

It was lovely to see so many of you at the pre-concert reception on the 18<sup>th</sup> November and I hope you enjoyed the “Dream” as much as we enjoyed the performance. With just one more session on the “Messiah” before the rehearsal and concert with Marches Baroque on the 9<sup>th</sup> December we are fully focused on Handel’s masterpiece. It would be most helpful if you could give me some indication of whether you intend to attend the pre-concert reception and whether you will be bringing guests. It is always a great pleasure to welcome your friends to these events and I am afraid I must apologise for not being on hand to take your contributions towards the reception expenses on the 18<sup>th</sup>; we were a little short staffed but please be assured I will be at my usual place next Saturday to accept your donations. Should any of your friends decide they would like to support the choral society by becoming a Friend or Patron, I will have the appropriate forms with me and there will be a free gift for anyone who signs up on the day! I will also have my usual selection of local produce for sale so do bring your loose change and a bag! We are grateful to Derek Foxtan who will be taking photographs at the reception for use in publicising our activities. Please let him know if you would prefer not to have photos of yourself sent to the press or published on social media.

I have attached the application form for the **200 CLUB 2018**; if you would like to participate in this “closed” lottery, please complete and return the form together with your payment of £13 (cheques payable to “Hereford Choral Society”) to me at Southbank House, 34 Southbank Road, Hereford HR12TJ.

You will find details of the **Sing for Fun** workshop on our website and in the “Messiah” concert programme. This will be held at Broadlands School, Broadlands Lane, Hereford, HR1 1HY on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 from 10:00 – 13:30. We will be working on Vivaldi’s “Gloria” and this sublime choral masterpiece will certainly sparkle in the capable hands of Geraint Bowen, director and Peter Dyke, accompanist. The cost of £15 includes score loan and refreshments and you can book your tickets through Bruce Herriot on 01886 880146. e. [bruce.herriot@btinternet.com](mailto:bruce.herriot@btinternet.com)

In my last letter to you on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, I mentioned our **fund-raising event** at Southbank House on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and you will find more details in the “Gerontius” and “Messiah” concert programmes. I have had a few offers of help from members but we need more volunteers to help on the day and nearer the time we would welcome any donations in the form of plants, books, CD’s, scores and miscellaneous items for the stalls. Tickets are now on sale and numbers are limited so if you would like to be assured of a place, please contact me on 01432341886/07769289076 or purchase a ticket at the F&P reception. As part of the morning session we will be having a talk and tastings from Chase distillery and Geraint Bowen will lead the afternoon session. Dr Anthony Evans will be giving a short talk on the cloister gardens and I will let you have details of the other speakers in due course! Please come and support this event and your choral society!

And finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.