

Choir Notes

So, as I sit down to write these Choir Notes, it is already 7th January and Christmas is well and truly packed away. We're all "carolled" out and we're all "Twended" out (*Twende Bethlehemu*, or *Let's go to Bethlehem*, is a Kenyan carol that we sang accompanied by Norbert and Trisa on the drums!). What joy (no pun intended) that was for the choir and it allowed us to add Swahili to the list of languages in which we have sung.

Jeff has given us a couple of weeks off to recover from Advent carols, the Barn Nativity, Cherry Tree carols, the Bledlow carol service and Christmas Day - and we're grateful!

Now, I'd just like to take a few minutes to tell you what singing in the church choir has done for me. Way back in 2004, the then Team Vicar, David Dewick, suggested that Holy Trinity needed a choir. On the appointed evening six ladies and John White, the organist, practised the hymns for the following Sunday's service. Two of those ladies are still singing in the choir - Pam Whatmore and myself.

Then Jeff Stewart appeared on the scene. I immediately thought that my singing career was over as the standard that he would require would be far beyond me! However, he sent us all letters saying not to give up and that he would send us cassette tapes for learning by ear. Well that worked, and after many days spent singing in our own churches and in cathedrals around the country, I'm very proud to be still a member of the choir. I expect that you have all heard (as I told the whole world!) that we sang Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral in January 2019 and that we have been asked to go back again!

On the strength of Jeff's patient training in 2005, I joined Wycombe Choral Society and was terrified when we they handed me a copy of Mozart's *Requiem*! Now I'm on the committee and helping to organise concerts. Also, somewhere in the depths of the BBC's archives (and on our choir website, under *Meet my Choir, Easter 2014*) there is a recording of me and two other choir members speaking about what our choir means to us. (My mum would have been so proud!)

So, my message to you all (young and of a certain age) is, "Go for it". Not necessarily singing, if you've no voice but whatever interests you. Choir has given me more confidence, opportunities to sing in many cathedrals, make new friends, and apparently, it's good for my health!

So, may I be able to struggle up the hill (OK, I do take the car if it's raining) for many more years to come and stay a part of "My Choir Family".

Joy Mackman, Soprano