and DVDs.

Alfred, with the help of John and Ian, has produced a programme for the Scottish Festival 2021. He is also currently working on producing all our published music books in pdf format along with training tracks. There is also work being done on producing backing tracks from various sources.

Choirs are sadly still in decline

and Mike is pursuing the possibility of producing a publicity DVD to help local choirs attract new members. Kenny Dykes from South Wales has stepped down as Area Representative and discussions are undergoing for a replacement.

The new website is up and running, providing access to music purchase and Choirlink. It is envisaged that there will be a choir members closed area for access to all of the music scores, training and backing tracks as well as other useful helps so keep logging onto www.fmvp.org for updates. Vaughan Reynolds is receiving many contributions for Choirlink so keep up the good work in submitting articles in plenty of time before publication.

Council agreed to host a Scottish Festival on 15th May 2021

in the home of FMVP – Findlay Church (formerly known as Findlay Tabernacle) in Glasgow. Choirmen from all the affiliated choirs will be invited so watch out for more details soon.

The meeting closed with a reading from Romans 15:5-13 where we are reminded of the importance of working together in unity having the same attitude of mind to one another as Christ had for us. From several Old Testament passages we read of Jews and Gentiles singing together the praises of God (vs 9-12). A unity that had been impossible became a reality as they sang the praises of the Lord together. Like them, we are filled with joy, peace and hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. What a unique “choir” we belong to, and what a privilege it is to sing along praising the Lord with others.

United Kingdom

HIGHLAND GOSPEL MALE VOICE CHOIR *Sam Macdonald*

After our summer break our first engagement was to sing at

Invergordon to passengers from one of the many cruise liners who call over the summer months. The local branch of the Sailors’ Society opens the Church of Scotland to receive

passengers who are not away to sightseeing destinations throughout the Highlands. We are asked to sing for an hour in the morning, followed by lunch before returning home. This meeting was totally successful as the choir was balanced, our conductor was available, and our pianist was able to attend. We must thank God for answering our prayers, as this had been a difficult event to organise.

Our programme ahead has been curtailed due to our conductor having to attend to his work duties and our pianist going abroad for a month. Nevertheless we have eleven engagements to complete by Christmas time, when we close the session with our annual Farmer's service in the Dingwall Auction Mart. We give thanks for those who continue to support our God focused praise and worship, in these days when so much evil is prevalent.

We continue in our search for a permanent Conductor but have placed adverts in local press and churches in the area and pray that someone would be led to take on this commitment. How-

ever, we are encouraged that our new Musical Director who is a talented international opera singer has agreed to use her expertise to improve our singing and expression.

**CHESTERFIELD
CHRISTIAN MEN'S CHOIR**
Alan Smith

Greetings from Chesterfield!

I am pleased to let everyone know that we now have our own website covering the Christian Men's Choir. Please have a read of it at:
christianmenschoir.uk

There is also further good news in that we have a new choir member joined quite recently to augment the second bass section!

Between now and Christmas, we have committed to 6 choir appointments mainly taking Sunday services around our area.

I pray that we will continue to worship the Lord in song and ministry.

MORAY MALE VOICE GOSPEL CHOIR

John Buchanan

On Saturday the 28th of September the annual Moray Male Voice Festival started off with a storm. During the previous night the weather conditions in parts of the coast were atrocious with continuous heavy rain continuing into the late morning.

This caused many roads to be closed with several bridges brought down. Some choirmen took detours to avoid the road closures which meant that a normally thirty-minute journey took two hours and thirty minutes. Unfortunately, it was so bad that some of the choir men from Peterhead had to turn back home, with only one, Robert Baird our guest Pianist managing to get through.

In spite of all this, before three in the afternoon there were over sixty men ready for rehearsal. The Festival was a tremendous success with choirmen from Scarborough, Glasgow, Inverness, Peterhead, Moray and a guest choir from Ballymena N. Ireland presenting the Gospel

message in song. The Ballymena Testimony Choir sang four songs accompanied by their Pianist, Mrs. Linda Ogilby. A challenging message was given by Rev. Graham Swanson from Elgin who was the Preacher and Chairman for the evening. On these special occasions we continue to give God all the Glory.

Thanks to all who contributed to the successful day and to those who gave an offering which went to the Scottish Bible Society, and Deborah House Project, Romania.

John Scott, Secretary

HERTFORD MALE VOICE PRAISE GROUP

Keith Youngman

The choir was formed in 1980 from within the large fellowship of Hertford Baptist Church and whilst we have always been open to choirmen from other churches, it remains populated from within this church. We have the benefit that because of this, we meet up with each other regularly even if a practice or

engagement is not happening, meaning that there is a close friendship and supportive bond between choir members.

There are currently 11 members of the choir and we can cover the 4 singing parts. Four of these choir members were founder members of the choir including our Musical Director, David Penrose. We thank God for David and the service he has given to us and he wider movement in the south east.

Most of our engagements are in taking Sunday services at small chapels and churches, there being several which have become regular engagements – at one we have been going twice a year for more than 25 years! A first for us this year, was to take a Church of England service where we blended our normal free church format with expected parts of the CofE liturgy . It was all received very well in a well-attended service which meant they ran out of cups for the after service refreshments!

We do also visit care homes and afternoon fellowships but these

can sometimes be with a reduced choir as some choir members are still employed.

We thank God for being with us throughout the past 39 years and pray we can continue to worship Him and spread His word over the coming years.

A FUNNY THING...

