

## Choir Notes – May 2021



There is little news, as the choir has not met, other than on the sad occasion of Bill Bendyshe-Brown's funeral. Had anyone said eighteen months ago that group singing, once thought totally harmless, would become subject to criminal sanctions, we could not have imagined how that could be.

With luck, we should be able to sing together again soon but, meanwhile, we have only memories, and hope.

I have been in the choir for five years. Before that, I sang with choral societies. I was introduced to the choir by a friend, who knew that I sang, and told me that Bledlow Choir is great. I would not have known this, as I live outside the area, had my kind friend not told me.

I enjoy singing in the Bledlow Choir for many reasons:

- 1) The nature of church music is that you sing many short pieces, while choral societies generally sing fewer, longer works. You therefore learn a lot by many composers.
- 2) Most church music is English, peculiarly suited to English churches and English culture, while societies sing mostly German music, which is fine too, but not English!
- 3) We help the congregation by singing at the main church feasts, and on other occasions. Choral societies purely entertain, while church choirs hope to improve the spirituality of services. All choir members sing with both love and purpose. We perform more often than societies, which is good for those who like to perform.
- 4) No-one can hide in a church choir as it is small and intimate, and everyone has a part in its success: there is incentive to practice and learn your part well, so as not to let down the side. It is therefore great training, especially with a choirmaster like Jeff and an organist like Cynthia, who bring the benefits of long experience and great technical knowledge and skill, and keen ears. I learned more in my first year with the choir than singing anywhere else, ever. Learning like this is hard to come by in other situations, without individual professional voice training.
- 5) And the entertainment at rehearsals is great, a mixture of hard work, and laughs, and satisfaction when it works. I find I do not always see at first how a piece fits together, and do not understand why Jeff says it is great, but my appreciation grows as I learn it, and understanding comes. It is a constant learning experience, and an important part of life is to continue learning and education, wherever it can be found.

I am just truly grateful to have found Bledlow Choir, almost by accident (I could have been too busy to turn up when I first did), and thankful for all the training and experience received, available to anyone who wants it.

And I think that Jeff has mellowed over the years. He was terrific from Day One, and is no less good today, but I miss him telling us basses every week how miserable we look. I never understood why we looked miserable, but it was fair comment. And a complete puzzle, if we looked miserable, why no-one else did: what is it about singing bass?

*Rob Hill*

*The virtual services can be seen and heard via the parish website*

*(<http://www.bledlowparish.org.uk/Coronavirus%20online%20services.htm>) and at [www.bledlowvirtualseervices.uk](http://www.bledlowvirtualseervices.uk)*