

d Life

Your Church



with Katie Oakes

Capriol singers are in fine voice after 40 years of performances

Choir focus: Crosby Capriol singers

FOR more than 40 years, the Crosby Capriol Singers have performed across Europe, as well as closer to home.

Some of the original members of the Crosby choir are still singing today and have been joined by dozens more.

The 40-strong vocal group range from 18 to 80 years old and are always on the look-out for talented new members.

Chairman Maura Morley said: "New members need to audition and it helps if you can read music.

"We're a very welcoming bunch, and very versatile."

The Capriol singers started life as the St Michael's Youth Choir in 1960, before changing their name in 1966.

Original members who are still performing today include Dave and Cathy Mason, Margaret Brown, Rosemary Gordon and Sue Greenwood.

The choir has toured extensively across Europe.



The Crosby Capriol Singers have been performing for more than 40 years

Mrs Morley remembers one concert in July 2002. She said: "We went to the Menin Gate in Ypres and sang at the Last Post ceremony.

"It was so, so moving, we were all in tears by the end of it."

The present conductor is Liverpool music graduate James Gallagher, 26, who took up the role in September 2009.

The choir has been present at their members' biggest days, including singing at the wedding

of Maura and Dennis Morley who met through the choir 23 years ago.

Crosby Capriol Singers rehearse every Tuesday from 7.45pm at Christ Church, Waterloo. For more information,

contact secretary Dennis Morley on 015-931 2436.

● Are you part of a church choir who would like to be featured in *the Herald*? Contact Katie Oakes on 01704 398273 or katie.oakes@liverpool.com

photo taken at B'Saids URC → Xmas Concert
Warren Rd on 13.12.14

Thursday, February 26, 2015 Crosby Herald

Choristers will spring into action this April



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BY JAMIE BOWMAN

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A CROSBY choir is urging anyone interested in singing to get in touch - especially men!

Crosby Capriol Singers who meet at Christ Church in Waterloo, have a shortage of bass and tenors as they look forward to their Spring concert in April.

Started in 1960, under founder Gerald Brown, the choir are now led by Richard Pomfret who joined in September 2014 as musical director.

Richard is an accomplished conductor, who has led a choir that sang for the Queen and Prince Andrew.

He has both sung and frequently led choirs in the finals of various national and international choral competitions.

"We just need to improve the squad a bit," said Richard, who was so impressed with the Capriol Singers he agreed to join despite having to travel from Todmorden in West Yorkshire for each practice.

"There are some good singers but we would like more. With doing choral music it doesn't take much to upset the balance if

people are missing, so we need to recruit a bit to cover for people being ill or absent."

Richard has clearly been impressed with his new charges after just six months working there.

"The thing that attracted me to them was that they seemed open to different kinds of music and they seemed well established," he said.

"I wanted a choir who were committed, enthusiastic and thought in a young way about their music even if they themselves weren't all that young. They need to be prepared to bring a young approach."

Richard, 68, has enjoyed a colourful choral career since he started to sing at school and conducting at university.

"I just love choral music and I did more and more as time went on. I became a maths teacher and along side that in my spare time I was doing bits of conducting in schools with school choirs as well as some adult choirs too.

"It really took off in my 40s in the early nineties when I started a youth choir in Northumberland with two small school choirs. Within 18 months we were in the finals of the BBC Choir of the Year and

finished in the top six.

"Then for the next 15 years that continued and we were up there with the better youth choirs in the country. We won lots of awards.

"I worked abroad in Russia and the Czech Republic with some choirs and taught abroad for some time after retiring at 50 but I then realised I was missing it too much so I looked on the internet for a choir that looked interesting within a 60 miles range. I found another choir in Milnthorpe in Cumbria so I work with them on a Monday and drive to Crosby on a Tuesday."

Richard agrees that singing has seen an upsurge in popularity following a number of successful TV shows.

He added: "It is very good that choirs are becoming more the thing to do and Gareth Malone getting people to sing who haven't sang before is very positive."

Crosby Capriol's spring concert Sweet & Sacred Feast takes place on Saturday, April 18 at Blundellsands United Reformed Church.

For more information and how to join go to www.crosbycapriolsingers.co.uk