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# BMYC Friends Newsletter

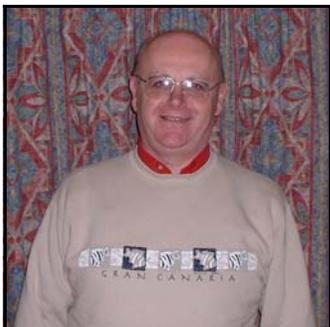
Issue 9 - 2005

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## Art for Arts sake?



Neil Thompson.—Choir Chairman

Those who read the Methodist Recorder will have observed, probably with some sadness, that our London-based Methodist central structure is to be radically streamlined in order to save money – a direct result I guess of falling membership figures in our churches.

When times are hard it is a natural process for organisations of any kind to reduce staff but I, along with many others, have felt a sense of dismay that work with young people and also in the vital area of creative arts feature amongst the paid posts threatened with extinction. The theory is likely to be that volunteers can take over these areas of work and form some kind of self-sustaining system that is not

When times are hard it is a natural

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The **Methodist Church**

dependant on central funding.

This, of course, is how BMYC has functioned for many years and we have made and still make a genuine – if limited – impact upon the life of the Connexion. With more funding we could do a lot more; with less (or no) funding hitherto large and effective Methodist departments will neither be able to generate the amount of enthusiasm or find the energy levels they once had. Much of value will be lost.

We, for our part, are likely to continue in the pattern we have observed for some time but we need to have an awareness that our experience is likely to be of value to others in the wider church and that a changing scene always presents new opportunities.

Whatever happens we must not lose sight of the prime function of any Christian group – to offer and share the love of God as seen in Jesus Christ and strive to contribute to the building-up of individual believers through encouragement and example using the skills God has given us. BMYC has always sought to do this and, I really hope, despite a changing world around us in our denomination, will continue to aspire to this in the future.

*Revd. Neil Thompson.  
Choir Chairman.*

## Barrow-in-Furness July 2005

Our final concert of 2005 was held in the town of Barrow-in-Furness. The weather did us proud for the entire weekend which meant we were able to enjoy the Barbeque which the local youth group kindly ran for us on the Friday evening. The Saturday morning was spent rehearsing in a local church where we were to perform that evening, lunch was supplied by the local Priest before an afternoon on the beach which was glorious on a summers afternoon.

The evenings concert was successful with quite a small choir and also involved the birthday celebrations of one of the members of the audience. Everyone went home on the Sunday after a very pleasant weekend.



# Web Site News

For those who has web access you might have noticed there have been a few changes to the web site. Hopefully it is now a lot easier to find your way around and it should be a lot easier for the choir to maintain and keep up to date. The main sections from the old web site are still their with one major change and one new addition:

## **CDs**

You can now buy a copy of “A New Dawn” the choirs latest CD from the web site along with “Looking on...” and “A New Gloria” using the PayPal Credit Card payment system.

## **Forums**

The major addition to the web site is the addition of the forums. To access the forums you need to register on the home page of the web site and then log in. This will give you access to the “Friends of BMYC” forum where you can post anything Choir related.

If you are a present or past member of the choir please send a Personal Message (PM) to “Moderator” to request extra access to the private areas of the web site

You can access the web site at:

<http://www.bmyc.info/>

*Kevin Soulsby*  
*Web Administrator*

## Future of “Friends of BMYC” Newsletter



Kevin Soulsby

Friends of BMYC has been running now for just over 5 years and in that time the numbers who receive a copy of this newsletter has increased dramatically with a number of people outside of the UK receiving copies.

This unsurprisingly has also increased the cost of printing and posting these newsletters. This has led to a number of suggestions from the 2005 AGM of the choir to reduce the cost of the newsletter.

1. In the future all people who have subscribed for a copy of the “Friends of BMYC” who have also submitted an e-mail address will be sent a link so they can download and print if they wish a copy of the newsletter. Saving both printing and postage costs.
2. Those who still wish to receive a copy of the newsletter through the post will be asked to pay a small annually donation to the choir to cover some of the costs.
3. A church can opt to subscribe to a number of copies of the newsletter for distribution around the church for a one off larger donation to the choir.

