



**Ottery St Mary  
Choral Society**

**MEMBERS'  
HANDBOOK**

**2024/25**

September 2024

# WHO'S WHO – 2024-2025

## **Musical Director: Malcolm Matthews BA. 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: Richard Burdett**

Richard Burdett joined us last year as rehearsal accompanist and has been very successful.

## **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	07903 703727	<a href="mailto:davidrwade@outlook.com">davidrwade@outlook.com</a>
Hon Treasurer	Liz Hooper	07811 485742	<a href="mailto:lizhooper16@hotmail.co.uk">lizhooper16@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Hon Secretary	Rob Clay	07531 905344	<a href="mailto:robandgillclay@live.co.uk">robandgillclay@live.co.uk</a>
Membership Secretary	Bridget Oeppen	07815818698	<a href="mailto:bridget.oeppen@gmail.com">bridget.oeppen@gmail.com</a>
Concert Programmes	Pip Gascoigne-Pees	07855 861513	
Publicity Secretary	Peter Hudson		
Librarian	Julie Walters	07715040255	<a href="mailto:juliecarolinewalters@gmail.com">juliecarolinewalters@gmail.com</a>
Social Secretary	Post Vacant		
Social Media Publicity	India McKinney	07540505388	

## **Other posts include:**

Soprano Section rep:	Kyle Hayes	07831 445008	<a href="mailto:ikh765cab@gmail.com">ikh765cab@gmail.com</a>
Alto Section rep:	Julia Thompson	07581 566439	<a href="mailto:juliamthompson192@gmail.com">juliamthompson192@gmail.com</a>
Tenor Section rep:	David Pettitt	01404 815561	<a href="mailto:depettitt@btinternet.com">depettitt@btinternet.com</a>
Bass Section rep:	Tim Savage	07826 579761	<a href="mailto:savages22@outlook.com">savages22@outlook.com</a>
Website Manager	David Wade	07903 703727	<a href="mailto:davidrwade@outlook.com">davidrwade@outlook.com</a>
House Manager (URC)	Pip Gascoigne-Pees	07855 861513	
Box Office	The Curious Otter Bookshop	01404 814469	
	Ticketsource	-----	Online via our website

Contact us using the Society's email address: [osmcs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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 for tea or coffee. **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.

### 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.

## 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**

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# 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.

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# 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 2024– 2025 is a single payment of £55 in September, or two payments of £30, in September and January respectively.

Members are encouraged to pay using online banking:

National Westminster Bank

Account: OSM Choral Society

Account number: 72680547

Sort code: 51-61-23

Please use your surname as the reference

## 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.

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# 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.

**Alternatively:** Long black skirt or smart trousers with black elbow length/long sleeved blouse. Coloured scarves/drapes supplied by the Society will be worn.

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# CONCERT TICKETS

Tickets are printed 3 to 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.

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## SOCIAL SCENE

This year we had a very successful skittles evening in April. We hope to be able to organise more occasions when members can socialize and get to know 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 2024-25, 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

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## CHORAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

[www.otterystmarychoral.org](http://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.

## Dates for 2024 – 2025

Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Rehearsals begin for Christmas Concert
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	CLASSICS GALORE CONCERT Great Hall Exeter University
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	CHRISTMAS CONCERT OSM Parish Church
Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	EASTER CONCERT OSM Parish Church
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Annual General Meeting
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025	Rehearsals begin for Christmas Concert

## Concert Music for 2024 – 2025

**Christmas 2024**

**Poulenc Gloria  
Selection of Carols**

**Classics Galore 2024**

**A selection of rousing pieces**

**Easter 2025**

**Rossini –Petite Messe Solennelle**

