



Welcome!

Beckenham Chorale is a friendly and welcoming mixed voice choir of about 70 voices led by our Musical Director Mark Griffiths, who joined us in 2016. We perform three concerts each season at St. George's Church, Beckenham, the hub of local music making.

Founded in 1960, we are known for our spirited performances of the great choral works, as well as an increasingly varied repertoire. Most of our concerts feature professional soloists and at least one concert each season is accompanied by a professional orchestra, the St Paul's Sinfonia.

In recent years the works we have performed include: Britten Rejoice in the Lamb, Rutter Magnificat, Goodall Eternal Light, Bach Magnificat, Vivaldi Gloria, Haydn Harmoniemesse, Dvorak Requiem and Beethoven Mass in C. In the last three years we joined forces with Coro London Chamber Choir (also conducted by Mark Griffiths) to perform Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem and Mendelssohn Elijah.

In March 2020 our O Radiant Dawn concert featured work by Jonathan Dove, Thomas Tallis, Judith Weir and four of James MacMillan's Strathclyde Motets. In June 2022 we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a stirring performance of Handel's Coronation Anthems, following this in 2023 with Mozart Coronation Mass.

In the following pages, we have provided some essential information about the Chorale. Each voice section has a named representative who will assist in your induction. Our Membership Secretary Jan Messeder is also available to answer any queries and can be contacted on the number below.

We hope that you will enjoy singing with us for many years!

Sally Moran
Chair
Mob: 07710 752683

Jan Messeder
Membership Secretary
Mob: 07800 960390

<https://www.beckenhamchorale.org.uk/>

Rehearsals.

Our Musical Director Mark Griffiths leads our rehearsals, which take place from September to June on Tuesday evenings between 7.45 and 9.45pm at St. George's Parish Church, High Street, Beckenham, BR3 1AX.

St George's Church is 3 minutes' walk from Beckenham Junction Rail and Tram Stations and on many bus routes. Car parking is also available at the St George's Road public car park.

We ask that members arrive in plenty of time, so we can start rehearsal promptly at 7.45pm. We take a short break mid rehearsal but do not currently have facilities for making coffee and teas, so please bring any refreshments with you.

Subscriptions.

The Chorale's annual subscription for the full season is £180 (which includes the cost of music hire) payable in September by BACS. However, new members will initially be asked to pay for just one term, with the balance of the annual subscription coming due when they join the choir. There is a concession for those under 30 and full-time students, who pay £90 PA.

If you'd find it more helpful to pay termly, please contact our Membership Secretary to discuss this.

Lloyds Bank Sort code 30-91-35 Account No. 01157186

It would help if you identify the payment as: BCSubs/your Surname

We also encourage our Members to Gift Aid their subscriptions, so please ask our Treasurer Elaine Ullmann for the requisite form.

Key committee members

- **Chair:** Sally Moran (Alto)
- **Secretary:** Jaki Moody (Alto)
- **Treasurer:** Elaine Ullmann (Alto)
- **Membership Secretary:** Jan Messeder (Soprano)

Website. We have an excellent website with a wealth of information about Beckenham Chorale: <https://www.beckenhamchorale.org.uk/>

The Members section includes rehearsal dates, rehearsal tips and resources, as well as a member's gallery to help you put names to faces; the password is: Elgar. Our Webmaster is Henrike Hawkins.

WhatsApp. Many members belong to our WhatsApp group **ChoraleBeckons** which allows for more informal communication between members. If you would like to join, please speak to Henrike Hawkins or follow this hyperlink: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KLTGYy7Jbk1A3bszjrSgc8>

Twitter. Follow us on twitter: @BeckenhamChoral and join the conversation

Ticket sales. It's in all our interests that we maximise tickets sales for our concerts, so please help by inviting your friends and family, through email and social media (pdf and jpeg versions of our concert posters will be sent out to Members) and by helping with our leaflet distribution. We regularly tweet information about the Chorale to individuals and groups. Our marketing group is led by Brenda Little.

Fundraising. Committee Member Jane Dubeck is responsible for coordinating our fundraising which includes events such as a quiz night or an Auction of Promises. New ideas are always welcome as are offers of help with events.

One of the ways the Chorale fundraises is through the 100 Club which holds a monthly draw at our rehearsals... the prizes are £50, £25 and £10 with additional bonus prizes of £100 in June and December. The 100 Club annual subscription is £24 per person; if you would like to join, please contact Jane.

Getting the most from rehearsals.

We want rehearsals to be enjoyable and productive for everyone, so here are a few pointers.

When you arrive at rehearsal, please sign the attendance register and if you know you're going to be missing any rehearsals, do mark this accordingly. If you cannot attend or are unexpectedly delayed, please text the Membership Secretary, Jan Messeder (mob 07800 960390) to let her know. For security reasons the church doors need to be secured whilst we are rehearsing.

A pencil is a key survival tool at rehearsal - never be without one! Spare pencils are available.

Following each rehearsal, the Musical Director sends out a note by email to all members with his rehearsal comments and to let the choir know what we will be practising the following week. It's really important that between rehearsals all members try to spend as much time as possible working on their own voice part.

There are a number of learning resources available online for most of the works we perform, including: Choraline, Cyberbass, John Fletcher Music and Choralia

The Musical Director will also suggest recordings of the music we're singing.

Jan Messeder
Membership Secretary, Beckenham Chorale

November 2023