The size of the donation to be requested and the number of copies to be sent out to each church which requests option 3 will be discussed in the choir before the next issue of the newsletter.

In the mean time the next issue of the newsletter will be sent out electronically to everyone who has an e-mail address registered with the choir. If you would rather receive a paper copy instead of an electronic one please e-mail [friends@bmyc.info](mailto:friends@bmyc.info) or use the form on the back page of this newsletter.

*Kevin Soulsby*  
*Friends of BMYC Secretary*

## Retiring Choir Members

After almost exactly ten years as a member, the time came for me to leave BMYC in March this year – I guess am officially no longer a youth!!

My time in the choir has been enjoyable, challenging and rewarding, and has been a great experience. I have many wonderful memories to take away with me, and after having the choir as part of my life for so long it is going to seem strange not having to hunt out Methodist churches in the dark in places I've never visited before! I got lost a lot, but always made it in the end, and the warm welcome host churches always give the choir meant you soon forgot nightmare journeys.

My last weekend with the choir was at the church I grew up in, which made it that bit extra special. I'd always threatened them I would have the choir visit before I left and I did, just about!

Perhaps my most lasting memory will be recording the CD though. I'd never been in a recording studio before July last year, and found the experience quite overwhelming and incredibly tiring, but hearing the finished CD, months later when Ashley had completed the editing, was amazing.

I have made so many friends through the choir; met so many different people in so many different places, and experienced a fellowship I've never come across anywhere else. I will miss the choir, and I wish them all the best for the future. I'm sure I will appear in audiences from time to time!

*Emma Watson*

# Choir Member News

## Judith Carter

We are happy to announce the marriage of Judith Carter and Roger on the 1st July 2006. At present there is no more details but look out for more details in the next issue of Friends or on the “Past and Present Members Area” forum on the web site.



## Susanne Charlton



Congratulations to Susanne Charlton and Neil Platt who got married on the 17th December 2005 at St. Andrews Church in Skipton. The choir wishes them all the best in their future together.



## **2006 Concerts**

3rd March 2006  
Warrington

20th May 2006  
Kendal

24th June 2006  
Bristol

24th—31st July 2006  
Cornwall Tour

7th October 2006  
Durham

## **2007 Concerts**

26th May 2007  
Stoke City FC Stadium  
(Incorporating 25th Anniversary Celebration)



## **BMYC Contact Details**

### **BMYC Administrator:**

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## Paper copy of “Friends of BMYC” Request Form

As discussed on page 5 the next issue of this newsletter will be sent electronically to any one who has registered an e-mail address with the choir. If you still wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter please e-mail:

friends@bmyc.info

Or send this page to the address at the bottom:

I would like to keep receiving paper copies of this newsletter please send them to:

Name: .....

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Please send the form to the address below and if you would like to donate towards the cost of this newsletter please make cheques payable to “The British Methodist Youth Choir” and send to:

Kevin Soulsby  
88 Dewfalls Drive  
Bradley Stoke  
Bristol  
BS32 9BT

# BMYC Friends Donation Form

As we seek to enlarge the choir and meet the needs of our young people we are increasingly dependent on the generosity of many people and churches to help us maintain the high standards we have set for the choir. Any help you can offer, however small, will be gratefully received and you can be assured we shall spend wisely as we move into the coming year. **Most importantly of all, we ask for your continued prayers for the group and all that we undertake.**

- I wish to become a “Friend” of BMYC. Please place my name on your mailing list. (*Only tick if you are not already a member*)
- I enclose my donation to the BMYC of £ ..... to support their “Mission in Song”.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Date.....

Please make cheques payable to “The British Methodist Youth Choir” and send to:

Kevin Soulsby  
88 Dewfalls Drive  
Bradley Stoke  
Bristol  
BS32 9BT

***Thank you for your generous support***