



# CHOIRLINK

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

No. 23

**JULY  
2024**

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*It has been a rather quiet season for most UK choirs since the last Choirlink. Therefore, this is another shorter edition but there is still news to report, especially from our friends 'down under'.*

## United Kingdom

### HIGHLAND GOSPEL MALE VOICE CHOIR *Eric Halkett*

May the Lord be praised for His amazing love and mercy.

We lose some and we receive some. Dave Smith, a notable piano player with a wonderful second bass voice is moving South, but we have been blessed with a new recruit in Chris Riches, a second tenor, and we praise the Lord for an answer to prayer. We're still short in the first tenor section, but our three lads are truly committed.

We have now taken a two-month break and will restart our practices

with our choir AGM at the end of August and then look forward to learning some new songs, with a balance of old favourites as well.

So what's been happening? Three engagements – Isobel Fraser Care Home, our Festival and latterly a charity fundraiser in the bandstand in a local park. This is the second year we have held our Festival in Inshes East Church and the logistics and quality is improving tremendously with new sound and AV equipment and a catering team that is well organised. But the combined choir – what can I modestly say – second to none. Under the expert guidance of our esteemed musical director Eileen and brilliant accompaniment of pian-

ist Karen, the lads sang well and the audience were thrilled and enthusiastic in their praise. Our guests were an African family who sang so enthusiastically and with such power and zeal for the Lord. A welcome resumption was our return to taking the choir out to the people and for 20 minutes in the afternoon we sang in the foyer of the local Tesco supermarket.

The Lord was good to us at the open-air event some three weeks after the Festival and although we didn't manage to draw a large crowd, we were well received.

May the Lord bless all of you.

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## HERTFORD MALE VOICE PRAISE

*Keith Youngman*

Since a Sunday Service which the Hertford Group took and sang at in Anstey village chapel at the end of April, we have been meeting to practise the pieces for joint engagements with Luton and Uxbridge Choirs.

The first of these in late June was an afternoon Praise Service in Luton led by the Luton choir and this will be followed in July with a Thursday Afternoon Fellowship engagement in Uxbridge.

We give thanks to God for these op-

portunities and the way he brings members from the three choirs together in such good harmony despite there being no prior opportunity for whole choir rehearsals.

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## WHITSTABLE GOSPEL MALE VOICE CHOIR

*David Casse*

The 'quintet' still meets occasionally and we have one engagement booked at Sittingbourne Baptist Church Bright Hour (a weekly meeting for the "senior citizens" at the Church) on Thursday afternoon, 18<sup>th</sup> July.

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## BOLTON MALE VOICE PRAISE

*Mike Dewhurst*

Things are quiet here in Bolton at the moment. We are all having an extended summer break so there is nothing to report.

John Dawson is very poorly in a care home at the moment after a spell in hospital with heart trouble and pneumonia. I visited him recently and really he is not very well. Please remember him in your prayers.

We are having our usual "Pasty and Peas" fellowship evening on 12<sup>th</sup> July as a time of just meeting together. We have some engagements for Christmas and will start to meet again for practice in mid-August.

## BAY OF PLENTY MEN'S CHOIR

*David Cantwell*

The Bay Of Plenty Men's Choir have had a busy time over the past few months.

We sang at a camp over Easter weekend and enjoyed a great time of fellowship with friends and family there. The funds raised at the Saturday night camp concert went to Reach Beyond (the old HCJB).

Last weekend we sang at a concert raising funds for Gideon's international. It was well supported, and the choir sang well.

This month on the 21<sup>st</sup> we are singing at another concert in Tauranga themed around the wonder of the Cross. We will be singing a number of Valerie Collison's arrangements as well as traditional hymns featuring the cross. We have a beautiful arrangement of "When I Survey" to the Celtic tune which was arranged by Keith Bowen who was the choir-master for many years. It is always an appreciated piece.

We have 2 new members which boosts our numbers to 14. Fortunately, we have a good balance between basses and tenors and continue to love and appreciate the traditional hymns of the faith that we sing.

## BRISBANE FESTIVAL MALE VOICE CHOIR

*Malcolm Arnold*

The last three months have been rather busy for the Brisbane Choir. In April, we presented programmes at the Acacia Ridge Christian Assembly, and the Redlands Uniting Church where the presentations were well received and an obvious blessing to the audiences.

In May, we held a Moreton Bay Choral Presentation at the Redcliffe Uniting Church which is approx. 40 minutes from Brisbane. It had been some years since we had been to Redcliffe. The church was full, and the presentation was much appreciated by the those present - so much so that we received an email from a lady stating:

"I attended your performance at the Uniting Church, Redcliffe on Sunday afternoon, 26.5.2024. I wish to tell you that I felt the Christ himself was standing in the church listening to your wonderful voices singing the hymns and that all the choristers sang with one voice of love from the heart. Thank you for your wonderful voices, your dedication to the music and the beautiful imagery. This was more uplifting than the greatest sermon."

What an encouragement - the Lord be Praised.

In June, we sang at the Southport Uniting Church on the Gold Coast and St Matthew's Anglican Church in Holland Park, Brisbane. Two men have joined the choir since our Southport visit.

We combined with the Toowoomba Choir for a Festival there on the 15 June, with 44 choristers. This was

another great event with a full church. We were able to give away quite a few 'Bridge to Life' tracts to interested folks.

We are thankful for these opportunities of public Praise and Presentation of the gospel. We reduce our programme to one presentation a month for the rest of the year.

Blessings to all, Malcolm.

### From here and there

*From Mike Dewhurst comes this news, which arrived just too late for April's Choirlink. Last year the White Rose Choir lost its leader, Trevor Jones. Following this, their Secretary Ewart North wrote to Mike with as follows:*

It is with sadness that I write to you as secretary of FMVP to tell you formally that White Rose MVP is closing down as a singing choir with immediate effect. It came as a shock to us all when it was announced.

COVID did us no favours as we couldn't meet, we lost a few members and engagements dried up. Then last October we lost Trevor and Fred (Moss) took on the responsibility of choir conductor. Fred is

88 years old and his health is not what it once was. Fred's wife also has deteriorating health and needs Fred to be with her more and so he feels he can't continue as choir leader and we have no one else in the choir capable of taking on that responsibility, so we reluctantly decided to close down, hence this letter.

On behalf of the choir, I would like to thank you (and council) for your support and encouragement over the fourteen years WRMVP has existed. I guess life won't be the same though it will go on for a while. It has been good to serve the Lord with you all.

*Please pray for the choirmen and especially Ewart who has personally contributed so much to our movement.*

*For those taking holidays, may the Lord bless your time away. Whether you take a break or not, please send items for next Choirlink by Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October.*  
*Yours in Christ, Vaughan*