

# HUDDERSFIELD CHORAL

## YOUTH CHOIRS NEWS UPDATE

The Huddersfield Choral Youth Choirs are having a busy and exciting time just now and it is good to be able to report so many great things to the wider HCS community.

At the end of our 2017-18 Season we held our final concert in the Gledholt Methodist Church on one of the hottest days of the summer. Our audience was treated to excellent performances by the Young Voices, Vocalise and the Youth Choir, as well as several soloists, despite melting in soaring temperatures!

After the summer break the Youth Choirs moved to a new rehearsal venue, and we are now comfortably established at Lindley Methodist Church. We would like to record our huge thanks to Jane Sargent for her many years of support and help at All Hallows CE (VA) Primary School in Almondbury.

At the start of the new season there have been some changes to our organising Committee, and we are very pleased to welcome Pat Thompson as our new Chair. We would also like to thank our out-going chairman Steve Kain for his huge contribution over many years, prior to and including the last 12 months as chairman.

This season our first concert took place in All Hallows Church Almondbury, a super start to the season. This was closely followed by the Holmfirth Music Festival, when 39 members of the Young Voices sang; the adjudicator wrote about one of the songs: *"what a beautiful opening, disciplined, and with so much warmth. Sense of pitch and treatment of phrases is excellent and so musical"*. Congratulations to all involved as they won first place, as the photos illustrate.

During this special autumn, the Vocalise section of the Youth Choirs is pleased to join the Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra and the HCS in a performance of Britten's War Requiem on Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>, Armistice Day, to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1.

We are excited by the prospect of the various events taking place to celebrate Christmas. **Our own Christmas Concert will take place in Huddersfield Parish Church on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>, and is sponsored by Business Voice.** This will be followed by the wonderful opportunity for the Youth Choirs to sing with HCS at their Christmas Concert, conducted by Bob Chilcott. Every Youth Choir concert includes at least one Bob Chilcott song – we are huge fans!

The final event of the year will be as guests of Lindley Band at their Christmas Concert in St Paul's Hall on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Next year, 2019, will start with intensive work for the Mrs Sunderland Festival by Young Voices and Vocalise. Music Festivals are a wonderful opportunity for our young singers to perform and listen to other choirs and to hear the wise words of advice and encouragement from the adjudicators. We will continue to do everything we can to enable the Youth Choir members to take part in these events, locally and nationally.



We continue to strengthen our links with other local musical organisations. In March we will be guests of Honley Ladies Choir on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> and of Lindley Community Choir on Friday March 29<sup>th</sup>. We are very excited to have been invited to sing with the HCS at the Spring Subscriber Concert on April 12<sup>th</sup> when Tarik O'Regan's 'A Celestial Map of the Sky' will be performed.

We are delighted that the membership of Young Voices has increased but we are still on the lookout for new members, particularly young men and boys. So if you know anyone that loves to sing, then encourage them to come along so they can be part of our growing success and experience the fun of choral singing.

