



CHOIRLINK

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

No. 9

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This edition of Choirlink is written under lockdown conditions that are unprecedented since the birth of the FMVP movement. With choir activity at a standstill everywhere it is therefore much shorter than usual, crammed into a single sheet. The next deadline will be Emailed later. VR

COUNCIL REPORT: MARCH 2020

Ian Stangoe, Chairman

Council met at Bellshill Liberty Community Church on 11th March. In attendance were John Buchanan, Colin Carbert, Mike Dewhurst, Paul Davies, Houston Ogilby, Ian Stangoe, Allan Turner and Gordon Wells with apologies received from Alfred Tarring whose sister sadly passed away the previous day. Our prayers are with Alfred, Kathleen and the family at this sad time. Huw Jones was welcomed to his first Council meeting as Wales Area representative.

Mike read Mark 13:1-10 and reminded us that despite earthly things that do not last, uncreated

things remain (Heb 12:27) – Throne of God; Word of God; Church of God; Servants of God. Mike exhorted us to “work the work of Him who sent me while it is day” (John 9:4).

Paul issued a financial statement for the previous six months which is a quiet period for the movement’s finances. Sales of CDs are still coming in via the website with orders from USA, Canada and UK.

The arrangements for the Scottish Festival on 15th May 2021 are coming along, with invitations out to speaker and guests. The North

Ness Boys from Shetland have agreed to participate (check them out on Facebook). Vaughan Reynolds has volunteered to produce prayer despatches with the first issue in the autumn so watch out for that along with details of the Festival including registration. Due to limited audience capacity, tickets will be issued priced £5.

Mike has discussed with Andrew Towers (who produced the video of the last 2 ABFs) about

providing a publicity DVD to help local choirs attract new members, and this is currently underway.

I closed by reading Psalm 138 reminding us in v8 of another thing which is unchanging “your love, O Lord, endures forever”. We are so grateful for such a loving, faithful God we have and serve.

Council have sent a letter of support to all choirs, with Scripture verses to encourage us.

BRISTOL EVANGEL MALE VOICE CHOIR

Paul Davies

This will be a short article as, I assume as elsewhere in FMVP circles, there is little to report during these most difficult and trying times.

We undertook our first engagement of the season back on 23rd February when we took the evening service at Wickwar Chapel just north of Bristol where we received a warm welcome from a small but enthusiastic gathering of God’s believing people. This is one of our regular engagements as it is the home church of William Zerk, our deputy conductor, who was able to demonstrate his recently acquired conducting skills in a couple of pieces in front of the

Home Crowd. The main problem with this is that our Leader had to replace William in the second tenors and found himself singing mainly first bass!

As we prepared for our second engagement two weeks later, we were suddenly deluged with illness within the choir including emergency colon cancer surgery for our newly appointed secretary, Euan Thomas and several other members were going down with all sorts of problems. We didn’t have adequate cover to switch the men around within the parts, which we can normally do quite easily, so we decided to reluctantly cancel the engagement, plus another commitment we had to help the Cheltenham Choir in Stonehouse, Glos for a special meeting at Bethany Chapel. This was the first time in

the Choir's history that we had to cancel engagements for any reason. However, events suddenly overtook us, and the virus outbreak meant that both engagements had to be cancelled anyway.

We have now closed down indefinitely until this dreadful situation has been eradicated. As a choir we maintain contact with each other as best we can by email and telephone. I am now seriously considering having to cancel the Bristol Festival at the end of September especially now indications are that this situation could be in force for another six months. Even if things improve drastically in the coming weeks choirmen won't be adequately rehearsed because of their enforced break and so I feel that we would not have been able to put on our usual polished performance. Final decision not yet made!

Further to my third paragraph I am pleased to report that those afflicted by various ailments are now well on the mend, and especially that Euan is doing very well, now happily back at home and on a reasonably normal diet. Praise the Lord for His goodness to us all.

All members of the Bristol Evangel Choir join with me in wishing God's Blessing and protection over every one of you and your loved ones. Take care and most of all

keep praying for His intervention to rid us of this awful virus which is claiming so many lives across the world.

ORTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

John Scott

The Orton Male Voice Choir in Cumbria has lost one of its founder members with the death of Robert Jackson in February.

Robert was one of the original group gathered together by Sidney Bowman, a grocer in the village of Orton during the summer of 1952 with the intention of forming a Male Voice singing group.

At the end of November in that year the group took their first engagement in the neighbouring village of Tebay and so began a ministry which has continued for the succeeding sixty-seven years.

The thanksgiving service for Robert's life was held in St Lawrence's Church, Crosby Ravensworth, and the Choir had the privilege of singing two pieces - Over in Glory and All that thrills my soul is Jesus. The large gathering bore testimony to the respect in which Robert was held, and a fitting tribute was presented by Robert's daughter Pat who is the current conductor of the choir.

SWANSEA GOSPEL MALE VOICE CHOIR

Huw Jones

Our Secretary Cliff Mason went to be with Our Lord at the end of February. Cliff had been Secretary for the past twelve years. He worked tremendously hard in that role and was a great witness for the Lord. He sang in second bass and Cliff was the fifth second bass we have lost in the past two years. We remember Cliff's wife Margaret and family at this time. The funeral was at Margam Cemetery on the 9th of March with the celebration of his life at Waterfront Community Church afterwards. Our chairman, Pastor Jim Webber, gave a tribute on behalf of the choir. The choir sang Morte Christe and There's Coming A Day.

Since Christmas we have had two engagements: one at a home for the elderly in Swansea and the other at a Prophetic witness rally.

From here and there...

Sam Macdonald of the Highland Choir says they have started a Keep In Touch Group where they communicate words of encouragement, scriptures and web links. It's now on its third edition I haven't space to publish it here but perhaps other choirs could give it a go. EMail might be easiest but

printing and posting could also work, and we do need to stay in touch with each other at this time.

Sadly, Uxbridge Choir has lost two long-standing members to the new virus: John Franklin and Richard Swallow. Please remember their wives and families, especially with current funeral restrictions.

Bill Croly, who was FMVP Council Chairman for many years, passed away on 3rd April, having been unwell for some time. His wife Lottie, also unwell, is being looked after at home by their daughter Sandra. Sadly, there can be no Thanksgiving Service at the present time.

Ewart North has been producing training tracks for some older songs. He intends to make available, on demand, songs in MP3 format from Festivals, Male Voice Praise, Scottish and Moody books, plus Christian Choirman and Festivals Carol books. We can request a particular track giving book, song number and voice part by EMail: trainingtracks@hotmail.com and Ewart says he can fulfil the request promptly, with piano accompaniment and the particular voice part emphasised. He has liaised with Alfred Tarring and it is hoped to release a USB flash drive later on. Council say they are very grateful for Ewart's efforts in this regard.

Please keep seeking the Lord as in
Isaiah 55:6: *He can still be found!*
In His service, *Vaughan*