



## AGM - 24th September 2024 Report from Musical Director - Andrew O'Brien

Firstly, I would like to thank Huw, Caroline and the committee for all their dedicated work in supporting the life and development of the choir. Without these wonderful people the choir would not be in such a positive place. We have also been very fortunate to be joined by Jonathan Lilley this year as our new accompanist. I would also like to thank him for his on-going support - he is a great asset to the choir and he has been great both as an accompanist and rehearsal leader.

The year was most joyous and there were many successful concerts. We came a long way in such a short time, taking on challenging works but the end result was brilliant.

The performance of the Bach was truly stunning. It was amazing to immerse ourselves in this glorious work and be accompanied by a fabulous orchestra. The mass is difficult and challenging. It is not well known and like the Messiah it requires great vocal strength and stamina. We worked to articulate all the fugues to a high standard and contrast this with some sublime legato/pianissimo singing. The orchestra was impressed with the quality of the singing. On that note, we are truly grateful to Emily who books the orchestra, she is a great asset.

Another highlight of the year was the Verdi Requiem. You all clearly fell in love with this piece and the result was extraordinary. I think the audience was blown away. I was grateful to you all and to the amazing team of soloists and players. Listening back to some of the clips brings back the most amazing memories.

The Faure is certainly something to look forward to; an incredible score with heavenly music. It is great to return to this work and look at it afresh. However, I cannot contain my joy at the opportunity to work on Bach's wonderful St Matthew Passion next term; what a work, I cannot wait!!

Andrew

