



BROMYARD CHORAL SOCIETY

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Well . nearly spring, perhaps, listening to the howling Arctic gale outside as I started writing this a couple of evenings ago! This newsletter focuses primarily on preparations for our foray to the Cathedral at the end of next month, but please do not overlook the other items!

ANNUAL DINNER

First, however, due to an administrative error at the Falcon, discovered in the last couple of days, it has been necessary to postpone the dinner from 12th March. An alternative Saturday in April or May is being sought urgently.

PUBLICITY FOR *THE KINGDOM* – URGENT RECALL!

Please do not hand out any more of the posters/flyers that were available on Tuesday this week. They are being reprinted with changed soloists names after all, as a damage limitation exercise after the publicity about Roger Langford (this week's Hereford Times p.5). We're hoping the revised version will be available this coming Tuesday. Similarly, please don't email the original downloadable PDF version out any more . you can already download the revised version with updated names, and please continue distributing this to whoever you think might remotely be interested and encourage them to give us moral support, and Christian Aid financial support, by coming along on the day! (See more on ticket sales below.)

REHEARSALS FOR *THE KINGDOM*

It might be an opportune moment to confirm the rehearsal schedule between now and the concert on 30th April. Please make a special effort to attend all the joint rehearsals, even if there are some other Tuesdays that may not work for you. For rehearsals that are not in our regular place, fuller addresses and a Google map are available on the relevant Events page of the BCS website: see:

www.bromyardchoral.x10host.com/events

- **Tuesday 8th March, 7.30 . 9.30:** Joint rehearsal with Ledbury CS at **Queen Elizabeth Humanities College**. Please arrive in plenty of time so we can make sure all seats are set out appropriately, and welcome the Ledbury singers, while still starting the rehearsal promptly at 7.30.

- **Tuesday 15th March**, 7.30-9.30: Normal rehearsal at Bromyard Methodist Church Hall.
- **Thursday 17th March**, 7.30-9.30: Joint rehearsal with Ledbury CS **at Ledbury Community Hall**. Please consider car-sharing where possible.
- **Tuesday 22nd March**, 7.30-9.30: Normal rehearsal at Bromyard Methodist Church Hall.
- Tuesday 29th March (immediately after Easter) . **no rehearsal**.
- **Tuesday 5th April**, 7.30-9.30: Normal rehearsal at Bromyard Methodist Church Hall.
- **Tuesday 12th April**, 7.30-9.30: Normal rehearsal at Bromyard Methodist Church Hall.
- **Tuesday 19th April**, 7.30-9.30: Normal rehearsal at Bromyard Methodist Church Hall.
- **Sunday 24th April, 2.00-5.00**: Joint rehearsal, with orchestra and soloists, **at Hereford Sixth Form College**. Please consider car-sharing where possible.
- **Tuesday 26th April**, 7.30-9.30: Joint rehearsal with Ledbury CS **in Hereford Cathedral**. Please be there in plenty of time to set out the chairs on the staging which will have been erected that day, and to sort out any seating issues; we shall need as much of the rehearsal time proper as possible to get used to the cathedral acoustic and particularly to the distance we will be sitting from the conductor. Please also consider car-sharing where possible. Anyone who
- **Saturday 30th April, 12.30-3.30**: Final rehearsal, with orchestra and soloists, **in Hereford Cathedral**. We shall have the use of the Zimmerman Hall of Hereford Cathedral School (on the first floor of the former telephone exchange building at the cathedral end of Church Street) as a green room from before the rehearsal until after the concert; we expect to have key-code access to the outer door so it should be secure for leaving personal possessions . further details from Mike Cresswell nearer the time. Please arrive in time to be in the cathedral by 12.15, and in your seats and ready to sing before the nominal start time of the rehearsal.

ORDERING TICKETS FOR <i>THE KINGDOM</i>
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Present indications are that we need to sell something approaching 400 tickets for the concert in order to reach break-even point . ie before we start generating a surplus to pass on to Christian Aid. This may seem a big hurdle, but don't forget that we sold a very similar number for the Verdi *Requiem* at Malvern 18 months ago, and we are undertaking a more concerted advertising campaign for *The Kingdom*. Nevertheless, because costs are higher in the cathedral, we do need to improve further on the

numbers from that last fundraising concert, so please urge as many of your friends, family and colleagues to buy tickets, which are now on sale through the Courtyard Theatre Box Office (www.courtyard.org.uk/elgars-the-kingdom, or 01432 340555): prices £25, £20, £15 or (unreserved) £10.

However, because the Courtyard charge 10% commission on ticket sales through the Box Office, one way of reducing costs is to join our planned bulk order . for which the Courtyard will print the tickets for a cost of 12p each instead of between £1.00 and £2.50 commission (plus in most cases card processing charges at 2.5% = 25p to 62.5p). I want to send in the first order just before Easter, so if you are going to help in this way we need to have your confirmed order details, and full payment (cheques only, payable to Bromyard Choral Society), not later than the rehearsal on Tuesday 22nd March.

On reflection individual order forms will be easier to manage, and to tie in with payments, than a sign-up list; you will find one with this newsletter, so please press as many of your contacts to buy tickets as you can, and collect the details in time to return the completed form, with payment, within the next 2½ weeks! (You can print as many copies as you need, if you prefer to get your contacts to fill in their own forms.)

A CHANCE TO HEAR *THE APOSTLES*

Don't forget that if you want the chance to hear Elgar's slightly earlier oratorio, which is closely related to *The Kingdom*, and to experience the musical idiom live in a cathedral acoustic in preparation for our own performance, Gloucester Choral Society are presenting *The Apostles* on Saturday 19th March (7.30 pm at Gloucester Cathedral). The orchestra includes a brief role for the Jewish ram's horn Shofar!

LATER THIS YEAR

The Music sub-committee meets soon to consider selecting a programme of lighter music for our last concert of 2016, which will take place at the Conquest Theatre on Saturday 3rd December.

The possibility of some summer singing activity together with residents at the Whitegates Care Home is still under consideration.

BCS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Will anyone who is active on Facebook and would consider running the BCS Facebook page please get in touch with me? Sarah Davis, who had taken this on, has had to back out and if we cannot maintain the page on a current basis we may have to consider taking it down, as there is nothing worse than a web presence which gets increasingly out of date. Even better if you could take on the Twitter account as well.

OTHERS SITUATIONS VACANT

Finally, a reminder that we are looking for volunteers .

- to shadow Tudor as Treasurer and take over from him from September 2016 when he is standing down, and
- to take over as Publicity Officer, as Robert has had to withdraw to be able to cope with his other commitments. (Fear not, publicity for *The Kingdom* is in hand in collaboration with Ledbury CS!)

If you think you can help in either role please speak to me, or have a word with Tudor in the first instance to find out how little work being Treasurer really involves.

Chris Jarman
Chairman
4th March 2016