
BMYC Friends

Newsletter

Issue 5 - May 2003



Message from the BMYC Administrator

In June of 2004 I shall have been choir Administrator for 10 years. In many ways it doesn't feel that long but when I reflect on what the choir has achieved in that time one wonders how we fitted it all in. A few facts, during that time I will have:

- slept in around 35 Methodist beds, all of them comfortable.
- consumed countless meals prepared by host church members.
- met dozens of delightful people all over the country and made countless friends who I would never normally have met but for the choir.



Gilbert Jones

We have sung at two Methodist Conferences, one World Methodist Conference and recorded Sunday Half Hour for the BBC Radio 2 when we had the pleasure of meeting the Rev Roger Royle. All these individually truly memorable occasions, collectively they make me feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to fit all these things in at a time in my life when most people are retiring from activities rather than undertaking new ones. I feel greatly blessed in the support I have experienced from the choir members and


The **Methodist Church**

officers, and very appreciative of the doors that have been opened to me as a result of my association with the choir.

On our web site our publicity person credits me with the comment that "God moves in mysterious ways". How true that is - but first we have to give him the opportunity, let him into our lives and give him a free hand. Nothing is impossible, I have over 70 years of living to testify to the truth of it. We still have new things to do. A CD recording scheduled for this year will now hopefully take place next year, we have had to postpone it for reasons of content which we have now resolved. Watch this space. In the meantime we celebrate our 21st birthday at Endcliffe Methodist Church, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield on Saturday July 5th when we shall perform Vivaldi's Gloria, maybe we shall see you there.

Gilbert Jones
BMYC Administrator

BMYC Reunited

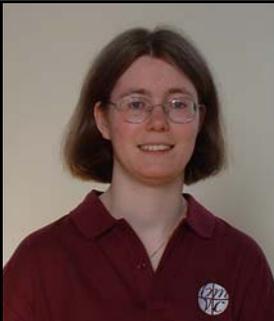
To all of you who have access to the Internet, the British Methodist Youth Choir is now on Friends Reunited. It is free to join and you can leave a description of what you are doing now and leave messages on the message board. Also for the cost of £5 a year you be able to send e-mails to other members of the choir you may have lost touch with.

You can access the BMYC area of Friends Reunited area via the BMYC web site www.bmyc.info under message boards, or directly at:

[http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk/FriendsReunited.asp?
wci=memberlistteam&team_key=62410](http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk/FriendsReunited.asp?wci=memberlistteam&team_key=62410)

Kevin Soulsby (Web support)
Retiring Choir Member

My first encounter with BMYC was when Gilbert rearranged a weekend which had fallen through and got my home church in Sutton Coldfield to host the weekend instead. Chris Bridges was still musical director, but not for long (I hope I didn't scare him off?!). I also came across Ashley's penchant for 7/8 time signatures whilst playing the interlude in his setting of 'The Wondrous Story' from 'Looking On'. I liked what I saw and heard, and for the past 8 years have been travelling to the four corners of the UK - Kent, Co Durham, Devon, and Lancashire - and many places in between as well as one foray into Wales.



Sue Morris

I have been fed far too many large cooked breakfasts by enthusiastic hosts, and even had my clothes ironed and shoes polished. I have also shared the joys of church floorboards and limited bathroom facilities, which are fine when you are a student but not so great when you have to go to work the next morning!

As accompanist I have faced up to all those double flats in 'Cantique de Jean Racine' and some rather interesting rhythms in the 'Lennon and McCartney medley' but enjoyed the challenge. I have sung music from across nearly ten centuries and in virtually every style imaginable. The mix of sacred and secular has proved that you don't have to sing religious words to be praising God! I wish the choir all the best for the future, and thank everyone for the fun and the fellowship shared over the past few years.

Sue Morris (née Harden)

Editorial

The last few months have been busy ones for me, using old BMYC address lists (up to 15 years old) to try and contact as many former members of the choir as possible, to be able to inform them of the reunion. My thanks to all of you who replied to my letters and welcome to this if it is your first BMYC Friends Newsletter. I am very much looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the reunion, I just hope that my pregnancy (due date 5 days after the reunion) will let me attend.



Naomi Whittaker

I asked in the previous issue for any ex-members to contact me if they wished to give permission for their contact details to be circulated to other ex-members. I thank those of you who have given permission. The list will first appear with the next newsletter (for those participating) as I hope to get more people on it at the reunion.

