

## East Bridge Chorale *Annual Report 2018-19*

East Bridge Chorale is now ten years old and we have gone from strength to strength under the direction of Benedict Preece who continues to teach us techniques that encourage and enable us to extend our ability in singing. Rehearsals are always enjoyable and rewarding and are often expertly accompanied by Helen Crayford, a well-known pianist who we are very fortunate to have living in our area.

We were so pleased that Ben has recently been appointed Head of Keyboard and Organist at The Duke of York's Military School, Dover; this allows him to continue as our musical director as well as with Caritas and the Sandwich Concert Band.

We performed three concerts in 2018-19, two with full orchestral accompaniment.

Our first concert, a well-attended performance of Haydn's *Creation*, in St. Mary's Arts Centre Sandwich was on September 2nd. On November 18th, again in St Mary's Arts Centre, we sang Haydn's *Creation Mass* and Mozart's *Vespere Solemnis de Confessore*. Some people were confused by the title of the Mass, which is not to be confused with the better-known oratorio, *The Creation*, but an interesting piece and fun to sing.

On December 3rd we were back again in St Mary's with the Sandwich Concert Band for their Christmas concert. This is an always enjoyable annual event in Sandwich with a capacity audience.

Our main concert of the year was in the Colyer-Fergusson Hall at the University of Kent where we sang Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonnelle* accompanied by Helen Crayford and Tim Frost on pianos and Anthony Halstead on the harmonium. A wonderful event and much enjoyed by all.

We are supported by soloists taken from Ben's chamber choir, Caritas, together with extra singers to boost sections of EBC where more voices are needed. This support is much appreciated.

As with many musical groups our audience numbers are not as large as we would like but, with the financial help of one or two patrons and a grant from The Four Villages Shop and Post Office Association in Littlebourne, we manage to remain solvent and to maintain our ticket prices at £10 and our subscriptions at £30 for ten rehearsals per concert. We are very grateful for the sponsorship we receive.

Tony Garrett continues to be our web master and to produce wonderful designs for our posters and programmes, often available to make changes even when on holiday. It is difficult to thank him enough for his continued support.

East  
Bridge  
CHORALE



Stephen Graham has decided to stand down as a committee member this year. Stephen was a founder member of the choir and committee and has been very supportive throughout. I am pleased to say he remains as a strong member of the bass section of the choir and I offer my thanks for his long service on the committee.

Wendy Scott, a loyal and long standing member of the choir, agreed to stand for election to the committee and David Sadtler agreed to stand for election as Vice Chairman. I am very grateful to these two and to all the other members of the committee who agreed to stand again for re-election, all of whom help to keep the choir a happy and fulfilling organisation for all its members.

Looking forward to another year of music making with you all.

*Geraldine*