Minehead and District Choral Society AGM 2022

President’s Address

Well, we did it!! Two successful concerts, despite all the odds! Well done to the Choral Society and all those involved. What challenges we had! When we started the season in September, we had no idea how many people would be singing n the choir- then came the changes of accompanist, from the loss of Sue (Donovan) to London, in her place, Marcus, then Angela (Morecroft) and finally and thankfully to David (Pitts) who saw us through the remainder of the rehearsals and the concert. What a lot of talented musicians we have in this area. We then had the news that our Joseph (Paul Yates) was very ill in hospital, and that Pharoah too (Peter Thompson) was unable to sing. Thankfully Paul recovered enough to take on his role and do us proud, while Nigel McBraine turned from a pantomime dame into a Pharoah and Paul’s possible stand-in, Matt Legg, supplemented the tenors in the concert, which was well received.

The Easter Concert was to be more traditional with two pieces by Mozart plus a selection of Choral classics – but then came Covid to the area!! Attendance at rehearsals fluctuated as folks succumbed, including Marcus and Angela, so the decision to perform just the choral classic selection with soloist input and some rousing congregational hymns was welcomed. So too was the participation in the concert of friends, Keith Jones, David Joysey, Tim Brown and Pip Richards, who helped to swell the tenors and basses in numbers and sound. And we had a good audience, despite being the worst Covid hit area in the country!

Congratulations to all those who took part in this year’s music, even if they didn’t always make the concerts through illness, and to Marcus and the committee for soldiering on in the face of such difficulties.

I hope that we can continue to fill this niche for choral music in the area. It is getting harder to recruit singers, particularly tenors and basses – and other choirs of this kind are vanishing. How sad it would be for music that has been enjoyed for centuries should disappear from the local scene, only to be heard in the cities which have cathedral choirs and music schools.

My five years as President have come to an end. I have been pleased and honoured to be President and have continued as part of the committee during this time. Daphne Midwood who contributes so much to the music in the area, has said she is happy to take on this role and I am sure you will wish her well.