



Ottery St Mary Choral
Society

MEMBERS'
HANDBOOK

2019/20

September 2019

WHO'S WHO - 2019-20

Musical Director: Malcolm Matthews B.A. Cert.Ed.

Malcolm is a retired music teacher, and still teaches a number of private pupils at home. He was a member of the East Devon Arts Council during its time. Likes: playing and watching golf, tennis, football (a Plymouth Argyle supporter), crosswords, jigsaws and sudoku. Dislikes: holidays away. He has been our M.D. since 1999.

Accompanist: Jill Govier A.R.C.M. Cert. Ed.

Jill has been our accompanist since January 2010. She studied at Dartington College of Arts and Rolle College, and was a piano teacher at Exeter School for 18 years. She now teaches piano at home and accompanies children for their instrumental exams. She has four children and six grandchildren.

Chairman: David Wade

David was appointed Chairman at the 2016 AGM. Born in Portsmouth, he studied at Manchester University and had a career in IT working for Fujitsu as a technician designing and then implementing corporate Microsoft-based solutions. Before moving to Devon he lived in Slough and sang with choirs/choral societies in the Thames Valley, chiefly the Slough Philharmonic. He tries to play the piano, and in retirement has taken up the trombone.

Administration:

The Committee:

<i>Hon. Chairman:</i>	<i>David Wade</i>	<i>01404 813191</i>
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	<i>Michael Gascoigne-Pees</i>	<i>01404 811507</i>
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	<i>Tim Savage</i>	<i>01404 812672</i>
<i>Membership & Social Sec.</i>	<i>Vivienne Gascoigne-Pees</i>	<i>01404 811507</i>
<i>Concert Programmes:</i>	<i>John Neal</i>	<i>01404 813686</i>
<i>Concert Manager:</i>	<i>David Glennie</i>	<i>07413 947799</i>
<i>Sponsorship Manager:</i>	<i>Elizabeth Wood</i>	<i>01404 549854</i>
<i>Publicity Manager</i>	<i>Post Vacant</i>	

*Contact any member on this list by e-mail using the Society's address
oscms@hotmail.co.uk*

Administration (Cont)

Non-committee posts include:

<i>Librarian</i>	<i>Kyle Hayes</i>	<i>01404 814242</i>
<i>Section Reps: Soprano</i>	<i>Libby Staples</i>	<i>01404 851243</i>
<i>Alto</i>	<i>Vivienne Gascoigne-Pees</i>	<i>01404 811507</i>
<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Michael Gascoigne-Pees</i>	<i>01404 811507</i>
<i>Bass</i>	<i>Tim Savage</i>	<i>01404 812672</i>
<i>Website Manager</i>	<i>David Wade</i>	<i>01404 813191</i>
<i>House Manager (URC)</i>	<i>Pip Gascoigne-Pees</i>	<i>01404 811469</i>
<i>In-House Ticket Sales</i>	<i>Judy Evans</i>	<i>01404 841417</i>
<i>Box Office</i>	<i>"The Curious Otter"</i>	<i>01404 814469</i>
	<i>TicketSource</i>	<i>on-line</i>

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osmcs@hotmail.co.uk

Constitution *Printed copies of the Constitution are available from John Neal. It can also be found on the Society's website.*

The Annual General Meeting is held in June or July.

All committee members are elected for one year, but can be re-elected annually at the AGM with no maximum term of office.

REHEARSAL NIGHTS

Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays in the United Reformed Church, Jesu Street, Ottery St Mary. There is a car park at Sainsbury's in Hind Street, and another in Brook Street behind the Institute. Singing begins on the dot of 7.30 p.m., so it is advisable to arrive not much later than 7.15 pm. This allows time for chat, and for the collection of music from the librarian when necessary. There is a fifteen minute break after an hour when tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the hall at the back of the church for a charge of 30p.

During weekly rehearsals attendance registers are completed by the voice section reps. Please always bring a soft pencil. At the librarian's request it should be no harder than 2B or 4B so that directions and notes made can be easily erased after the concert. A rubber is very useful too.

Rehearsals begin on the first Wednesday in September. The first session ends with the Christmas Concert, held on a Saturday early in December. The second session begins on the first Wednesday in January and ends with the pre-Easter concert. Please note, rehearsals continue through school half term holidays. These dates change occasionally to accommodate particular concerts and extra activities.

Name Badges

You will be supplied with a badge with your name and vocal part. Please wear it to all rehearsals. It greatly helps the friendly atmosphere of the choir. Keep it with your music between rehearsals so you don't forget to bring it on the night. If you lose your badge, **David Glennie** will supply a replacement at a cost of £1. He sings with the basses or can be contacted on **01395 578722**

Car Sharing

Car parking space is scarce in Ottery. It would be most helpful if you could share a car with a member (or members) living near you, particularly for the afternoon and evening of the concert.

MUSIC

Scores

Vocal scores of the music to be sung are acquired by the Society's librarian (**Kyle Hayes**). You will be asked to indicate whether you require a hired score or if you have one of your own. If you wish to purchase your own copy you are welcome to do so, but remember that many works are published by two or more publishing houses. Check with the librarian which edition we will be using before buying.

Hired scores are collected in immediately after the conclusion of the performance. As we often enclose our music in folders for a concert performance, you are asked to remove music from the folders, and hand the folders in separately.

