

Apologies for the long gap since the last newsletter: we have obviously been very busy! However, trebles are 'kept in the loop' by conversations and emails between their parents and Sue W; adult choir generally know what's going on by emails and endless pieces of paper in the vestry.....

Since last Christmas, we have welcomed Elizabeth (Lizzie) into our trebles' section: **Lizzie** was awarded her surplice in June, after working through the new RSCM White Level, and went on to receive her Light Blue ribbon on 4th September, along with **Tara**. *Congratulations* to both of you, and also to **Anne W**, who put in a lot of hard work after her sabbatical and achieved her Dark Blue ribbon on 13th February. *Congratulations* also to **Charlotte**, who has just finished her Light Blue in record time. We are glad that her change of school enables Charlotte to sing with us more often and to work for her ribbons. All trebles have sung with the adults at several weddings this year: **Anne** and **Lizzie** have done particularly well. Four trebles also gained extra points by singing at the Deanery Confirmation on 15th June. We have been sad not to see much of Imogen or Calista recently, but hope they will return to us in the future.

Jo organised two excellent 'Volume' workshops for the trebles in August, assisted by a sharp-beaked bird puppet, whose intended function was to encourage louder singing, but who also took a dislike to Sue W's piano-playing; whilst he cannot be blamed for this, she still has the marks of his attacks!

The merit points gained by trebles since September will be published on Advent Sunday, when our three oldest trebles graduate to the soprano section of the adult choir. *Congratulations* to **Phoebe, Tara and Charlotte**, who will discard their ruffs, wear an adult ribbon and learn a lot from Karen, who will be their Mentor while they 'settle in'. *Our thanks* to **Phoebe**, who has been the trebles' Head Chorister for the past year, and *congratulations* to **Ella**, who will be Head Chorister from Advent Sunday. In adding up the merit points gained by the current trebles, it is really good to see that, in addition to those awarded for Attendance at practices, services, weddings, workshops, etc., many extra points have been awarded for Extra Hard Work, Good Ideas, Helpfulness and Concern for Others: *well done*, all of you!

Very recently and partly as a result of four adult choir members (plus Brian T) visiting St Bart's School, we have welcomed four new trebles: **William, Natasha, Jodie and Jessie**. **We are delighted to have you singing with us!** *Thank you, Anne*, for helping us with our presentation to Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 during Assembly on 1st November. *Congratulations and extra points* are already due to **William**, who volunteered to sing with us, in his cub uniform, at the RBL Remembrance Service last Sunday afternoon. Our new trebles are now attending choir practices and will sing with us for the first time on 4th December, by which time we hope to have found cassocks for all of them!

In March this year, three of our choir members helped four ladies of the Hilmarton Church Choir to complete their Dark Blue ribbons; we had several very sociable evenings while doing so, and look forward to more adult Ribbon work, as well as helping the trebles towards their first or next ribbon.

During the summer, six of us attended several Diocesan Choral Festival practices in St Nicholas' Church, Bromham and in St John's, Upper Studley, but due to other commitments and illness, none of us made it to the Festival in either Salisbury or Westbury. We look forward to more participation next year.

In June, four of us sang the Mozart Requiem in Cirencester Parish Church: a day's workshop and evening performance organised by Cirencester Choral Society. As always, it was very uplifting to sing with a very large choir, drawn from all over the South West and the Midlands.

In July, we all enjoyed helping with the Teddy Bear Bungee Jump. The trebles (and some siblings) were amazingly skilful at catching the bears and administering First Aid, assisted by Sister Lynn and Doctor **Beatrice**; Kathleen, Sue B, Sue W and Lizzie's mum, Sarah, were kept extremely busy registering would-be 'jumpers' and writing out Certificates of Bravery. We are told this event may be repeated: I'm sure we are all looking forward to it!

In September, several adults and one treble (well done, **Tara**) enjoyed singing at the recording of the Wootton Bassett Charity Single 'When September Ends', which Karen and Haydn helped to organise.

The 18 adults and 7 trebles in our choir are now busy learning and practising music for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Our trebles and 3 ex-trebles are practising carols for the Church Children's Nativity on 18th December, when we hope to support the musical content of the play. We are always ready to welcome new choristers of all ages and voices, so if you know of anyone interested, please ask them to ring Haydn (854071) or Sue W (851595) or to come and try a practice (trebles at 6.30, accompanied by a parent/carer, please, adults at 7.00) on a Friday. It would be especially good to have some young choristers' parents joining us!

Please be sure to complete John's 'Christmas Attendance Form' when it arrives in the vestry: as many 'ticks' as possible, please! Meanwhile, we thank everyone for their continuing hard work and commitment, and *K-E-E-P S-I-N-G-I-N-G!*