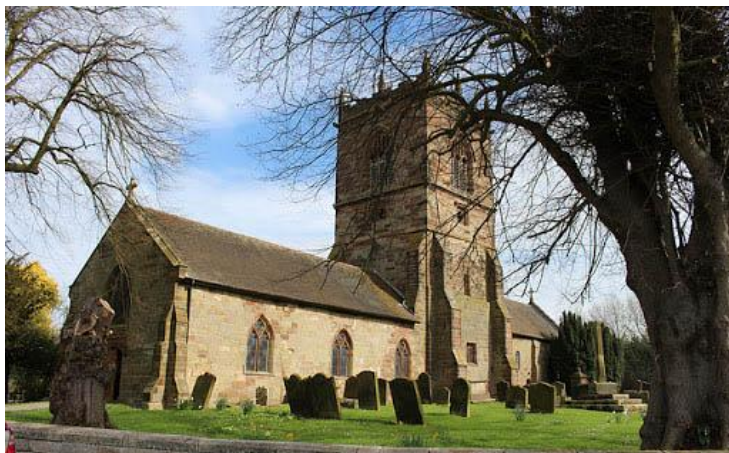




Songs of Praise



A request reaches VotV from a vicar in Staffordshire. Could she use a CVMVC's song in her '**Advent Songs of Praise**'? This is a virtual event that Rector, **Rachel Dale**, is preparing with fellow parishioners in her church; **All Saints, Lapley**, on the border of Shropshire.



Rachel writes; '*We are having our rural church's **Advent Songs of Praise** soon and, of course, this year we can't gather to sing so are livestreaming this on facebook.*

*The hymn '**God is working his purpose out**' has been requested and I wondered if you'd give us permission to use your lovely version from the **Sacred Colne Valley CD**?*

Have a blessed Christmas when it comes.'

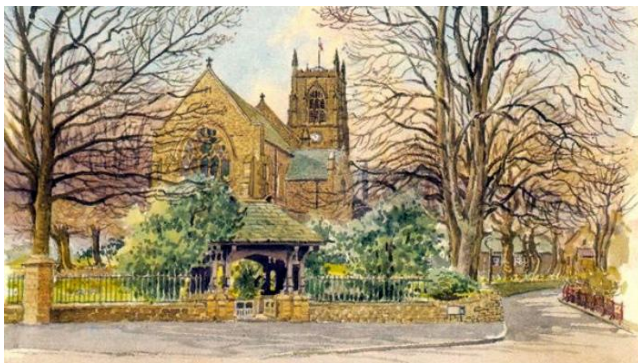
Well, of course, I told her I couldn't see any reason not to give her our blessing on behalf of the Choir. She'd already agreed to credit the Choir and - you never know - we might sell a few CD's.

But - her linking 'Songs of Praise' with 'God is working his purpose out' got your Editor thinking....

We released the CD, **Sacred Colne Valley**, way back in 2003 but, as I told her when I replied:-

"In fact we learned 'God is working his purpose out' some time before the 'Sacred Colne Valley' CD was brought out in 2003. We had been invited to do BBC's Songs of Praise and it was one of the hymns the producers picked.

I remember us all gathering on the Tunnel End towpath, singing the hymn, while the 'Songs of Praise' presenter supposedly arrived on a canal boat. The recording we made was overdubbed by the BBC onto the footage of us on the canal bank, pretending to sing.



Doing the actual BBC 'Songs of Praise' broadcast was probably the trigger to for us re-record the hymn - along with the others - to make 'Sacred Colne Valley' in Marsden Church."

This recording is with Marsden Brass Band
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N283ulwzbfE>

Marsden -St Bartholomew's - from the cover of the CVMVC CD

The BBC recording session made the local paper.

Express & Chronicle, October 4, 2002

● **LOUD AND CLEAR:**
Looking immaculate in their green jackets, members of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir are pictured performing for the BBC's *Songs of Praise* programme which was transmitted on Sunday. They sang two hymns — one an unaccompanied version of *Breathe on Me Breath of God* and *God is Working His Purpose Out* for which they were joined by Marsden Band. They were filmed at Tunnel End, Marsden, on the banks of the recently-restored Huddersfield Narrow Canal. The canal was the theme of the programme which saw Anne Kirkbride travelling through the Standedge Tunnel to her native Lancashire



And the VotV archive contains this photo, extracted, I think from the BBC broadcast version. (Nice to see **Jack Smith** in the centre of the group - not to mention your Editor looking trim and young on the front row.)



Does anybody have a VHS Video cassette kicking around that they recorded off the telly? It would be great if a Reader could get in touch and we could rescue that small part of our Choir's illustrious history.

And Best of Luck, Reverend Rachel with your 'Songs of Praise'



Well it made me smile...

