



Easter 2026



The Palace Singers

community choir

From the Chair....

Inside this issue:

From the Chair	1
Lent Term review	2
Membership system news	3
Dates for your diary	4
Finance update & Member profile	5
Back Page	6

Well, summer term is upon us! Spring is springing and the clocks have gone forward so we will be able to arrive at rehearsals in daylight - which always makes such a difference, I think.

We have plenty to look forward to as we prepare for our concert in July, but let's also take some time to celebrate the success of our February concert. It felt like a bit of a gamble moving to a different time of year, but the size of our audience showed that people really do appreciate good music and good cheer in the depths of winter. I do wish I had put a few more layers on that day, though!

The concert was also another good reminder of how far we have come as a Choir over the last couple of years under Liam's stewardship. Watching some of the videos captured by kind friends who were there made me feel reassured that we had given our audience a performance worthy of their ticket price and more! Warmest thanks to everyone who rehearsed, sang, sorted tickets, drinks, money and audience arrivals and of course to Liam and Harry too - what a team!

Speaking of teams, your committee continues to work hard for you behind the scenes to make sure the choir continues to go from strength to strength. Whilst it has certainly felt like a calmer few months after the flurry of activity last year with change of venue and rehearsal day, there is always something to do. I am very grateful to those who have now come forward to offer some help next academic year when Martyn steps down as secretary. There are still a couple more areas where we will need help so please do consider this again otherwise we will struggle to run things as smoothly next year. Nothing too onerous and we can promise you good support and often a good laugh as well!

Right, it's teatime so I'm off for chicken tikka, mango chutney and a pint of lager!

Thanks everyone for helping to keep the Palace Singers wonderful.

Emma Lightfoot, Chair of Committee

Lent Term Review

I have really enjoyed this last term! I think it has probably felt like a very different term compared to other years, with having a big concert in the middle, but I think it has worked out rather well.

The obvious talking point for this term has to be our fantastic February concert. I think this was a particularly great display of how far the Lichfield Palace Singers has come. I thought a February concert was a bit of a risk, but actually it turned out to be huge success! Much of this is down to the excellent singing, so well done for all your hard work, learning and commitment. Thank you also for encouraging lots of people to come along too – it was fantastic to perform to such a full building.

We have made a great start to repertoire for our summer concert. I am very excited about this – Greater Love sounds thrilling already! I think what has been especially lovely is the very strong commitment and attendance recently, and this will only help us to keep improving.

May I take this as a chance to thank our wonderful committee. The work they put in behind the scenes is quite remarkable and we are very lucky to have such a reliable team. As you well know, this team is to look somewhat different next year, and I do encourage you to consider taking on some of the roles that need filling. 'Every little helps' ... as they say!

Finally, I hope you all have a lovely Easter. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Liam Condon, Musical Director



Our new Membership system



After much head scratching and time spent huddled around Martyn's computer, a small group of us (Martyn, Veronica, Pat and myself) are proud to say our Making Music Platform is Live!

We have started with the items that we think will be of interest and help to Members, i.e. Choir documents, Committee Minutes and especially the Song Library which, from feedback received, has been well received. The John Fletcher files and, in most cases, a YouTube clip showing how the song may be performed, are now in an easy to find place. No more searching through the John Fletcher site for the files or relying on someone to email them out. Every Member is now able to update their personal details as and when necessary, which helps with the admin/secretarial role of the choir. Another feature which we are hoping everyone will come to use is attendance/availability - this will be particularly useful to Liam when planning concerts/events/seating etc., so please do look at it and add your intentions.

A well-received feature is the ability to book tickets for the concerts online. Again, this helped to cut down lots of the admin overhead and we think that, along with the new updated website, helped with the wonderful turnout we had at our last concert.

We are hoping to add more features to the Platform as we all become more accustomed to using it, so watch this space!

Jackie Jones, Making Music Admin

HOME CONTACT ABOUT NEWS & EVENTS OTHER MEMBERS

WHO ARE WE?

The Palace Singers is a Lichfield (Staffordshire) based community choir that just loves to sing! Under the guidance of our excellent Musical Director, Liam Condon, we rehearse each Wednesday evening in term-time, and perform several times each year at a number of venues in the local area. Our music is diverse and includes contemporary, folk, sacred and choral pieces.

COME AND HAVE A GO!

