

MINUTES OF GOSPEL PHONICS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2016

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Barbara Yates.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and agreed.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Jane confirmed that the financial situation at the present time was healthy and that after deduction of the usual expenses, i.e. Gemma and Ben's Salary, rehearsal room hire, concert room hire where applicable, web page fee etc., the bank account remains in credit with a buffer for unexpected expenses. This means that we are able to keep the subscriptions at the same level this year, i.e. £5.00 per week and for those who pay per term in advance, there will be an allowance of two free weeks.

Next term's dates are confirmed as 13th September 2016 - 6th December 2016. There will be no choir on 25th October 2016 as this is Half Term. Ruth will inform members of new term dates and costs by e-mail.

4. MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Margaret confirmed that we have 40 members on the Data Base. The average attendance per week for the year September 2015 - July 2016 was 25. This was a little down on the previous year, due in the main to two regular members being absent for several weeks because of illness. Nine new members came for trials of which five have become regular members. Three regular members have left the choir.

5/6 WEB ACTIVITY/POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS

Charles advised that he was not sure how effective the website was for recruiting new members but felt that it was very useful to existing members who could keep up to date with choir activity, look at photographs of concerts/social events etc. and also listen to music for new songs. Ruth will email members to remind them of the variety of information available on our website. Charles also suggested that we try to use the advertising flyer he produced more, he has used it several times to inform potential new members of what we do and found it very helpful. Jane has also directed new enquiries to the website for information. It was also suggested that maybe the flyers could be displayed in appropriate places to encourage recruitment of new members. It was felt that our numbers are steady and manageable at present and therefore we do not need a big recruitment drive but it would be helpful to recruit more male members. Charles has several possible new recruits and Wendy has also had an enquiry.

Charles also advised that he gets quite a few enquiries regarding workshops, competitions etc. After discussion it was agreed that it was not really viable for our group to participate in these events due to the extra time and expense that would be incurred and it was therefore decided that we should remain a Local Community Choir.

7. SOCIAL EVENTS

7.1 Barbara will be asked to contact Eastleigh College to ascertain available dates for Christmas Dinner. Once this information is to hand, potential dates will be discussed with members.

7.2 Social Event. It has been suggested by Jan Shearing that we go as a group to see Sister Act at the Mayflower in Southampton which is on from 6th - 17th June 2017. After discussion it was further suggested that maybe we should also go to The Ovation Restaurant at the Mayflower for pre-show dinner and make this our Social Evening. It was generally thought that this was a good idea. Further details will follow later in the year.

8. FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

We have one concert booked for the visually impaired on 3rd October 2016 at Wells Place, Eastleigh. Practice starts at 7.00 p.m. with Concert commencing at 7.30 p.m.

9. CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Ruth and Jane have been liaising with One Community to see if it would be possible for us to perform a Christmas Concert for the elderly and physically disabled people of Eastleigh, dependent upon whether One Community could provide a free venue. After much discussion the Mayor of Eastleigh has agreed for us to use the Eastleigh Masonic Hall for the event, free of charge, on Saturday afternoon, 3rd December 2016. We would not charge an entrance fee but ask for donations and all proceeds would go to the Mayor's chosen charity, Adult Carers. The venue accommodates approximately 120 people but this does not include wheelchairs. Jane and Ruth will visit the venue with One Community to sort out the details. The venue will be available from 2.00 pm for a concert start at 3.00 pm. As there is nowhere to practice, we would be able to use the One Community Centre across the park from the Masonic Hall. We would also be able to use this Centre for parking. Jane also advised that the Young Carers, our chosen charity last year, have a choir and they may also like to sing a couple of songs, this would be the first time they appear in public and we hope we can organise this. **It was stressed that we need a solid commitment from choir members who are able to participate in this concert as without sufficient numbers, we would be unable to perform.** Ruth will circulate an email to gauge the level of support amongst members for this concert.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All Committee Members are happy to continue for another year and therefore all existing members were nominated and seconded.

11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Ruth, with the help of Margaret, will write an Annual Report and circulate by email along with a copy of the minutes of this meeting, thereby holding an A.G.M. by email. All members will be required to have read these documents prior to first choir meeting in October. An AGM will then be held for a few minutes prior to rehearsal on Tuesday, 4th October 2016.

12. CHANGE OF REHEARSAL ROOM

We will be rehearsing in a different room at Crestwood School this term. The room we will be using is the large room under the classroom we usually use - this room has been occupied by Slimming World for several years but they have now relocated to the Drama Hall. If we find this room is not suitable for any reason, we have the option to change back to our original room upstairs. Increased rent for this room has not been mentioned by Crestwood College and we therefore

assume that the rent will be the same as upstairs. Ruth will advise members of this new location when confirming dates and fees for coming term.

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13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 A discussion took place as to whether we should deviate from our Gospel repertoire and consider performing film/show songs etc. It was generally thought that as we are essentially a Gospel Choir and we already have a nice variety and mix of music, including some film/show songs that are a bit spiritual, we should continue as we are. Gemma has, as always, a few new ideas for next term .

13.2 Date of next meeting to be confirmed.