



*An idea... a new daytime choir
for Ealing?
Start your week in harmony!*

Would you like to try a choir that sings everything – classical and pop music, showtunes and folk melodies from around the world, Christmas carols and sarcastic comedy numbers – with equal enthusiasm and joy?

Sounds appealing? Please come along and enjoy an informal sing-through of a wide variety of songs on either of these dates:

Monday 15 November 10.30am-12.30pm
St Thomas Church Hanwell W7

**Tuesday 16 November 10.30am-12.30pm
at Holy Cross Church Greenford UB6**

These are large, well-ventilated spaces, with plenty of room for social distancing and the heating will be on!

No auditions – no experience necessary. Everyone welcome!

We're holding these two initial sessions to see if there is enough interest to establish a regular daytime choir in the local area from 2022.

For more information, or to book your place, please contact Denise Field:

denise.field1@btinternet.com

07547 318861 or 020 8566 7176

A contribution of £2 per singer on the day will enable us to cover our costs.

An idea... a new daytime choir for Ealing?

Start your week in harmony!

from Paul Ayres (choir leader) and Denise Field (co-ordinator)

INTRODUCTION

We have been wondering – might there be enough interest in forming a choir which meets in the daytime, somewhere in the Ealing-Hanwell-Greenford area? Well, there's only one way to find out – so we are offering these two informal introductory sessions! We're delighted that you'd like to know more, and hopefully we'll see you on 15 or 16 November. To book your place, for more information, please contact Denise (contact details at the end of this letter). But first, please read the notes below, which we hope will answer most of your questions.

What kinds of music will we sing?

All sorts. One of our key concepts is that there's such a lot of wonderful music out there, to be enjoyed in vocal harmony, we don't want to limit ourselves to any single style or genre. Classical or pop? We say both! Musicals or opera? Why, it's musicals and opera! Songs from religious traditions, or irreverent, cheeky songs? They're all great! A simple nursery rhyme, or a challenging contemporary composition? You get the idea...

At the introductory sessions we'll try out a wide range of material

How will the two sessions be run?

On 15 and 16 November, we meet from 10.30am to 12.30pm, with a 20-minute break in the middle of the session, to rest our voices and to chat with friends old and new. Paul will lead vocal warm-ups and musical exercises, and share his thoughts and ideas about where this potential group might go. Some songs we'll learn by rote, others from worksheets, and others from musical scores – depending on what kind of piece it is. It will be informal, friendly, fun

Will there be an audition?

No. Our concept for this group is that it will be open to everyone, unconditionally, without audition. (By the way, if you're looking for an auditioned group, Paul is separately in the process of setting up a chamber choir too – contact him directly for details of this project on 07821 587670)

Do I need to be able to read music, or have singing experience?

You don't need to be able to read music. We may have a look at a musical score together, and Paul will guide us through the basics. People who do have a musical background or education are equally welcome.

Are there restrictions on who can join?

We are open to anyone, with only one exception: for legal and safeguarding reasons, we

welcome everyone aged 18 and over.

Do I need to book?

Yes please – we need to know numbers in advance – please contact Denise to book your place.

I'm interested, but I can't attend for the full two hours – is that ok?

Sure. If you need to arrive after 10.30am, or leave before 12.30pm, that's fine – just let us know in advance.

I'm interested, but I'm not free on 15 or 16 November – what should I do?

Please let us know, and we'll send more information in 2022 when, we hope there will be more singing activities on offer. Contact Denise – details below.

Will these groups always meet on Monday and Tuesday mornings in Hanwell and Greenford?

Not necessarily. We've chosen Monday and Tuesday mornings just for these two initial sessions, and Holy Cross and St Thomas because of their kind offers of hosting our try-out meetings. It may be that in 2022 we'll meet on a different day and in a different place – but it'll be somewhere in the London Borough of Ealing!

How much will it cost?

A contribution of £2 per singer on the day will enable us to cover our costs for now.

How do I get to the venues?

St Thomas Church Hanwell (Monday 15 November 10.30am)

182 Boston Road Hanwell W7 2AD

adjacent to Elthorne Park

Buses E8 and 195

Parking available in Elthorne Park Road on other side of the road to the church.

10 minutes' walk from Boston Manor station

There is an access ramp, and a small number of disabled car parking spaces right next to the church available: if possible we will reserve these for anyone who needs assistance with mobility.

Holy Cross Church Greenford (Tuesday 16 November 10.30am)

Ferrymead Gardens UB6 9NJ

just off A40 Western Avenue on corner of Ferrymead Gardens and Oldfield Lane South

Buses E10, E6, 92, 95, 105 all pass nearby. Short walk from any of these routes.

No parking permits needed in adjoining streets

10 minutes' walk from Greenford station

There is an access ramp, and a small number of disabled car parking spaces right next to the church available: if possible we will reserve these for anyone who needs assistance with mobility.

NB if using the "googlemaps" app, please enter the postcode. For some reason, if you type in "Holy Cross Church Greenford" it sends you to a completely different place!

What about Covid-19 and social distancing?

Holy Cross and St Thomas are both large, well-ventilated spaces, with plenty of room for us to spread out. We ask that you take a lateral flow test before attending, and to understand that while some people may be happy to sit and talk in close proximity, others may prefer to maintain social distancing.

Who is organising this choir?

Let's introduce ourselves:

Paul is a freelance musician with strong links to the local area. He has experience directing singing groups and choirs of all shapes and sizes. He was conductor of Ealing Youth Choir and Hanwell Children's Choir (now part of Ealing Junior Music School) and has recently been appointed director of Questors Choir (in West Acton).

Denise is recently retired, and a lifetime resident of Ealing borough. She is passionate about the benefits of singing together for pleasure and to foster new friendships.

At the moment we're running this project completely independently (we're not affiliated to, or funded by, any particular organisation, school, church or charity).

What happens after the try-out sessions?

We'd love for you to fill out a feedback form after having attended – this'll help us decide what we can offer in 2022. We're very much hoping that there will be enough people to establish a regular daytime choir, exact details of this are all "to be confirmed".

Can I make suggestions and comments?

Yes please. We'd love to hear from you!

Paul Ayres and Denise Field

Email denise.field1@btinternet.com

Mobile **07547 318861**

020 8566 7176