

Dear Choir,

Welcome at last to what I think might be our final MMVC update e-mail. It seems a very long time since I started writing these, but it looks like we've finally made it! Barring any drastic changes to government advice we'll be back to meeting in person after our Summer break.

Like many of you, I was sad to hear the recent news that our second tenor Derek Andrews has died. Charles recently wrote with details so I won't repeat them all here, except to say that the family have said they'd be glad to see any of us at the service, given how much Derek enjoyed his time with the Choir. Also, if you can't make it but would like to pass on your memories of Derek, Chris Boccock will be going and has said he's happy to pass on any messages. Charles' e-mail has his contact details. The Choir has sent a card, too, signed by people who could come to Monday's rehearsal.

We've now reached the end of another Choir "year" when our rehearsals stop for our summer break. Our final rehearsal, last Monday, was to have been an outdoors one at the front of Holy Trinity. Given the threatening weather, the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, and the risk assessment we'd put together, though, we ended up having it inside instead. It was our first return to rehearsals in the church since March of last year, and all went swimmingly.

Some things were a bit different, of course. There was hand sanitizer at the door, and seating was socially distanced. We did have a break, but there was no tea and squash, nor any mingling and chatting.

But! We still sang together, and heard each other, and watched Charles, just like before. And enough of us have been able to keep going via Zoom that the music was all there, despite a break of almost a year and a half. All in all, it felt like just a normal rehearsal.

So, if you've not been able to sing for some time, I'm very happy now to confirm that we do have a Choir here waiting to welcome you back in September! And for those of you that might not be able to return to a rehearsal so soon, I can confirm that we plan to continue using Zoom to make the rehearsals accessible online too.

I'll be sending out a reminder closer to the time, but the date for all your calendars is **7.30pm** at **Holy Trinity** on **Monday 6 September 2021**. Which is to say: the first Monday in September, at the same place and time as usual.

You can also pass that on if anyone's asked you recently how to go about joining the Choir. It'll help with the music if you can give Charles any advance notice, but regardless, they should just turn up and we'll sort things out on the night.

Speaking of dates, I want to let you all know that we have decided to move the date for next year's main Centenary Concert. We don't yet know when it will end up being, but it's clear

that the date we'd previously pencilled in for May won't give us enough time to give the sort of polished performance we'd want to. So we're going to see how things go when we get back together, and we'll keep everyone notified as soon as we have any other dates in mind.

However, the date of 14 November 2021 for our Remembrance service performance does remain unchanged. The specific arrangements and venue are still being worked out, but unless the event gets cancelled, we do know that's the date it'll be.

Finally, as I mentioned last month, I'll be needing to ask you for more help when we start back in September. We've lost several members over the past eighteen months and we're really struggling to cover all of the things we do to function as a Choir. So if you think you can spare some time to help out, that's all we're looking for. Whether it's helping to welcome new members, keeping track of jackets, taking notes of what plans we make in committee, being a point of contact for bookings, or the many other things we do, come and have a word with me in September.

In the same vein, we want to get more people involved in our monthly discussions of what the Choir is planning to do. We're especially lacking representation from our first and second basses now, since we've only got members from the tenor sections at present.

Well, that's about all from me for this month. As I said, I'll be in touch again before September, but there won't be any update, just a reminder of when we'll be starting back again. And after that we'll switch back to giving out notices at break time to keep you informed of anything that might be happening. So this will be the last of these monthly update e-mails.

Before I sign off, I'd just like to say a thankyou to all of you who've been in touch over the months to let me know that these e-mails have been appreciated. Thanks for reading, and I hope you won't miss these e-mails too much.

In the meantime, I look forward to welcoming as many as possible of you at Holy Trinity in September. Let's get Malvern Male Voice Choir back together once more, so that we can all finally enjoy having a good sing again!

All the very best to you all,

Paul.