

Partney Choir – Report for Partney Parish Meeting

Partney Choir continues to meet in the Victory Hall each Monday evening during school term time, from 7.30 to 8.30pm.

We currently have 22 members covering an age range of almost 80 years. Three are junior members (ie under 18's) and the youngest of these is ten years old. This mix of ages is quite unusual in a choir and for us it is very special, as we aim to be totally inclusive. New members are always warmly welcomed into our choir family and although several members are able to read music, this is by no means essential. No auditions are necessary and our main aim is to sing for enjoyment!

Partney Choir are affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music, and as a church choir we aim to learn pieces relating to the main Christian Festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We lead the hymn singing at the Bolingbroke Deanery services which usually fall every three months. We also aim to include a wide range of music in our repertoire with something to suit all tastes. If you attend one of our concerts you will probably hear pop songs, songs from the shows, traditional folk songs from different countries and gospel music in addition to one or two traditional anthems.

During the past year we have held a joint concert with the steel pan players from Rhythm and Steel, an Alford based group. Their leader, Charlotte Tuplin, is also a Partney Choir member.

Candlesby Church invited us to give a Summer Concert last year – this has become a regular event now and we will be singing there again this year, on Friday 11th July.

We had the pleasure of singing at a wedding at West Keal last July. The bride, Kelly, is a granddaughter of one of our bass singers, so this was a very special occasion for us.

After our summer break we sang at Harvest Festivals at Skendleby and Partney.

Christmas music starts to creep into our rehearsals in October each year and we always aim to learn some new pieces as well as revisiting the traditional, well-loved carols.

Last December we prepared items for a carol service at West Keal, a Christmas sing-along at The Keals' Club who meet in Stickford and our own Partney Cluster carol service. Unfortunately, the West Keal service had to be cancelled at the last minute due to adverse weather conditions, but thankfully all went well at the other two events.

2025 is a very important year for us, as we reach the 50th year of our choir in its present form. When the Rev. George Martin arrived in Partney as Rector in 1975, his wife, Jennifer, wasted no time in gathering together a church choir. Jennifer led this choir for its first 20 years until George retired in 1995. I then took the lead, and here we are, 30 years later and still going strong!

To celebrate our 50 years of song, we will be holding a concert on Friday 20th June in the Victory Hall, starting at 7pm. Please put this date in your diaries!

On Saturday 19th July we will be giving a concert at Stickford Community Centre, then the following week we will be holding an Anniversary Picnic on Skendleby's Church Field before taking our summer break.

Margaret White

(21.04.25.)