



CHOIRLINK

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

No. 3

**OCTOBER
2018**

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COUNCIL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2018

Ian Stangoe, Chairman

Council met again at Bothwell as it is the most convenient and cost effective venue to use. All current Area Leaders with the exception of one attended at the inaugural meeting of the new Council comprising Area Leaders.

Houston Ogilby opened with comments on Isaiah 21:11-12 'What is left of the night? Morning is coming'. We in FMVP still have work to do before the Lord's return.

Paul presented the financial report also showing that every

choir paid their insurance and affiliation contributions. We discussed possible uses of the balance including helping choirs in their festivals expenses where there are deficits and also possibly holding another ABF in the near future.

Alfred Tarring has produced all of the Keep Singing and Valerie Collison music onto a memory stick including training tracks and these will be distributed to every choir. Alfred will provide more information on this excellent development [see later in this issue].

We reviewed the Area Leaders' Conference which was seen as a great success and discussed the structure going forward to include more choir representation.

Data Protection of necessary choir contact details has been completed and what information we hold clarified thus meeting the requirements of the new legislation.

There has been a number of reductions in choirs with Ballymena and Londonderry the only

choirs now in Northern Ireland. Houston is looking to revive a choir including associated choir men. The leader of Highland choir, George Henderson, passed away suddenly and they, with other choirs, are without a leader although they are looking to continue with a committee. London and Swansea are also going through challenging times in their organisation of events.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless every effort in His Name.

<h2>United Kingdom</h2>

**PETERHEAD KEDRON
MALE VOICE CHOIR**
Walter Brown

We have restarted after the summer break with an attendance of 25 men some travelling a round trip of 80 miles. We are looking forward to a busy winter session as we have 2 engagements every month mainly going to Church groups and the local senior citizens gathering.

Our Festival for 2019 will be on the 13th April which is a week earlier, due to the following weekend being Easter. A few of our members are looking forward to joining men from Moray at the Bolton Festival on April 27th 2019.

We are blessed with great fellowship here in the North-East of Scotland in the Lord's Work and with God's help we hope to continue singing his praises.

HIGHLAND GOSPEL MALE VOICE CHOIR *Sam Macdonald*

Our Committee was busy over the holiday break to establish who, from among our choir members, would take over conducting duties following the tragic death of our dear conductor and brother, George Henderson. We are pleased that 2 from our choir plus our accompanist have agreed to share these duties.

The new session started with a new venture, as we joined with a group called Ministry in Song, who bring the Gospel message in song and word to disadvantaged folk in the Alness area. Next we travel west to sing at one of our regular venues, Lochcarron some 65 miles away. They feed us sumptuously before and after we sing!!!!. We travel to sing at the Moray Festival at the end of September before going back to Alness to support a local group of ladies who give aid to poor people in Bulgaria. In November we pay our annual visit to Inverness prison to sing to the

captive audience there and in December we sing for the local farming community at the Auction Market in Dingwall.

We have been approached by the Sailors Society based in Invergordon to visit the port, where cruise liners call 2 or 3 times a week. This is an exciting new venture as 3,000 to 5,000 visitors are on board, together with up to 1,000 crew and while many go away on sightseeing trips, others explore the town area and are invited to gather for tea and fellowship in the church there. We should be able to make 3 or 4 visits dependent on our programme of events, to sing the Gospel message to those who attend.

BRISTOL EVANGEL MALE VOICE CHOIR *Paul Davies*

Since the last edition of Choir-link we have, reluctantly, to report the passing of another of our members. Cyril Lowe died suddenly and unexpectedly on Monday 17th July whilst taking his wife to a hospital outpa-

tients' appointment after showing no signs at all of any impending illness. In fact, I was out with him and Joy, his wife, the previous evening where they had come to hear another local Christian Choir of which I am a singing member. We enjoyed a cup of tea and cake afterwards and my lasting memory is of him and Joy waving good night as I drove out of the church car park, little knowing that within twelve hours he would receive his Home Call.

