

**Exmouth Choral Society**  
*President: Andrew Millington*  
*Vice – President: Mary Earl*

## **Newsletter - Christmas 2009**

### **Dear Member**

We want to start by thanking Stephen Martin for all his work with us in the second half of this last term. It has been productive and fun. We also need to thank Malcolm Matthews and Dick and Posie Passmore for their work in organising another successful Classics Galore! concert. Our apologies for the changes in rehearsals for Classics Galore! The committee's plan, to which Brian had agreed, was to have an extra half an hour for CG at the beginning of every rehearsal from September. Brian then told us, on the evening of the first rehearsal, that he had arranged for Malcolm to come for two whole rehearsals. Having been assured that the repertoire for CG would not be taxing we pressed for a run through of the Monteverdi on both of Malcolm's rehearsals. Malcolm agreed and honoured this. However, after the first evening many members expressed concern about the complexity of the CG music and the need for more rehearsal time. Hence the rapid change of plans, the emails and Kate's telephone calls. The relatively few singers who participated enjoyed the whole day. The coach, although late, did go to the right Glenorchy Church!

**The first rehearsal in the New Year will be on 4<sup>th</sup> January** with Brian in charge again. The Monteverdi Vespers **concert will be on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2009**. As Brian has promised, the soloists and instrumentalists are out of the top drawer. It will be an expensive concert to stage so it is even more important that **you** sell enough tickets to have an audience that fills the church. There will be the usual **raffle at the concert**. Please bring *impressive* prizes for this raffle to rehearsal on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January or to the rehearsal on the afternoon. If you have any questions about the day (e.g. concert dress and black folders) please look at the members' page of our website [www.exmouthchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.exmouthchoralsociety.org.uk) or consult your "Welcome Booklet" – and of course ask.

Very importantly, we are pleased to report that we have had some expressions of interest in the Musical Director's post. We have been in discussions already and will be making arrangements for them to come to take a rehearsal, or a part of a rehearsal, in February or March. More details will be given out during rehearsals. One of them would only be able to take Glenorchy practices on a Tuesday evening and not a Monday. We will of course be interested in your views on this and on the candidates themselves.

Unfortunately Mary Tuckett and her team at Holy Trinity church are not able to cater for the **Social evening** on 25<sup>th</sup> January the traditional Monday after the concert as they are all off to the pantomime at the Barnfield. Therefore the Social evening will now be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March, when we hope that we may have appointed our new Musical Director. If anyone has a quiz or other activity that would be good for the evening please pass it to Kate or Sue.

You may remember that we had floated the idea of a fund raising concert in collaboration with Paul Stock and his Holy Trinity Church choir. Unfortunately we did not get enough positive response so that idea has been shelved for the present.

**News of members** – Sadly Megan Self, who joined the Committee at the AGM in July, has resigned from the choir. If you feel able to help us and are willing to be co-opted to the Committee please contact me.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our Registrar Katherine Blaker whose second son was born in September. Katherine hopes to sing with us again soon.

**Coffee for staging helpers.** We are very grateful for the time of anyone who can come to put up and take down the staging on the Friday before the concert and the Monday after the concert. It only takes about half an hour and “many hands make light work”! If you can come and do this, coffee or tea in the Holy Trinity coffee bar is funded for you out of Choral Society funds as a thank you. **Some people misunderstood this offer and asked for free coffee/tea on the concert day itself, which upset the church helpers, so please note that you must pay for your own drinks in the concert interval.**

**Dates for your diary:**

14 <sup>th</sup> December	Last rehearsal
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2010	First rehearsal of the New Year
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Monteverdi Vespers workshop with Nigel Perrin in Exeter
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Monteverdi Vespers - afternoon rehearsal (time to be confirmed by Brian) and concert at 7.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> January	First rehearsal of The Messiah
15 <sup>th</sup> February	No rehearsal – half term
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Social evening at Holy Trinity Church
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Monday – no rehearsal
12 <sup>th</sup> April	First rehearsal after Easter break
24 <sup>th</sup> April	Concert

Once again we wish you the season’s greetings and look forward to seeing you all on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

*Sue Kalaugher*

Chairman

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Secretary

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