Jack's back

You can't keep a good man down. The Choir's oldest singing member, **John Smith**, just out of hospital, is back at his laptop participating in the CVMVC Zoom rehearsal last Monday.



I'm back home here in Honley and glad to be back." he told VotV.

You can see I've got my new CD player beside me - the one the choir members got when I was in hospital.

There was this young nurse - can't have been more than about 17 - who took care of me. She turned up at my bedside with a big parcel. It was like Christmas. We unpacked it together

- it's still a bit tricky for me doing stuff I'm all fingers and thumbs - but we got it all open - the player, the headphones and the choir CD's - Brilliant.

Pretty soon I had about 15-20 people in my room, doctors nurses patients everybody. We had a sort of concert going on. Everybody singing along. They got me to do, '**You raise me up**' to Thom's solo. I did my best! It was a great few minutes and it perked everybody up. I can't thank people enough. A good time in the midst of all this bad stuff."

To members of Colne Valley Male
Voice Choir
THANK YOU!
I would like to say a very big
Thank you to choir members for
the wonderful gift of a CD player
and CD's. It was a very
thoughtful gift which was much
appreciated.
I would also like to say thank
you for the many get well
messages I received whilst in hospital.
Best wishes
JOHN SMITH.

200 Club winner

Peter Meadows' Mum, Mrs Nancy Meadows won the **200 Club** draw this week. She won the, not insignificant, sum of **£185**.

I'll bet Peter - one of the basses and our stalwart Assistant Librarian will be looking forward to a bumper Christmas present this year!

No wonder he looks happy



What a great Christmas gift !

Why not get a family member or friend a 200 Club Number as a **Christmas present**.

It's the gift that keeps on giving.

You too, could easily be a winner and get the double satisfaction of supporting the Choir in troubled times. **Secretary Jenny** will sort you out with a number.



Just one pound a week buys you one of the 200 Club numbers.

There's a good chance of winning:
£45 in prize money weekly,
£185 in the monthly draw and two
whopping £1,000 draws each year.

Even if you don't win, you win -
because half of the fund supports
Choir concerts and performances.

Contact Choir Secretary, Jenny,
on **01484 645192**

You saw it here first, folks



In April VotV ran a piece about a sickening competent and rather trendy young musician, **Jacob Collier**, letting readers know about his terrific talents and general grooviness.



Well it seems he's just been nominated for a **Grammy Award** this week. People say the 26 year old is more famous in the United States than in his home country - he's a North London boy - but that he'll become much-better known now he's got the prestigious 'Album of the Year' nomination.

Here's his recent version of 'Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire', in which he Jacob performs what is arguably one of the greatest Christmas songs in a myriad quarantined incarnations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9CusMKhogk>



Amazing Trevor does Amazing Grace



Veteran second tenor, **Trevor Bowers** has been contributing once again to virtual services at his locked-down local church in Cleckheaton.

Here he accompanies himself on the ukulele, singing his version of that of favourite old hymn, 'Amazing Grace'.

<https://youtu.be/LmE300L0tq8>

Christine's prize competition

Christine Cox, our Scarborough patroness sent a commentary about the imminent departure of **Donald Trump** and offers a big cash prize (well £10.00) to the one who can best complete her version of the 'Nellie the Elephant ' song.

*Donald the president packed his trunk
And said goodbye to the White House
Off he went with a trumpety-trump,
Trump, trump, trump*

What she wants is the cleverest version of the bridge section that matches the theme. As a reminder, the original went....

Bridge

*The head of the herd was calling
Far, far away.
They meet one night in the silver light
On the road to Mandalay*

She looks forward to your creative replies

Best of luck



To remind yourself of the 1956 original, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28Rh9zRdXxA>

To email your entry here, click here (or phone 10484 841671)

You meet some folk in Slaithwaite!

Your Editor was outside the Green Valley Grocers in Slaithwaite when he bumped into a bloke he vaguely recognised as an architect who had done some design work on a staircase for him over a decade ago.



Chatting while his partner bought some carrots and stuff, it emerged that Peter did his lecturing and architectural work mainly to make ends meet - his real love was opera. It seems he worked professionally and semi-professionally on the great tenor roles for years from his base in Slaithwaite in a house he designed and built himself.



Well, it turns out that a pal of his has resurrected many of his recordings creating a Youtube channel. So, here for your edification and delight is Slaithwaite's very own Peter Clements singing that most famous aria from Leoncavallo's 1892 opera, '**Pagliacci**' - about how, despite his broken heart, the show must go on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvnMtpdAfhI>



Keith gets in touch



Only a small handful of readers get their Voice of the Valley sent to their homes. There's a few who aren't computerised who get a printed version of 'Voice' by post or hand-delivered by volunteers.