If you have any photos or stories of past BMYC events, then please send them to me for inclusion in future issues of this newsletter. Included in this issue are extracts from the contents of the programme for the 10th anniversary concert, supplied by Chris Bridges.

As well as letting you know the dates of future choir concerts, I am now supplying contact details of a person at each host church, so that BMYC Friends who wish to attend a concert have someone to contact to obtain tickets and more details of the concert venues from (see page 11).

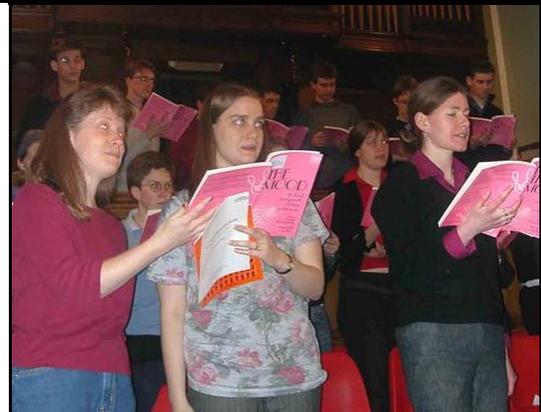
I thank you for your continuing support of the choir and ask you to keep the choir plans for the next 6 months in your prayers.

**Naomi Whittaker
BMYC Friends Secretary**



Above:
Farnborough concert,
8 February 2003.

Below:
Rehearsals for
Skipton concert,
22 March 2003.



Weekend at The Cove Methodist Church, Farnborough 7 - 9 February 2003

The Farnborough weekend was hosted in the circuit of the BMYC Chairman Rev. Neil Thompson. Neil and his wife Christine did a stunning job of organising accommodation and food for the choir and ensuring that both choir members and hosts were fully aware of all of the required information and made to feel extremely welcome.

The majority of the choir members arrived late on Friday evening due to having a considerable journey to Farnborough and were welcomed by our hosts for the weekend at the church over a light meal.

Friday evening ended quite late with prayers followed by a short trip to our hosts' houses to settle down for a very welcome night's rest.

Saturday morning started early with a brief session of morning worship followed by rehearsals in preparation for the evening's concert, starting with several items which extended the choir's repertoire followed by items which were more familiar to the majority of the choir.

The church had the opportunity to put their new kitchen facilities to the test at



A break from rehearsals

lunchtime and proved that they produced amicable results by providing a hot meal at lunchtime for all the members of the choir.

Rehearsals continued briefly after lunch to clean up a couple of the pieces which had been proving challenging, and have a final run through the order of the music for the concert. The customary free time was not available on this occasion due to the AGM and rehearsals not running quite to schedule.



The audience for the evening concert filled the church. The concerns which the choir had over some “flaky” moments in one of the pieces of music proved not to have been too noticeable as the concert was well received and the audience provided positive feedback and were keen to talk to members of the choir after the concert.

Saturday evening ended with the customary visit to a local pub for some social time and an opportunity to catch up with all the news since the last time we had all had the opportunity to meet together.

Sunday morning started early as usual with a brief warm up prior to morning worship in which the choir lead the prayers. We were fortunate to be provided with a roast lunch accompanied by our hosts at the church prior to our departure, which provided some time to chat with each other and members of the local church.

Amy Robinson

Retiring Choir Member

Suzie Kitchin

"That'll be the day"

Sometimes I've wondered if the day would come when I would leave BMYC, but here it is, I've sung my swansong, and have bowed out gracefully! Having been in the choir since I was 15, it's been as regular a part of my life as birthdays, Christmas, going to church...

When I left home to go to university a friend said to me, "So you'll be leaving the choir then?" to which I replied, "No, why? It's a national choir, so it doesn't matter where I'm living." That's been one of the joys of belonging to BMYC: I've travelled all over the place, sung in many different places, and met all sorts of people. Due to the longevity of my membership, I feel as though I'd lived through several eras of the choir, in terms of choir members, choir management, and music we've sung.

My first weekend was in Romford (January 1991), and was the first time I'd travelled on a train on my own. Travelling through London during the Friday evening rush hour was like jumping into the deep end for an apprehensive 15 year old! I remember sitting in the church waiting for my first rehearsal. When the choir started to sing, I thought "Wow - what an amazing sound!" Maybe we don't realise the impact we have when we sing. After years in the choir it is easy to become complacent, and think "it's just another concert," but it may be the first time many people have heard us, and it's important to remember this when we perform.

People ask what have been the highlights of being in the