

# Benson Choral Society

## *Introductory Guide*

### *Members of the Committee*

The Society has a committee which meets regularly to organise events and concerts.

Useful contacts:

**Chairman:**

Roger Morgan                      01491 837494

**Secretary:**

Malcolm Payne                      01491 202016

**Ticket Sales:**

Stephanie Martin                      01865 407395

**Friends Secretary:**

Richard Juniper                      01865 343228

### *History of the Society*

The Society was formed in 1949 by a group of twenty enthusiasts who joined other local choirs to sing in concerts. The first rehearsals were held in the old church hall, moving after a while to the Free Church Hall known locally as the "Tin Tabernacle". Benson village school was used for many years and the Methodist Church for a short time. As membership grew the Society was forced to look further afield for a larger space and moved to Crowmarsh Village Hall in 1989.

The Society has been served by five conductors; Christopher Walker taking the reins in 1975. They are often accompanied by the *Elgar Orchestra* which was formed in 1984 for the Society's performance of Elgar's "The Dream of Gerontius" in Oxford Town Hall. Professional soloists are used for the majority of the concerts.

To celebrate its Golden Jubilee the Society commissioned a new choral work by Andrew Carter, "Laudate Dominum" which was premièred in Oxford Town Hall in May 1999.

### ***Rehearsals / Membership***

The Society holds rehearsals every Tuesday evening during school terms from 7.45 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. in Crowmarsh Village Hall. New members are very welcome at any time. No auditions are held, but previous experience would be an advantage.

Benson Choral Society is a registered charity and benefits from Gift Aid Donations as part of the termly / annual subscriptions.

For more details see our website:

[www.bensonchoralsociety.org](http://www.bensonchoralsociety.org)

### ***Friends Scheme***

Benefits include:

- Reserved seats for all concerts.
- Advance notice of all concerts.
- Invitations to social events organised by the Society.
- Your name listed in the programme.

The cost is £10.00 a year.

If you are interested and would like to know more, contact Richard Juniper on 01865 343228.

## *Music Hire*

All musical scores are hired by the Society's Music Librarian. Scores are given out at the beginning of each term and a small fee is charged to cover the cost of hire.

## *Ticket Sales*

Tickets are available six weeks prior to the concert. It is important that every member makes a special effort to sell as many tickets as possible for each concert. The revenue from these sales contributes toward the cost of putting on concerts.

There are other fund-raising and social events throughout the year. Examples include a Christmas Carol evening with mince pies and mulled wine, an auction of favours and a summer barbecue. These events are held to encourage people to use them to meet other members of the Society. All members and their partners are always welcome.