

## **Faringdon Singers, Annual General Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

### **Musical Director's Report 2019-2020**

The year began with our two Christmas concerts, in Ashbury Village Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December (Concert No. 251), and in Blessed Hugh Catholic Church, Faringdon on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (Concert No. 252), as described by our Chairman.

Unfortunately, our Spring concerts, scheduled for March 2020, had to be postponed indefinitely due to the coronavirus outbreak just before the planned concert dates, when all arrangements had been made (and at a time when I would also have been celebrating a milestone anniversary of my retirement from full-time employment at the Harwell Laboratory!). Organist and soloists had all been booked for a performance of Haydn's "Creation".

Our Summer Concerts, planned for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at Shrivenham Methodist Church and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July in Faringdon Catholic Church Hall likewise had to be cancelled, together with our proposed Buffet Supper in the Barber Rooms of All Saints' Church, Faringdon on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Since then, all our musical activities have, sadly, ground to a halt, with no start-up date yet in sight.

So what of the future? This all depends, of course, on how soon we can achieve some degree of normality in everyday life. We shall be unable to proceed with our usual Christmas concerts this year, and as for Spring 2021, we shall just have to wait and see. It would be good to think that in the not-too-distant future we could bring Haydn's "Creation" back into our schedule, and give it the performance it deserves!

A suggestion has been made that we could perhaps sing carols in Faringdon Market Square this year. At first, this seemed a good idea, but at the present time, with coronavirus more rampant than ever, with no end in sight and no vaccination programme yet established, this seems to me to be wishful thinking. Both choir members and listeners would need to be socially distanced from each other, and this would not lead to good musical results, especially in an open-air situation like the Market Square. At the present time, I would not be happy to lead such a venture.

I think we just have to be patient and await better news, and not put any of our members at risk.

Terence Carter

October 2020