With a motto of 'Singing for Joy', we have a great time - and we would love you to come and join us! You are welcome to come and try us out and see how you get on - and then decide if it's for you or not. Singing is so good for you physically, mentally and spiritually, and you'll have a sense of achievement, and make new friends!

UPCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS

The choir performs at least two full concerts each year, and also sings at many other venues. These have included Lichfield Cathedral, the National Memorial Arboretum, local churches, local pubs and even the market square! Please click below for more details of when and where we are performing in future:

Dates for your diary

Copied from the Membership system:

News & Event/Event Calendar

Do keep an eye on this for new dates and do let us know your availability – Liam finds that most helpful.

Start date	Start time	Title
Wed, 15 Apr 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Mon, 20 Apr 2026	19:30	Committee Meeting
Wed, 22 Apr 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 29 Apr 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 6 May 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 13 May 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 20 May 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 3 Jun 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Mon, 8 Jun 2026	19:30	Committee Meeting
Wed, 10 Jun 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 17 Jun 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 24 Jun 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 1 Jul 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 8 Jul 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Sat, 11 Jul 2026	16:00	Rehearsal for Concert
Sat, 11 Jul 2026	19:30	Summer Concert
Wed, 15 Jul 2026	19:30	Rehearsal & AGM
Mon, 31 Aug 2026	19:30	Committee Meeting
Wed, 2 Sep 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 9 Sep 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 16 Sep 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 23 Sep 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 30 Sep 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 7 Oct 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 14 Oct 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 21 Oct 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Mon, 2 Nov 2026	19:30	Committee Meeting
Wed, 4 Nov 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 11 Nov 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 18 Nov 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 25 Nov 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 2 Dec 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 9 Dec 2026	19:30	Rehearsal
Wed, 16 Dec 2026	19:30	Rehearsal

Finance Update

Once again, I would like to express my thanks to Veronica who has helped and supported me as treasurer during my first few months in the role. I think I am getting the hang of it at last! The “day to day” tasks are straightforward but more time consuming than I had anticipated. I am, I think, keeping on top of things and the finances seem healthy at present. I am also grateful to be the treasurer of a choir whose members are so good at getting their subs paid in good time.

Some good financial news – the February concert raised more than anticipated so “well done” to all who participated, sold tickets or were involved in any other way. Also, I applied for a grant from the Lichfield Conduits Land Trust, and we have been awarded £500. Very welcome indeed as the cost of music continues to rise, I will be looking to apply for other funds from other organisations supporting the arts.

I will continue to monitor and update the accounts in preparation for the AGM

Pat Ratcliffe, Treasurer

Profile: Mary Barford

Music has always been central to my life. My father was a classically trained pianist who taught me from an early age, and at senior school I sang in the choir before auditioning — successfully — for Stafford Choral Society.

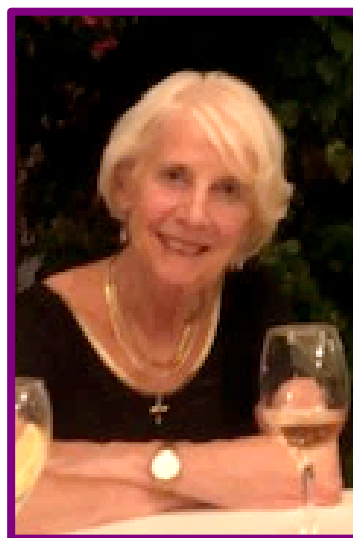
After school I pursued a career in manufacturing, eventually becoming Sales and Marketing Director before co-founding a company with my husband in 1981, specialising in pet grooming equipment for overseas markets.

Marriage and children paused my singing for a while, but I returned to it through the Forward Operatic Society and later the Birmingham and Midland Operatic Society, both performing at the Birmingham Hippodrome to packed houses.

In the mid-90s I joined Dudley Choral Society, seeking a more challenging repertoire.

By 1995 I had become their Overseas Concert Manager, drawing on my commercial background to organise 12 European concerts between 1995 and 2018 — including Mozart's Requiem in Paris, Haydn's Creation in Nuremberg, and The Messiah in Rudesheim.

When DCS disbanded in 2024 due to falling membership, I was delighted to find a new home with the lovely Palace Singers.



We're already looking for the next issue's member profile. If you would like to contribute, then please get in touch with one of the Committee.

Happy Easter



HAPPINESS IS



**...singing
in a choir.**

P.S. We're always open to any new members! Know anybody you could ask?