One such is 'Accompanist Emeritus', Maestro **Keith Swallow**.

Keith tells VotV how pleased he is to get news of the Choir and what's going on. "I keep reckoning I'll get email going but never seem to get round to it. So I'm happy when VotV comes through my letterbox."

"I don't know how you do it," he told your Editor most generously, "Finding so much to write about every couple of weeks."

There's precious little going on in my life at the moment. It's really rather miserable how long this virus thing has been going on. But we make the best of it. There are all the everyday things - getting groceries at Sainsbury's and so on - that keep me busy.

But I'm really so fortunate. I have my piano and I can happily spend most of my time playing and practising. We just have to hold on until it all goes away."

Carol gets her copy

"We read it thoroughly, me and Trevor, every edition." said **Carol Sykes** (partner of baritone stalwart, **Trevor Sykes**) seen here getting the latest issue delivered.

"Trevor's rather down about all this Covid business. He likes to drop round to the pub for a few drinks with his pals - but, of course, that's all off now. I'm just off to the building society. That'll be the highlight of my week so far.



We know you do 'Zoom' but we don't have that, so you can see we're pleased to get news of the Choir in the magazine"

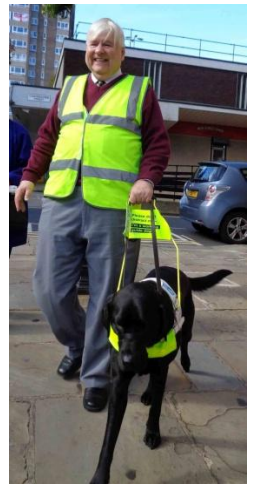
Noel appreciates the printed version, too

Another chap who gets his Voice of the Valley delivered is bass, **Noel Clarke**.

Noel is connected to the internet and with a little assistance does join the Choir's rehearsals on Zoom.

But he does find it helpful to get his VotV in printed format rather than onscreen.

The delivery driver, just about to drop down into Noel's home village of New Mill, was impressed by this view. "It was worth the trip," he said, "Just to see this scene open up before me as I made my way towards Noel's house"



Well it made me smile....



thanks to Private Eye

Gordon to retire



VotV has just learned that long-time friend of the Choir and hugely talented musician and organist, **Gordon Stewart** is retiring, after providing a programme of world-class music for Huddersfield audiences for the last 30 years.

Being part of the Kirklees Concert Season for such a long time, Gordon has built a real community with audiences and he will be missed by many.

His final concert, full of Christmas favourites, will be streamed online on Monday 7th December. This Christmas concert, along with the rest of the online series, will be available to view on the LBT's YouTube channel. Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXoL8B8aDzY) to view.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXoL8B8aDzY>

A World-renowned performer and teacher, Gordon has been a regular conductor on BBC's Songs of Praise as well as a musical director for countless broadcasts on BBC Radio. Gordon has played hundreds of concerts in Huddersfield Town Hall and pre-covid, his much-loved lunchtime concerts would regularly attract large audiences.

While 7th December will be Gordon's last official concert, he will return to play a proper farewell concert with a live audience. There is currently no date set for this, although it is hoped that it will be sometime in late 2021.

Gordon said

"It has been a great privilege to have been one of the few remaining 'Civic' organists for the past 30 years. Saying goodbye to the wonderful Father Willis organ will not be easy, but the Monday Series is still attracting good audiences and I know that the organ is beautifully maintained by Woods of Huddersfield.

"Although I will cease to be Borough Organist at the end of the year, once the restrictions are over I will return for a farewell recital and an opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to the audience members and team at Kirklees and the Town Hall who have been such a great support over the years."

Korea's got talent

It looks like it could be 'Korea's Got Talent'.

Whatever it is, it seems to have engaged 82 million viewers, worldwide - or 82,000,001 if you include including bass, **Brian Fairclough**, who sent this sentimental clip on for VotV.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeUJ4Y-XOeY>

Plus ca change



So farewell then Dave Prouse ...

In the week when **Dave Prouse** checked out, this old joke still makes me smile ...

Darth Vader, how do you know what Luke got you for Christmas?

“I felt his presents”



Send me a picture,
tell me your news....

At this time of continuing distancing and social isolation, VotV readers, whether singers or audience-members, can no longer meet each other.

But we can keep in touch.

Let the VotV Editor know if something happens to you that might be of interest and has some connection - even if it's a bit tenuous - to the Choir.

Doesn't matter if you are not very confident writing, I'll help you put into publishable shape.

Voice of the Valley Editor: John C Clark
Ring Choir Secretary, Jenny, on 01484 645192
to join us or join our Readers' List or for other queries

And see our website to get the full story

colnevalleymvc.org.uk