Deciding What We Sing

Members may make suggestions for future programmes to the Chairman during the course of the year. The coming year's programme is announced at the AGM. Members should be aware when requesting items that only a modest-sized orchestra can fit into our usual concert venue and that works needing large numbers of solo singers are also unlikely to be chosen for reasons of cost.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Subscriptions

We are a community choir and no auditions are held. A love of music and a deep commitment to the Society and its activities is all that is required. The subscription for 2019 - 2020 is a single payment of £50 in September, or two payments of £28, in September and January respectively. If you would like to pay using on-line banking, see **Michael Gascoigne-Pees** for details.

Rehearsal Only Membership

Those members who enjoy attending rehearsals, but do not wish to sing in the concert, are eligible for a complimentary ticket instead of their place on the concert stage.

Eligibility to Sing in Concerts

There is a requirement that all members should attend most rehearsals in preparation for a concert. Because of the size of the choir and the limited capacity of the stage in the Parish Church it may be necessary to limit the number of sopranos and altos for a particular concert still further. That decision would be made on the basis of individual attendance figures during the term, so please ensure that your name is ticked off each week you attend on the register, and be aware that if too many rehearsals are missed you may not be able to sing in the concert.

Absence If it is not possible for you to attend a rehearsal please inform your section rep (phone numbers on page 2). Any prolonged absence should be notified to the Membership Secretary.

CONCERT DAYS

Order of Events at Church

- *Our normal concert venue is Ottery St Mary Parish Church.*
- *Erection of the stage takes place on Friday afternoon before the concert. Able-bodied members and their friends and family (male and female) are sought in the weeks before the concert.*
- *General rehearsal from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Saturday, for all singers plus orchestra.*
- *Concert begins at 7.30 pm on the Saturday.*
- *Stage is dismantled and stored at the end of the concert. Volunteers, PLEASE stay till the job is complete.*

Concert Dress

***For men:** DJs, white shirts, black bow ties, black socks and smart black shoes. At the Christmas Concert red bow ties will be worn (supplied by the Society), not the traditional black.*

***For ladies:** Long black dresses with elbow length/long sleeves **OR** long black skirt with elbow length/long black sleeved blouse. Coloured scarves/drapes supplied by the Society will be worn.*

CONCERT TICKETS

*Tickets are printed 3 - 4 weeks before the concert and are available for sale at rehearsals from then. EACH MEMBER IS EXPECTED TO SELL A MINIMUM OF TWO. All unsold tickets must be returned to **Judy Evans (Soprano)** before the concert.*

It is vital that members sell as many tickets as possible as this is our main source of sales. Tickets are also sold at:-

*“The Curious Otter” Bookshop in Mill Street, OSM
01404 814469. Opening hours 9.15-4.00 Mon-Sat
“TicketSource” on-line*

Publicity Material

Programmes, A4 posters and A5 and A6 fliers are made available to members a few weeks before a concert. You are asked to display them prominently and liberally in your area, and in car windows. Please take as many as you can usefully place, but remove them as soon as possible after the concert.

SOCIAL SCENE

The Choral Society's Annual Dinner is held early in the year. It is organized by the Social Secretary and is well attended by members. Everyone is encouraged to come as it is an occasion when we can socialize and get to know members from other sections better. Separate social events may additionally be arranged. There are occasional 'massed choir' events (often in Exeter Cathedral or the Royal Albert Hall) in which the society takes part.

*The Society is affiliated to "Making Music". Our representative is **Tim Savage**, who receives news items from that organisation.*

CHORAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

www.otterystmarychoral.org

The Society website is packed with information for both members and non-members. It features the latest diary of events, reviews and photographs of our recent concerts as well as details of our rehearsal schedules and links to selected YouTube versions of the music we will be performing at future concerts. As the concert date approaches there are CVs and photos of the professional soloists who will be joining us for the performance. The current version of the Members' Handbook is available for reference. You can also read about the rich history of the Society over more than one hundred years and find out which music has been featured in concerts since the millennium.

*You can contact us on **osmcs@hotmail.co.uk***

The website is a valuable resource, benefiting the Society as an organisation, you as a member, and the local community as a whole. It is very easy to use and the links are straightforward to follow, so why not get online and see for yourself.....

Those of you for whom the internet holds no appeal, don't worry! The Society still operates as it always has, with all the information you need provided at rehearsals or sent to you by post.

Dates for 2019 - 2021

Wednesday	4 th September 2019	Rehearsals begin for Christmas Concert
Saturday	9 th November 2019	CLASSICS GALORE CONCERT UNIVERSITY GREAT HALL
Saturday	7 th December 2019	CHRISTMAS CONCERT OSM PARISH CHURCH
Wednesday	8 th January 2020	Rehearsals begin for Easter Concert
Thursday	6 th February 2020	Choir Annual Dinner
Saturday	4 th April 2020	EASTER CONCERT OSM PARISH CHURCH
Wednesday	8 th July 2020 AGM	7.30 p.m. URC Church Hall
Wednesday	9 th September 2020	Rehearsals begin for Christmas Concert
Saturday	12 th December 2020	CHRISTMAS CONCERT OSM PARISH CHURCH
Wednesday	6 th January 2021	Rehearsals begin for Easter concert

Concert Music for 2019 - 1920

Christmas 2019

*Rutter Gloria
Selection of Carols*

Easter 2020

Haydn Four Seasons