Cyril had been involved with Male Voice Praise along with me and others when a choir was formed at Whiteshill Evangelical Church in the early 1970's with him as the choir secretary. When the choir disbanded around 2005 Cyril, I and other members of the Whiteshill Choir joined with Bristol Evangel MVC.

Cyril attended the Swansea Festival two days before on 15th July with other members of Bristol Evangel and, as usual, was full of excitement the following morning at Whiteshill telling the congregation how the choir had sung

“What a wonderful friend” and that he was sure that the Lord had a place prepared for him as indicated in the song. He was leading the prayers that morning and, unusually, the recording of the service picked up his words and that recording has stayed with us ever since and was used to great effect at his Thanksgiving service.

The Thanksgiving service was a wonderful occasion with the chapel at Whiteshill being full to overflowing necessitating an audio/visual extension into the rear schoolroom. Tributes to his life were given by several people and I was privileged to be asked by the family to recall his days in and around the choir. We had a choir of around 35 men assembled for the service with men coming from not only Bristol but also Cheltenham, Torquay, Exeter, Swansea and Vaughan Reynolds, our editor, from Seaford who is a good friend of ours at Whiteshill and has stayed with Cyril and Joy many times over the years. We were able to give him a good FMVP “send-off” by singing “What a wonderful friend” suitably introduced by using the

recording of Cyril mentioned above, followed by Valerie Collison's lovely "There's a sound in the trees" and, of course finishing the service with "We'll all be there" which we had also sung unaccompanied earlier that morning at the graveside.

The choir has now returned from the summer recess leaving us only a few weeks to finalise preparations for the 66th Bristol Area Festival which was held on Saturday, 29th September at St Michael's Church Centre, Stoke Gifford, on the outskirts of the City, now becoming the well-established new venue for our Festival.

The Festival exceeded our expectations with a slight increase in attendance with the recently added balcony being well used. The choir numbered 56 men with visiting choir men coming from Swansea, Exeter, Torquay, Purley, Chesterfield, Castleford, and not forgetting the local men from Bridgwater, Bristol and Cheltenham. The choir was well balanced and brought a good representation

of the FMVP repertoire plus two not so well-known pieces which, in all honesty, the men had taken time to learn and perfect and which came over especially well. Our soloist, Stephanie Lamplough, a Salvationist from Stoke-on-Trent made a welcome return visit after enthralling us with her singing last year, singing five songs in total including a secular song from a musical with the words being able to be translated into a Gospel meaning. Her delightful daughter Josie, who was celebrating her 14th birthday that day, sang two pieces for us and it is evident that this young Christian Lady has a secure future musical career ahead of her.

Our guest speaker Paul Young came to us from Maesteg in South Wales and did an excellent job of leading the Festival through and bringing an epilogue based on Psalm 23 in an interesting and timely manner. We were able to go home rejoicing in the Lord and able to look forward to meeting again on the 20th October at the Cheltenham Rally.

Your prayers will be appreciated please as, currently, we are struggling to get regular engagements with many local churches no longer having Sunday evening services, which has always been the main thrust of our Ministry. We must obviously consider changing our particular way of doing things.

COUNCIL MUSIC DISTRIBUTION

Alfred Tarring

Have you seen the new USB Memory Stick produced by FMVP yet? Over the past years our music has been distributed to choirs by way of CD-ROMs, but recently most new computers are sold without CD drives. Council has therefore taken the opportunity of combining all the music (staff, tonic sol-fa, and piano accompaniments) for Keep Singing volumes 1-3, and Valerie Collison volumes 1-2 on one USB memory stick. So your choir librarian no longer needs to hunt for the CD that's been borrowed and has now gone missing!

However, perhaps more impor-

tantly, a new resource has been added to this memory stick. A training track is now available for each choir part for each piece of music in 'Keep Singing' and 'Valerie Collison' – 496 tracks in total! These can be listened to on your computer, tablet and on many modern car radios, televisions and music stations.

