

**Norton-sub-Hamdon  
Success**

**New Members**  
Rob and Francis

**New Uniform  
Planned**

**Updated  
Choir  
Calendar**

Two other concerts to think about

See what the new uniform might actually look like

# Voice•Male

The news from **Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir**

New Series Issue 3 18-11-2022

[tauntondeanemvc.com](http://tauntondeanemvc.com)



## Norton-sub-Hamdon

In spite of a rather small audience the concert at Norton-sub-Hamdon went well.

The choir performed the four sets of songs enthusiastically in the grade 1 listed church of St Mary the Virgin which were well received.

The Church has 13th century origins, but was largely rebuilt between 1500 and 1510. It has a five-stage tower, which rises to a height of 98 feet.



Liam Atherton joined the choir for a one of the pieces as soloist as well

*Members of the choir with Liam*



as performing two sets on his own.

The choir was made very welcome by the local community and would be delighted to have us re-visit in the future.



## Two new members joining us

On Wednesday 19th October we were all delighted to welcome into the choir two new members. Francis Taylor (Tenor) and Rob Gilbert (Base).



*Rob and Francis receive their lanyards from Chairman, Jeff Garland*

### Francis Taylor

Francis lived in North Dorset for the first fifty years of his life and moved to an old cottage in East Devon fourteen years ago. He has a few acres of land and many animals.



*Francis Taylor*

He was brought up with lots of singing at church and school but perhaps didn't appreciate it at the time. His working life was varied, starting in farming, then as an accountant in the transport industry and for the last decade, had a small business providing, what is now called glamping, at music festivals around the country.

The pandemic forced him to stop that activity and he is now enjoying retirement.

For the last seven years Francis has been restoring a Victorian

railway carriage. He has had to learn many new skills and will be lost if it's ever finished!

Much to the pleasure of some members of the choir will be the fact that another great passion of his is rugby, in particular, Welsh rugby. Another excuse to sing.

Francis lives near Colyton with his partner Carolyn, who has been singing all her life. He has been looking for somewhere to sing for many years and has eventually found our choir from an internet search.

Restoring a Victorian railway carriage.

Joining a choir is always overwhelming at first and Francis will soon settle in and already seems to be enjoying it.

### Rob Gilbert

Rob's working life has been one of enormous variety.

After he left school he started work as a labourer for a local building firm.

This soon had the effect of spurring him on to greater things.

Later he joined a firm of accountants.

And after that he made his way to



*Rob Gilbert*



the Middle East.

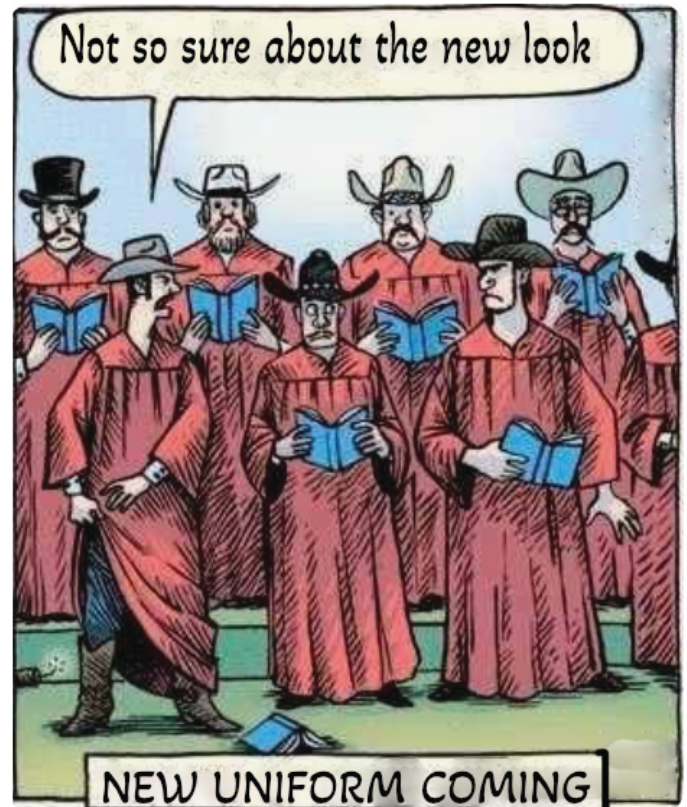
On his return, he became a pub landlord.

