

MINUTES OF GOSPEL PHONICS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH MARCH 2014

PRESENT: Ruth Taylor
Margaret Harding
Jane Coulter
Mary Tuffley
Mary Williams
Wendy Collins
Gemma Nichols

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and agreed. The following points were noted:

- 1.1 The committee would like to thank Charles for doing a great job with the website.
- 1.2 It was also confirmed that, after researching alternative venues in the area for our choir meetings, we would remain at Crestwood.
- 1.3 It was also confirmed that we would remain a member of One Community.
- 1.4 All folders had been sold to members and it was agreed that the overall look at concerts was much improved with everyone holding the same colour folders.
- 1.5 Mary T has now been added as a signatory on the Gospel Phonics Account.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Jane confirmed that over the last quarter there had been a cash flow problem. The situation was discussed in detail and it was finally agreed that, due to reserve being too low, the members' subscriptions should be increased to £5.00 per week with effect from the start of the new term after the Easter break.

It was also agreed that Gemma and Ben should receive a small salary increase to bring them in line with the minimum recommended salary structure.

3. FAMILY AND FRIENDS CHARITY CONCERT

A full discussion took place on a suitable venue for the family and friends charity concert. Mary W is looking into the possibility of hiring the Fair Oak Village Hall at Shorts Road in Fair

Oak. She is waiting for confirmation of fees. If this works out to our satisfaction, we would hold the concert on Monday, 7th July as the hall is not available on Tuesday, 8th July. Other venues were discussed but were generally disregarded for various reasons such as inadequate parking, acoustics etc. Mary will confirm when final arrangements have been made.

It was agreed that we would support only one charity this year, a list of five local charities will be emailed to members who can vote for their preferred charity. The charity with the most votes will be supported this year through the money raised at the Family and Friends Charity Concert. Suggestions for charities were discussed by the committee and these will be notified to choir members by email to enable them to vote for their favourite, the charity with the most votes will be supported.

4. IDEAS FROM CHOIR MEMBERS

- 4.1 Two members suggested arranging a social event in the summer to give people an opportunity to get to know each other a little better. It was thought that an American Supper would be a good idea with maybe some sort of quiz and music during the evening. Venues for this were discussed, the outcome being that Jane would look into the cost and availability of the Dove Centre in Chandlers Ford as it is a nice sized room and has a good kitchen. It was generally thought that this social event should try to be arranged for sometime in June or July.
- 4.2 Charles has asked for any suggestions from members to keep the website fresh. He would be happy to run a series where members can post a small item on a piece of music which has a particular resonance with them, perhaps a memorable event or moment. It would preferably have a YouTube link to the piece. Members of the choir would just have to email Charles the details and he would post it on the site.
- 4.3 It was suggested that sheet music be loaded onto the website to enable members to print it themselves. This was discussed and it was generally thought that this would not be possible because of copyright.
- 4.4 Gemma suggested that it would be helpful to record and post individual “parts” for the songs we learn on the members only website. This would enable members to listen to their particular parts at any time, which in turn would help them to learn the parts more easily. Gemma will endeavour to organise this at some time in the future, although it is very time consuming and she cannot promise to arrange this immediately but she will do her best.
- 4.5 It was suggested by a choir member that we might like to take part in the “Music in the City” annual event in Southampton which takes place on 4th/5th October 2014. This was discussed but thought not to be suitable for our choir at the present time.

4.6 A choir member has suggested that we might try to learn “The Rhythm of Life”, although it is quite hard. Gemma will give this some thought.

5. REHEARSAL DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

Jan Shearing has informed us that a reception for the new Priest is being held in the crescent of Crestwood College on Tuesday, 29th April. There will be a Steel Band playing and about 100 people eating and drinking so the noise will be quite high. It was therefore decided that we would not hold a choir meeting on that day.

Dates for the new term were discussed and these will be emailed to members in due course.

It was confirmed that there will be no choir meeting on 10th June as most members will be attending the Gareth Malone Concert.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Messiah

Bill’s suggestion that we organise a trip to the Royal Albert Hall to sing the Messiah was discussed. Ruth and Margaret agreed to research this and see whether there was still time to make the arrangements.

6.2 Wedding

We have been asked by a choir member if we would be interested in singing at a Wedding on Saturday, 19th July. It was agreed that we would try to ascertain as soon as possible how many choir members would be available. It was also agreed to find out more information regarding timing, song choice, venue etc.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be advised.