So now, most choirmen can have access to all the music and training tracks. Many individual choirmen will find this new memory stick a valuable resource, and Council are therefore subsidising the cost and are selling the sticks for £2 each including post. Each stick bears the FMVP logo and comes in a plastic box.



As mentioned in the Council Report, all choirs are being sent one of these. However, if you wish to buy one for yourself, speak to your choir secretary or leader who has the details, or else email Alfred Tarring at: alfredtarring@gmail.com

BOLTON MALE VOICE PRAISE

Mike Dewhurst

Our rehearsals are now back in full swing after what proved to be a very hot summer break.

It seems strange singing carols in September but we are starting preparations for several opportunities to share the gospel during November and December .

Before each weekly practice we have started to focus on another choir in our prayers. We read one of the reports from the recent Area Leaders conference to focus our attention on the various needs being highlighted. This has been very rewarding as we remember others as well as ourselves in our prayers.

Please remember us as we shall soon be planning for our Festival next year. It's a very special one as we reach our 40th Anniversary (DV) scheduled for Saturday 27th April 2019.

We send our greetings to you all and trust that the Lord will continue to supply all our needs of work and witness.

Snippets from here and there...

*David Kendrick, from the **Cheltenham** Choir, writes concerning his recent abdominal surgery:*

I have recently returned from my first day out, since leaving hospital on Saturday 29th September, only to return for a consultation with my Christian Consultant. He is delighted with my progress and has informed me that the polyp in my colon was precancerous and that I require no further treatment. He will send for me to have another endoscopy in twelve months' time to ensure that I have not developed any further polyps. If that procedure is clear, I shall be out of his clutches for a further five years. What a wonderful answer to the faithful prayers of our many faithful friends and prayer partners; Jean and our daughter Rachel are absolutely elated.

I am making very good progress but I am still very weak and it is going to take a while for me to get back to a good measure of health and strength. God is great and He will enable.

Calendar of Events: October-December 2018

OCTOBER

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|----|---|----------------------|
| 7 | Hertford Choir | Barkway Chapel |
| 20 | Whitstable Choir | St. John's Tankerton |
| 20 | <i>Cheltenham Rally, Cambray Baptist Church, Cheltenham</i> | |

NOVEMBER

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|----|------------------|--|
| 3 | Whitstable Choir | Bradbury Grange, Whitstable |
| 4 | Hertford Choir | Anstey Chapel |
| 18 | Purley Choir | Whitgift House, Croydon |
| 21 | Uxbridge Choir | King's Church, Iver: Christmas Service |
| 24 | Whitstable Choir | Miramar Beltinge |

DECEMBER

- | | | |
|----|------------------|---|
| 2 | Whitstable Choir | Drapers Home, Margate |
| 3 | Whitstable Choir | Rendezvous Sittingbourne |
| 4 | Uxbridge Choir | SRCF (Deane Ave) Holiday at Home |
| 7 | Uxbridge Choir | Waterloo Rd Fri Fellowship: Christmas Svc |
| 8 | Whitstable Choir | Kent House |
| 12 | Uxbridge Choir | Chalfont lodge Nursing Hm: Christmas Svc |
| 13 | Luton Choir | Central Baptist, Luton: Christmas Service |
| 15 | Whitstable Choir | Broad Oak Chapel |

Many thanks to those who have contributed their news and prayer requests for this edition of Choirlink. Curiously, nobody has sent me any engagement details for the Autumn Term, apart from the London area which I get another way. This seems odd as it's when many choirs start getting busy, especially in the run-up to Christmas. Please could I encourage you to list your engagements when writing with your news, otherwise others won't be able to pray for the work you are doing week in, week out.

Please send your items for the next Choirlink by Saturday 5th 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 2019.

Yours in Christ, Vaughan