

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Following an enforced 2-year break due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Singers were finally able to mount two concerts in April and July 2022. Concerts which were due to take place in March, July and December 2020 and Spring and Summer 2021 had to be abandoned. Rehearsals recommenced in September 2021, but once again, the concerts planned for December 2021 had to be cancelled, just two days before the first of these was due to take place.

We finally managed to perform the major part of Haydn's "Creation", which was cancelled in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic, on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 in St Mary's Church, Buckland, but not without Covid once again making its presence felt! Sadly, two of the soloists (Ben Beurklian-Carter and Jonathan Todd) had to withdraw, and their places were taken by Stephen Pascoe and Tom Ibbotson. The soprano soloist was Claire Watters.

Our Summer Concert, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington, was my last as Musical Director of the Faringdon Singers, before Clare Woodall replaced me as the new Director. The concert included many pieces sung in past years, with a major Stanford content: his B flat Magnificat, "How beautiful are the feet", "Beati quorum via", his beautifully crafted and ethereal "Blue Bird" (soprano soloist Sophie Stainer), and "Songs of the Fleet" (baritone soloist Ben Beurklian-Carter), which I first accompanied in a concert at Jesus College, Oxford in my student days. Meg Greenwood gave us readings from "Queenhood" by Simon Armitage, and the programme also included "In Our Service" by Thomas Hewitt Jones: both in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As far as the future goes, I shall be more than happy to remain on the committee for the time being, if that is what you wish, and to continue to help in whatever way I can. I am sure that under Clare's direction, the choir will benefit from a new leadership, and go from strength to strength.

Best wishes

Terence