



CHOIRLINK

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

No. 2

**JULY
2018**

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CHESTERFIELD CHRISTIAN MEN'S CHOIR

Alan Smith

Our choir holiday in Llandudno was a great success in May this year, taking 40 folk for a week to the Ambassador Hotel on the sea front.

We did get the opportunity to do some singing with the choir whilst we were there too!.

It is great a opportunity to mix with each other on a more informal basis and we have already booked for 2019.

We are coming up to our choir summer break and up to the end

of July we will have covered 8 appointments by the choir.

So we start back in September and so far looking at around 5 further appointments to the end of the year.

Another new starter will be joining us in September and we look forward to having him with us to share the gospel in Song.

Although the numbers of engagements are fewer this year so far, the commitment by the chaps is very encouraging and we really enjoy our rehearsing together.

There will be a small representation from Chesterfield attending the Bristol Festival in September.

**PURLEY GOSPEL MALE
VOICE CHOIR**
Allan Turner

At Purley we have had a mixed bag of events since last we commented here. Illness of the pianist has made us shuffle engagements and even rebook many of them. It's now time for a summer break until September.

Two of our members are getting to be almost impossible to accommodate because of their illness and we pray that they will still be available in September.

Both Tenor parts are thin on the ground and the two I have written about above are both 1st tenors.

**HIGHLAND GOSPEL MALE
VOICE CHOIR**
Sam Macdonald

It is with great sadness that I have to report that our choir conductor George Henderson passed away suddenly while on a golf outing. It is good that he

has gone to be with His Lord and we pray for a time of comfort for his dear wife Margaret and the family.

George's funeral is at 11.30am on Wednesday 11th July in Cul-loden Baptist Church. It would be nice to know that as many of our Brothers in Christ would be with us in a time of prayer as we give thanks for the life and witness of our dearly loved Conductor.

Onto other news. We celebrated our 33rd annual festival of Gospel praise on 2nd June with visiting choirmen swelling our choir to 54. Following rehearsal, we went out into the city to sing selected pieces which were well received, and after a sumptuous tea and a time of prayer, the Festival opened with a gathering time of community singing. The Festival then was enjoyed by an attendance of 350 and a collection of £1200 was gathered for the Fishermens' Mission. Our guests, the North Ness Boys from the Shetland Isles sang and played a selection of Gospel pieces in their unique coun-

try style and their leader, Aubrey Jamieson gave a short message based on Psalm 121.



We are now enjoying a break until mid August, having completed 21 engagements for the year and hope to return refreshed to start a new programme and visit church groups, retirement and nursing homes, prison and our highlight of every year as we sing from the ring, to the Farming community in the Dingwall Mart.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS MALE VOICE PRAISE

Rowland Bugden

Although the choir haven't been taking engagements in recent months, their leader, Rowland Bugden, sent this piece of news a while back. It is of particular relevance to the London & Home Counties Area because it

has limited Rowland's ability to spend time on FMVP matters. As well as being Bury leader, Rowland is the Area Organiser for London. He writes:

I have been asked to speak at a conference in November for pastors and church leaders in the Philippines. This entails preparing 15 lectures/seminars on the subject of "The Sovereignty of God in Doctrine and the Believers' Experience". I would be very grateful for your prayer support. Thank you.

BRISTOL EVANGEL MALE VOICE CHOIR

Paul Davies

Sunday 8th July will see our last engagement before we have our summer recess. We will be taking the evening service at Langford Evangelical Church in Somerset a few miles away from Bristol Airport. It will be different as Rosemary Raybould, our wonderful pianist, will be away on holiday meaning that I will have to move over to the piano with William Zerk taking over out the front. (The choir tend to compare me

with Les Dawson, but we do get by!)

Regretfully a few weeks ago we had to attend the Thanksgiving and funeral service of Terry Quantick, a long-term member of the choir including a lengthy term as our efficient choir secretary. Terry and his wife Jean had in recent years moved to Cannington, near Bridgwater to be near their son and he had to resign from the choir due to ill health. He passed into the presence of his Lord on 31st May. The choir sang “Unbounded Grace” and “Gwahoddiad” in the packed URC Church in Cannington and then gave a particularly moving rendering of “We’ll all be there” at the graveside. We are grateful to the three or four men who came and joined with us from Bridgwater, Exeter and Torquay to help give Terry a “good send-off”. A wonderful Christian man full of love for His Lord.

The summer period will still be busy as we prepare for our 66th Bristol Festival scheduled with the Lord’s Blessing for Saturday 29th September at St Mi-

chael’s Church Centre, Little Stoke, Bristol. This is the venue to which we moved three years ago with the Colston Hall becoming too big – and expensive! – for us. St Michael’s is a superb modern Anglican Church now seating just under 500 with extremely good facilities suitable for a festival such as ours. For this we will be holding regular rehearsals throughout the summer not forgetting that we will also be attending the Brangwyn Praise at Swansea on 14th July which was cancelled in March due to bad weather.

Our guest speaker this year is Paul Young, an excellent speaker from Maesteg in South Wales and well known to the Swansea Choir. Unusually, we have asked our soloist from last year, Stephanie Lamplough, a Salvationist from Stafford to return to us this year. She was such a wonderful inspiration to us with a superb soprano voice and was so well received that we could do no better other than asking her again along with her three young daughters who won over everyone with their delightful singing.

We usually have a good attendance of men from other areas including Swansea, Exeter, Torquay, Bridgwater, Cheltenham and several regular visitors from the general London Area. Please contact me if you want any information as you will be most welcome to attend. It is an easy venue to find not least being almost next door to the Bristol Parkway Railway Station.