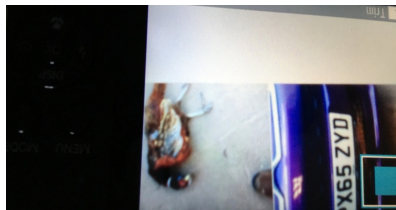
David Lindsay (East Yorks)

You will have heard the old adage “a funny thing happened to me on the way to the forum”. Well, here is a revised version.

My wife, Sylvia and I were going to Buckie on a weeks holiday, taking in the Moray FMVP at Buckie. On Friday 27th Sept we were travelling the A9 near Aviemore, when a pheasant walked out from the side of the road and then ran in front of me. Because of the volume of traffic I could not swerve to avoid it so an impact took place. I looked behind but could see no sign of it. We went on to Buckie to our accommodation. On Saturday we went shopping and our attention was drawn to the front of our car. Imagine our

surprise when we saw a wing sticking out from the grille at the bottom of the car. On checking, the full bird was there, but we could not get it out. In the afternoon we went to rehearsal then later on to the Festival. What an evening that was. Superb fellowship and friendship. The choir from Ballymena Northern Ireland were there and it was good to renew fellowship with some of them we have known for some time. On Sunday we went to Portknockie and what a welcome we received. In our conversation I related what had taken place and how I had a stowaway. A brother at the church, Willie West, said he could do something for it and said he would see me round 10.00am on Monday. This he did and took my car to a relative's garage and was back within the hour minus passenger. The lads at the garage could not believe how it had managed to go through the grille. Tuesday I went to the choir practice which I enjoyed immensely. Sylvia and I would like to thank our friends in Moray for their fellowship in the gospel, for the lovely Sunday lunch and for their care over us

during our holiday. This was my second time at the Moray festival and God willing we hope to be back next year.



CHELTENHAM MALE VOICE PRAISE CHOIR

David Kendrick

We have been blessed in the Cheltenham Choir by the addition of two new choirmen; a 1st Bass and a 2nd Bass, for which we are truly praising the Lord for answering our prayers.

As mentioned in last Choirlink, we are looking forward to celebrating our Diamond Jubilee on Saturday the 19th October at Cambray Baptist Church, Cheltenham at 6.30pm. Any choirmen from other Choirs are very welcome to come and join us at 2.00/2.30pm for rehearsal; just let me know on (01684) 438261 or (07791) 277684; or email me on dajeaken@talktalk.net. Tea will be available @ £2.50pp, wives included.

Worldwide

SYDNEY FESTIVAL MALE VOICE CHOIR

David Gordon

This has been a fairly lean year for the choir - we have had only 8 engagements so far, and only one more in December. Several men left the choir at the end of last year (two retired, one moved interstate) and early this year (two resigned, one moved interstate) - so we are feeling the pinch of reduced numbers. Nevertheless, we were able to make a trip to Forster (on the coast about 250 km north of Sydney) and provide a couple of programmes (Saturday evening and Sunday morning) at the Baptist Church (where one of the members used to sing with the choir before he moved to Forster - he enjoyed the opportunity to have fellowship with the choir, especially as his wife went to be with the Lord not long before). On the way back to Sydney we presented a programme at a retirement vil-

lage at Cardiff Heights (greater Newcastle area, about 125 km north of Sydney). We are grateful to our Father in heaven for these opportunities to sing His praises, and to point people to Christ Jesus. We give thanks, too, for the opportunities to encourage the Lord's people in their walk with him and strength and courage to witness for their Lord.

BUNDABERG FESTIVAL OF MALE VOICE PRAISE

Elaine Stebens

Bundaberg will be hosting Brisbane and Toowoomba choirs for a festival on the 19th October 2019. This is a wonderful time for all of us. The combined choirs will also sing at St. John's Lutheran Church and then Ann Street Gospel Chapel on the Sunday morning,

We will then fellowship over lunch before the visitors head home.

Snippets from here and there...

*Freda Tassell, Secretary of the **Whistable** Choir, recently fell and fractured her hip. She underwent prompt hip replacement surgery and is making good progress. Her choirman husband Fred also had two falls recently but we praise the Lord that he has recovered well.*

*Allan Turner says that the **Purley** Choir are using backing tracks (as mentioned by Ian Stangoe) follow-*

ing the sad loss of Eileen Kerr, their long-standing accompanist. At present they are still looking for someone to play for them. They would appreciate prayer that they can continue to operate as a choir, since they have not only lost their pianist but several choirmen in the last couple of years.

*Gerald Durrant would value prayer for a new venture in Stony Stratford, shared between **Uxbridge** and **Luton** choirs. It is hoped that other choirmen can join in on 19th October for this outreach event.*

Calendar of Events: October-December 2019

OCTOBER

- 19 Uxbridge Choir Evangelical Free Church, Stony Stratford
- 19 Cheltenham Rally, Cambray Baptist Church, Cheltenham
- 19 Bundaberg Festival, Queensland, Australia

DECEMBER

- 15 Highland Choir Farmer's Service, Dingwall Auction Mart

Sincere thanks to all who have provided news and prayer requests. It has become increasingly clear that I need to make best use of the limited space available. For this reason Choirlink will no longer list all engagements on the back page - only the major ones or those of unusual interest. I hope this won't upset anyone!

Winnie and I are due to be away for a while this Northern Hemisphere winter visiting Southern Hemisphere family. This will mean the next Choirlink will be later than usual. Please send your items by Saturday 25th January for the next edition. In the meantime, may I wish all choirmen and their families a very happy Christmas and God's abundant blessing in 2020.

Yours in Christ, Vaughan