



AGM - 29th September 2026 Report from Musical Director - Andrew O'Brien

Firstly, I would like to thank Huw, Caroline and the committee for all their continued hard work and support throughout the year. The choir continues to go from strength to strength, and it is a real pleasure to work with such a committed and enthusiastic group of singers. I would also like to thank Jonathan for all his work at the piano and with taking some of the rehearsals, and as ever, for his fantastic playing and general support throughout the season.

We have had another very enjoyable and varied year of music. We began the season with St Nicholas and Ave Maris Stella by McDowell, both of which gave us plenty to get our teeth into. The Christmas Carol Concert was another excellent occasion, with some wonderful singing and a great atmosphere.

The Lent term was undoubtedly a highlight, with the Brahms Requiem alongside Stanford's Songs of the Sea. Both works presented their own challenges, but the performances were hugely rewarding. Gareth and Nina were exceptional soloists, and their contributions really helped make the concert such a memorable one. Songs of the Sea was particularly epic, and it was wonderful to hear the choir rise to the occasion in both works.

The summer term brought another varied programme, including music by Howells, Stanford and Parry's Blest Pair. We also tackled the choral arrangement of Elgar's Sea Pictures, which was a great piece to perform and something a little different for the choir. Many thanks to Jonathan for suggesting it. His playing in the concert was also epic, and it was great to hear some less well-known pieces performed so brilliantly.

Overall, it has been another rewarding and enjoyable year, with plenty of musical challenges and some fantastic performances. Thank you to everyone in the choir for your hard work, enthusiasm and commitment. I am already looking forward to another exciting year of music making together and enjoying what is surely a great and varied programme!

Andrew