EXETER MALE VOICE PRAISE

Alfred Tarring

THE EXETER FESTIVAL

Our Festival this year was different. After 18 years in the same city-centre church, we changed our venue back to St. Thomas Methodist Church, the church we used to use previously until it became too small for us. Although it is away from the centre of Exeter it is conveniently situated, has excellent facilities, including parking, lovely acoustics and a good organ!

Despite the change, the Festival

was well attended, with a choir of approximately 70 men and 250 in the congregation. The gospel was faithfully presented both in song and by Rev Edgar Daniels who gave the message. This year we were supporting South West Youth Ministries, who are bringing the message of the Lord Jesus to 20,000 young people in schools and colleges in the West Country, and we have been able to send them £600.

Our West Country Area is comprised of choirs from Exeter, Poole, Saltash, St Ives and Torbay. Why not support our festival next year? – put 13th April 2019 in your diary. We would love to see you.

CHELTENHAM MALE VOICE PRAISE CHOIR

David Kendrick

We are singing on Sunday afternoon, 8th July, at Bay Tree Care Centre and we are expecting a full Choir of 13 men, which is a 'first' for a while. We pray that we will receive our usual warm, enthusiastic welcome and that we will sing

well to those listening.

Saturday 14th sees 5 Choirmen travelling to Swansea to sing in the Brangwyn Festival, myself included!

Monday 23rd July is our final engagement before our August break. We are booked to sing at Nazareth House, which is a Roman Catholic Nursing Home and Care Centre, where we ALWAYS receive a very warm welcome from the Sister Superior and her faithful, friendly team. There is always a very good number in the congregation and they are very appreciative of our input; unfortunately, I have to miss it – Keswick Convention.

The monthly Bristol Practices continue throughout the Summer in readiness for the 29th September Festival. Please pray for the Lord's enabling for the men of the Cheltenham Choir; there are some challenging pieces to learn before the 29th.

Finally, we look forward to enjoying a meal together, with wives, at some point during August.

Snippets from here and there...

*There is sad news from the **Luton** choir, whose Secretary Rod Mayhew passed away towards the end of June. His funeral service is being held on 11th July in Flitwick Baptist Church. Please remember Rod's family and the Luton choir in your prayers.*

*Another former choirman has died recently: Hugh Bland of the former **Tendring** choir passed away in May and was remembered in a service at Abbeyfield Community Church in Colchester on 15th June.*

***Swansea** choir lost a long-standing former member in early June. Ernie Peters had been with the choir for many years and had travelled with them the length and breadth of the country, as well as in Canada and the USA as part of the South Wales Gospel Male Voice Choir, mainly in the 90s. Ernie's funeral took place in Mumbles Baptist Church on 18th June.*

*As mentioned in the last Choir-link, **Swansea** leader Peter Bridgens died in March. Pe-*

ter's funeral service was held on 14th April at the Waterfront Church in Swansea. The choir didn't sing as Mair felt it might be too difficult for her and the family. All the same, the church was filled with hundreds of folk and the Lord's name was lifted high. It is evident that Peter touched the lives of many people and he will be sadly missed. Please do continue to remember Peter's widow Mair and their sons Mark and Andrew in the days ahead, as well as the Swansea choir in their loss, too.

On a more cheerful note, the Whitstable choir recently held an evening of Praise and Worship at Beltinge Baptist Church, Herne Bay. This was attended by choirmen from Bury and Purley, as well as the Whitstable choir, with John Pease speaking and charring, and a certain Vaughan Reynolds providing accompaniment and a couple of guest instrumental spots. The small church was well filled and the evening was a time of great blessing, with the Lord's presence being clearly felt.

After the first edition of Choirlink got off to a flying start, when there was barely enough room to fit everything in, this edition is somewhat leaner! In particular, the eagle-eyed among us will notice there isn't any international news. I don't suppose singing has ceased in the southern hemisphere even though it's winter there, so hopefully we shall hear more next time. In particular, the Brisbane Festival is in early September and I know that some of the Sydney men plan to join them.

It's quite evident that many choirs have lost folk recently. Some had sung formerly, and others were still with the choir when the Lord took them. From my perspective in the London and Home Counties Area, I know it can make the going very hard for a choir when they lose someone for whatever reason. It is often very difficult to find new men to replace those who are no longer singing. We should give thanks for those who have sung with us in the past, yet keep our eyes and ears open for potential new members. Most of all, we need to pray that God will provide us with the men we need to continue the work - if this is His direction for us. In London, we feel the work has now ended as regards the annual Festival, but local choirs are still maintaining a witness at smaller venues in nearby areas, though sometimes with unbalanced parts.

Looking towards the next Choirlink, please send your items, however brief, by Saturday 6th October for the next edition. Thank you!

Yours in Christ, Vaughan

Calendar of Events: July - October 2018

JULY

- 14 *Swansea Festival, Brangwyn Hall, Swansea*
17 Uxbridge Choir Tuesday Focus: SRCF (Deane Avenue)
23 Cheltenham Choir Nazareth House Nursing Home, Cheltenham

AUGUST

- 2 Swansea Choir Keswick in Wales, The Pavilion, Llandrindod
11 Moray Choir Gardenstoun Harbour outreach + refreshments
14 Uxbridge Choir Holiday at Home: SRCF (Deane Avenue)

SEPTEMBER

- 8 *Brisbane Festival, Hillsong Church, Mt. Gravatt*
29 *Moray Festival, Methodist Church, Buckie*
29 *Bristol & West Festival, St Michael's Church, Stoke Gifford*
30 Hertford Choir URC Hertford

OCTOBER

- 7 Hertford Choir Barkway Chapel
20 *Cheltenham Rally, Cambray Baptist Church, Cheltenham*