**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR SEPTEMBER 2017 – AUGUST 2018**

**Gospel Phonics Community Choir**

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**FOREWARD**

Firstly I’d like to offer a huge thank you to the Committee, Gemma, Ben and you all for the past enjoyable year.

**No. 1: Concerts**

The following list shows the concerts/events in which we participated during the year September 2017 – August 2018.

10.10.17. Catherine Court, Eastleigh – We are always so welcome here, even getting applause before we start to sing.

02.12.17. Christmas Concert in aid of Mayor’s Charity, Baptist Church, Wells Place, Eastleigh – amount raised: £203.00 – Sadly traffic problems that day reduced our audience, but the Mayor was still pleased.

05.12.17. Charity Sing at General Hospital in aid of Southampton Hospital Charity – amount raised: £181.98 – This was a new venture for the choir, it was really enjoyable watching “passers by” within the hospital stop to listen to us sing.

27.03.18. Catherine Court, Eastleigh – It was nice to be invited back again so soon.

19.03.18. St. Mary’s Church, Bishopstoke, in aid of their coffee shop opening – Here we even had some of our audience dancing.

02.07.18. Open Sight, Wells Place, Eastleigh – Really nice to sing for regulars. On being told the choir looked very nice and were wearing black skirts and turquoise scarves, one member of the audience wondered if the men were too!

17.07.18. Friends and Family Fundraising Concert, United Reform Church, Chandlers Ford. We were proud to have raised £301.00 for our chosen charity, The Firgrove Centre – As always, a well attended and well sung event!

**No. 2: Members’ Social Events**

The following list shows the choir’s social events which took place during the year September 2017 – August 2018.

12.12.17. Christmas Social Evening, Skittles at Phoenix, Twyford – Wendy, our Social Events Organiser won!

27.04.18. Social Evening, St Peters Church, Boyatt Wood – Celebrating our 10 years as a choir. Sadly the Chairman, me, was unable to attend as I was stranded on a semi-tropical island in a 5\* hotel in Madeira. Honestly, I’d rather have been at home!

**No. 3: Committee Members**

The following list shows the elected members of the committee for the year September 2017 – August 2018.

Gemma Nichols Musical Director

Ruth Taylor Chairman/Communications

Margaret Harding Membership Secretary

Jane Coulter Treasurer/Concert Liaison

Mary Tuffley Assistant Treasurer

Wendy Collins Social Functions Arranger/New Members Liaison

Charles Stuart Media/Publicity/Website

Theresa Halliday Back-up volunteer

**No. 4: Finance**

The financial summary is detailed in the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 29th October 2018, a copy of which can be provided, on request, to all choir members.

**No. 5: Members**

In the last year we have had 9 people trial for the choir, 5 of whom joined and are still with us. 5 members have left the choir this year. We have seen an increase in the Bass section which is fantastic and with a little changing around between Alto and Seconds, we now have a better balance in each section.

We have 43 members registered, although not everyone can come every week, but those who can’t come regularly, really appreciate being able to come when they can without sanction! We do still have a good attendance most weeks.

**CONCLUSION**

As always we have achieved our objective of joyful singing for the community and our family and friends.

We also enjoyed a challenging departure from our usual concerts this year. At the end of September we took part in the Bishopstoke Players’ production of ‘The Vicar of Dibley’. Over half the choir were available to volunteer, undertaking numerous rehearsals and then three performances. The shows were a sell out and we, the choir, received many compliments. We also had a great time.

This year we are looking forward to holding a Christmas Concert alongside The Funky Flutes in aid of the Mayor’s Charity at All Saints Church, Eastleigh on 8th December 2018. We will be inviting family and friends too.

We always enjoy welcoming new faces to the choir and continue to enjoy familiar faces as well.

Please continue to put forward ideas.

We look forward to another very enjoyable and fulfilling year.

**Ruth Taylor**

30th October 2018