

## 24/11/2008 Choir Notices

### Amberley Carol Rehearsals

#### Rehearsals:

1. 24.11 in Methodist Church
2. 01.12 in Methodist Church
3. 09.12 (Tuesday) in Amberley Church
4. 11.12 (Thursday) short rehearsal and then concert in Amberley Church.

The Amberley concert is a lovely way to end the year's activities; altogether less fraught than the November bash, as the organisation is done by Sandra Tucker and her cohorts at Amberley.

We are fielding about 55 singers this year, which is a vast improvement on previous years... and I think I know why. (ABCs – bless 'em.)

The running order is attached. Please be kind enough to print one off for yourself.

Rehearsal aids for most (not all) of the Carols for Choirs pieces are available on 'tinternet: click on <http://www.rfms.org/Archive00a.htm> and you will find your voice part.

Do remember your copy of Carols for Choirs 1, if you have one. For those who do not, there will be copies available.

Singers are asked to buy a singer's ticket to cover the wine/mince pie cost (£1.50), and to sell audience tickets to their friends/families at £6. Proceeds (after costs) are generously given by Amberley Church to Tyndale. There is also a retiring collection for the Nelson Trust this year.

#### Coffee Duty

Glenis is having a break from her coffee duties; can I have some volunteers to help for the two rehearsals in the Methodist Church, please?

#### A brief debrief re St Paul

From the organisational point of view, the day went well, and the new staging didn't cause too many problems (although there were snags which now have to be addressed).

There were 29 members and 11 non-members (spouses/friends/family) who actively helped on the day, some baked cakes, others did hard-labour on the staging, some worked at the wine bar or the Musicians' Soup Kitchen (so named by

the Emerald Ensemble!). It would be unwise to single out any one person, but that won't stop me mentioning Andrew Young, who did all the driving for the staging; he was the first to start and the last to finish. Our heartfelt thanks to all you members, and please pass Tyndalers' sincere appreciation to the 10 non-members.

The campaign started on Friday evening with the loading of the Uley Brewery van – we got just half of the staging on board.

On concert day, Anne Shipton (concert manager/staging) was in St James' from before 9am till the Church was locked at gone 11pm, with a couple of hours off for a quick lunch; what a trooper. All went well, and our array looked very impressive from the body of the church.

Lisa Randell (concert secretary/front of house) marshalled her stewards brilliantly, and all went equally well here.

The work ended when the stable door was shut on the staging on Sunday morning – in pouring rain. Four drowned rats made their weary way home.

We must thank Carole and Sandy MacDonald for their generosity in offering stable space for the staging, and for providing teas/coffees and muscle power. Please note, we are still looking for a permanent home for the staging.

As to the concert performance itself, from the back row of the altos, it sounded pretty darn good – even if the organ pipes were blow-drying my hair when Ian asked for full wellie. The Emerald Ensemble did us proud – Jub the double bass player did very well considering he had broken his fingerboard when extracting his beloved bass from his car. We have had a positive review from Donald Hollins (Gazette) and many kind comments from audience members. Ticket stubs indicate we had approx 175 in attendance, although ticket sales added up to 195.

We await the recording with interest... then we will really be able to judge our performance for ourselves in the cold light of day. You may have noticed the absence of students; there was a travel insurance problem. All is not lost, as the students will have the joy of 'mixing' in the studio the various recordings made from the microphones dotted around the place.

I do hope that particularly the ABCs enjoyed the whole experience – they now know what the Full Monty feels like! When all the work is done, and we stand on the staging as the baton drops for the opening notes, all we have to worry about is enjoying the music.. and that is why we all work so hard.

Well done, Tyndale.