

MINUTES OF GOSPEL PHONICS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT: Ruth Taylor
Margaret Harding
Jane Coulter
Wendy Collins
Barbara Yates
Mary Tuffley
Gemma Nichols
Charles Stuart

1. APOLOGIES

All Committee Members were in attendance.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and agreed.

3. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Jane confirmed that the financial situation at the present time was healthy and in credit but advised that we did have some imminent expenses such as the cost of the Web Site and payment to Crestwood for the hire of the room for the next term. In view of all this it was decided that the attendance fees for this year would remain the same. Members will be offered the choice of paying "up front" per half term or weekly on the night.

4. FEED-BACK FROM RECENT EMAIL UPDATE FROM MEMBERS

- 4.1** We have heard from three members that they will be unable to attend in the foreseeable future, however, there is the possibility that several new members will be joining us this term. Considering this information, it seems probable that our numbers will remain at the same level as last year.

5. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

- 5.1** It was noted that several members of the audience at the Friends and Family Concert were disappointed that the choir were not "in uniform".
- 5.2** The cost of the Web Site was discussed and it was generally agreed that we should continue with the Web Site but try to promote more use of the site by members.

6. IDEAS

- 6.1** Charles put forward a suggestion that maybe we could arrange a “singing party” amongst ourselves which would be like a social evening where individuals or groups of people from the choir could sing songs of their choice to the rest of the group. This was discussed and generally thought that this might be a nice idea for one of our rehearsal evenings at a later date. More information will be given at some point in the future in order to determine if this might appeal to members.
- 6.2** Gemma suggested the possibility of performing an additional concert for Friends and Family around Christmas time which would enable us to sing a different variety of songs for our biggest audience. This was discussed and it was generally thought to be a good idea. It was therefore proposed that this concert take place on the last Tuesday of term, i.e. 8th December 2015. Further details will be provided when a venue has been secured.

7. RECRUITMENT (BASS SINGERS IN PARTICULAR)

Recruitment was discussed in general and Charles was asked if he had any ideas on this subject, particularly to encourage more bass singers to join the choir. He suggested that all members of the choir be asked to actively promote the choir amongst their friends and family to try to encourage recruitment. Charles also suggested that we could hand out “flyers” at our Concerts.

Barbara suggested mentioning the choir on “Streetlife” and she will also look into the possibility of the choir being included in a “circular email”.

Advertising was discussed in general, but due to the cost, this was not thought to be the right approach at the present time.

8. PREPARATION FOR A.G.M.

Ruth will prepare an Annual Report which will be circulated prior to the A.G.M. We hope to hold the A.G.M. before the normal rehearsal at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 6th October 2015, this will be confirmed at a later date.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1** Taking part in singing The Messiah at The Royal Albert Hall was discussed again, but it was generally thought that this was too expensive to consider. Gemma will look into the possibility of taking part in something more local.
- 9.2** Christmas Dinner was discussed and it was agreed that we should try to arrange this again this year. Eastleigh College was suggested as it was so good last year. Barbara will look into this and report back.

- 9.3** Barbara suggested an outing to Turner Sims on Friday, 23rd October 2015 to listen to the Yoruba African Choir. This was thought to be a very good idea and therefore Barbara will look into the possibility of a “block booking” and report to the choir on Tuesday with details.
- 9.4** Barbara also suggested an outing to listen to Fiona Funnell – Delicious Sounds on Sunday, 20th December 2015 at 4.00 pm called “Winter Warmer”. There is also a workshop prior to the concert for anyone interested. Barbara will report details to the choir on Tuesday.
- 9.5** Date of next meeting to be advised.