

NEW DIMENSION CHOIR COMMITTEE MEETING

19TH AUGUST 2025

Those present

Linda Sandham – Chairperson, Enid Weaver – Musical Director, Janice Leahy – Librarian, Carol Chester – Treasurer, Barbara Austin – Secretary, John Pugh and Clare Goldspink – co-opted members)

Concert Lineup

The committee discussed the need for consistent procedures during concerts, particularly concerning lineup after interval. The decision was made, in part as not all churches have suitable lining up areas, that after refreshments we will simply return to our seats. We would ask members not to chat once audience returns to encourage a quick settling for 2nd half.

Health and Safety Measures

We considered the practicality of appointing a first aider. It was noted that having a designated first aider could complicate matters due to certification requirements and availability issues. Instead, it was decided instead to focus on gathering a second emergency contact and encouraging members to disclose relevant medical conditions, ensuring preparedness for any emergencies.

Volunteer Coordination

There was significant discussion about the need for better volunteer coordination to assist with concert set up and teardown which is currently all done by John, Carol and Clare. We would ask for a couple more volunteers to ensure smoother operations during concerts.

Social Events and Scheduling

The committee deliberated on whether to move the January social event to a summer date due to declining attendance and member feedback about the timing post-Christmas. Although no conclusive decision was reached and no alternative venue suggestion has been put forward by any members it was agreed to again ask for member suggestions and preferences for potential venue changes or date adjustments.

Financial and Ticket Pricing

Regarding ticket pricing, the decision was made, although other choirs do charge a lot more, that we would stay at the current price of £7.50. The financial health of the choir was reported to be stable, with adequate funds and income from subscriptions balancing out expenses. The concern was raised about increasing prices, especially given the choir's largely pensioner audience. The committee decided to review this decision next year based on financial and attendance trends.

Music and Copyright

The discussion also covered music management, specifically regarding photocopied music and copyright issues. It was decided in future that we keep photocopied music which we believe is better for the environment, especially as this Xmas as we will have 5 photocopied pieces. They will also be numbered and kept the same as other pieces. We will of course comply with copyright laws, which includes verifying that all music used is legally permissible to copy, either through direct permission or because it is out of copyright.

We're excited to say we have bought five new pieces of music for Summer 2026, all picked from members suggestions and one for this Christmas

A Million Dreams from The Greatest Showman

My Fair Lady – a Choral Medley

Oliver – Choral Highlights

Somethings Coming/Tonight – from West Side Story

We've only just begun

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas (our new opening number)

Change of Dates for Summer Concerts

Some members had asked if we could hold concerts earlier in the summer. After discussion it was decided that even bringing forward a few weeks wouldn't necessarily mean cooler weather and with so many new pieces to learn we need the extra rehearsal time. We hoped that the heatwave this year was unusual. Barbara will not book an afternoon concert during the summer.

St. Chads feedback

Thank you to members for their feedback. Although it was very exceptionally hot, we agreed that even in cooler weather the stage was not suitable for the choir. At any future concerts we will sing on the floor with the possibility of the men standing on the lower step. Although the room to store bags was fine, concern was raised that there was no where to line up in poor weather. We are not there at Christmas so hope the new building (to be a café) at the front of the church will be available for this purpose in the future.

Sound Checks

Members queried if we needed so long as they were standing around for a long time after soundcheck. It was pointed out that at St. Chads we accidentally started at 6.0 instead of 6.15 and because of the heat Enid ran through much quicker than is usual. We had previously been asked by members to finish run through before audience started to enter so we will continue to start at 6.15 so Clare can adjust sound for each piece, and we can run through any last-minute difficult pieces.

Potential New Venue for next Summer

St. Peters South Weald have a Summer Festival in collaboration with the local school and have asked us to be their music act on the Saturday Evening 27th June 2026. There is plenty of parking and I've been told a cool church! Thanks to Vera for passing on the information. John and Barbara will visit the church to confirm suitability.

Potential dates for concerts 2026

It's too early for churches to confirm dates but for those who like to pencil in potential dates you might like to hold:

last Saturday in June and First Friday and Sunday in July

last Saturday in November and First Friday and Sunday in December

Barbara will confirm asap.

Next Committee Meeting 13th November 2025 – John's