



Ottery St Mary
Choral Society

MEMBERS'
HANDBOOK

2023/24

September 2023

WHO'S WHO - 2023-2024

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.. He has been our M.D. since 1999.

Accompanist: Vacant

Jill Govier was our accompanist for 12 years and has now taken a well-earned retirement. Ken Wood has valiantly filled this role on a temporary basis, and Louis Benneyworth helped as well. We are currently searching to fill this role which is a challenge.

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. In addition to singing, his musical interests include trombone and piano.,

Committee:

Chairman	David Wade	01404 813191
Hon Treasurer	Liz Hooper	01404 42116
Hon Secretary	Rob Clay	01395 567746
Membership Secretary	Bridget Oeppen	01404 758531
Concert Programmes	PIP Gascoigne-Pees	01404 811469
Sponsorship Manager	Elizabeth Wood	01404 549854
Librarian	Julie Walters	01404 822702
Social Secretary	Post Vacant	
Social Media Publicity	India McKinney07540505388
Concert Manager	Post Vacant	

Other posts include:

Section reps:	Soprano	Libby Staples	01404 851243
	Alto	Julia Thompson	01404 811879
	Tenor	David Pettitt	01404 815561
	Bass	Tim Savage	01404 812672
Website Manager		David Wade	01404 813191
House Manager (URC)		Pip Gascoigne-Pees	01404 811469
Box Office		The Curious Otter	01404 814469
	Ticketsource	On-line via our website	

Contact any member on these lists by e-mail using the Society's
address osmcs@hotmail.co.uk

Covid Precautions

The climate in which Covid was a major disrupter to our lives has gone, but the infection is still around.

Please do not come to rehearsals if you are unwell, and suspect you may have Covid. If you are able to do a test, then please do so. If you have a cough or cold, this is sometimes mild symptoms, so don't come.

At Rehearsals, be respectful of each other's space, when singing as well as socialising.

If you become unwell at rehearsal, go home and follow any NHS procedures that may be recommended.

Please keep your Voice Rep informed, in case you had inadvertently passed something on, and people need to be informed.

REHEARSAL NIGHTS

*Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays in the United Reformed Church, Jesu Street, Ottery St Mary. Singing begins on the dot of 7.30 p.m., Music can be collected from the librarian when necessary. There is a fifteen-minute break after an hour. **Please bring your own cup.***

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.

Constitution

Printed copies of the constitution are available from the chairman. It is also featured on our 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. There is no maximum term of office.

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

*Hired vocal scores of the music to be sung are available from the Society's librarian (**Julie Walters**). You will be asked to indicate whether you will need 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 concert performance. As we often enclose our music in folders for a concert, 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 2023- 2024 is a single payment of £55 in September, or two payments of £30, in September and January respectively. If you would like to pay using on-line banking, see our treasurer **Liz Hooper** 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.

We are considering black open neck shirts for the men at the Spring Concert

For ladies: Long black dresses with elbow length/long sleeves.

Alternatively: Long black skirt or trousers with black elbow length/long 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.

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

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

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 your car windows. Please take as many as you can usefully place but remove them as soon as possible after the concert.

SOCIAL SCENE

In the past the Choral Society has held an Annual Dinner early in the year. We are unsure at this time whether this will be held in 2024, but we hope to be able to organise an occasion when members can socialize and get to know members one another better.

There have been in the past occasional 'massed choir' events (often in Exeter Cathedral or the Royal Albert Hall) in which the society takes part. Nothing is currently on the horizon in 2023-24, but if the opportunity arises, we will let you know.

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

CHORAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

www.otterystmarychoral.org

The Society website is a valuable resource, packed with information for both members and non-members. It features the latest diary of events, and just about everything you need to know about the choir. There are links to selected YouTube versions of the music we will be performing at future concerts. 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.

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

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 2023 - 2024

Wednesday	6 th September 2023	Rehearsals begin for Christmas Concert
Saturday	9 th December 2023	CHRISTMAS CONCERT OSM PARISH CHURCH
Wednesday	3 rd January 2024	Rehearsals begin for Easter Concert
Saturday	23 rd March 2024	EASTER CONCERT OSM PARISH CHURCH
Wednesday	3 rd July 2024	Annual General Meeting
Wednesday	4 th September 2024	Rehearsals begin for Christmas Concert

Concert Music for 2023 - 2024

Christmas 2023

*Vivaldi Gloria
Selection of Carols*

Easter 2024

Brahms German Requiem (in English)

