

## Christmas 2007

Dear All,

It seems that every year this letter gets written later, but I hope it does reach you before Christmas. There's only one more rehearsal now before the break so I am sure the choristers are all looking forward to a rest after John Daniel has continued to work them hard throughout this autumn.

We hope you enjoyed the Annual Concert. We were treated to both quality and quantity from Gwyn Hughes Jones who sang finely and clearly enjoyed himself. The Family Affair played beautifully and more than lived up to expectations. The choir continues to sound excellent. Roll on next year!

This autumn also saw a fine concert in the Stiwt, where the choir was joined by a male voice choir from Tennessee. This choir was composed of musical leaders from the Baptist Church in the state and was absolutely first class. They impressed everyone and it was a huge privilege to sing with them. Another choir who visited the Stiwt was the Treorchy Male Voice Choir. Their booking was not connected with our choir and their concert was not well supported. There were, however, a good contingent from RMVC in the audience and we joined them afterwards in the bar for a singing battle (with a little lubrication). It was a great conclusion to the evening and the choir has been invited to go to Treorchy and sing in concert with them in 2009.

Ray Jones (John Raymond) has given me the list for next year's concerts and you will find it at the end of this letter. We have three concerts in the Wirral and plenty in North Wales. The choir is also taking part in two competitions. The choristers will have to be in top form straight after Christmas as they are being recorded for the BBC Radio Wales Competition for Male Voice Choirs. Then in February there is the Golden Nightingale Male Choir Competition in Bournemouth. Good luck to them in both competitions.

With a choir so large there is always the probability of casualties during the year but this year had been reasonably kind until lately. Sadly, we have suffered two losses in the last month. Joe Miles had been unwell for many years and had moved to live with his daughter in Peterborough. He had been an excellent Chairman and Secretary and looked after me in my early days supporting the choir. His energy and enthusiasm was infectious and he was a great servant of the choir. This week we had the news of the loss of Vincent Jones, ex-chorister of many years standing and regular patron. Vincent had struggled with his health for many years and could not make this year's concert (usually I expected his call to ensure he could get a gangway seat as he had difficulty walking). We will miss them both and extend our sympathy to their families.

On behalf of the entire choir, my wife Bobbie and myself, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

David Ethelston  
President