He is now running his own building business.

He plays cricket and rugby and it was during the rugby sing-song that he discovered his liking for singing. This led him to want to join a choir. Fortunately for us, he joined Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir. - Welcome Rob

## *New uniform planned*

*New Uniform - Spot the difference left and right - (Dodgy graphics by )*





# Taunton Minster



*Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir*

A truly fabulous concert welcoming Minehead Male Voice Choir to our patch.

Thanks to the formidable organising by our concert manager John Hudson, Phil Knowles, and many others, the event was carried out like clockwork.

Thanks also should go to our MD,

Nick Thomas and accompanist Mike Wager who worked tirelessly to get things exactly right. Also Jeff Garland came up with the idea of a large banner outside the minster to advertise the event.

This was the choir's first major concert since the summer break

*Minehead Male Voice Choir*





and the two choirs performed well and the excellent acoustics enabled the singers to fill the church with sound.

On a night which fell before



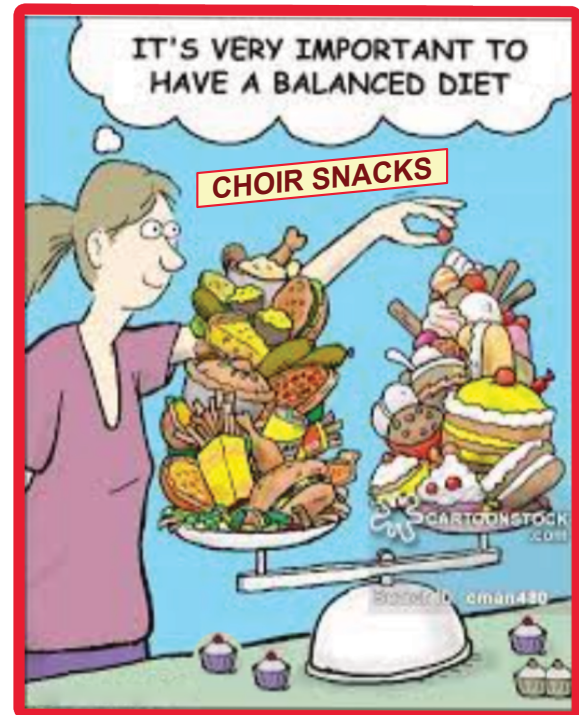
*Thanks go to the ladies giving refreshments*

Remembrance Sunday and with another concert taking place the same day, we still managed to pull in a large audience of over 120 people.

In attendance was the mayor of Taunton, Councillor Susan Lees.



*The riser team*



### **Nick's Notes:**

**W**ell done to those of you who took part in last Saturday's performance.

The songs were accurate in their performance although there are still some pitching problems that we must address.

Overall, I was very pleased with how all the songs were performed with confidence, good dynamics, and a good sense of staging appropriate to each song.

Next concert  
10th December  
St. Michael's  
Church  
Galmington



# Choir Programme 2022-2023

As at 1st August 2022

## Sat 10.12.22

St Michael's Church, Galmington  
(Features handbell ringers)  
We are occupying the guest spot in each half.

Details to follow

Concert Manager Tony Slavin

## Mon 12.12.22

Carols Around the Bandstand  
Vivary Park, Taunton

## Sat 18.2.23

Patrons' Concert, St James', Taunton  
Although the Taunton Mayoralty will continue, this will be the last Patrons' Concert for the Chair of SWT before the new Somerset Unitary Authority takes office. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Concert Manager Brian Parkes

## Sat 25.3.23

Lions' Concert, Ilminster Minster  
Concert Manager : Peter Wheeler

## Wed 26.4.23 to Mon 1.5.23

Cork International Choral Festival  
**Payments to Stuart Gifford**, please.  
Choir Lead : Paull Robathan

## Sat 27.5.23

Concert at St John's Church,  
Staplegrove  
Details to follow.

**Concert Manager required please**

## Sat 17.6.23

Annual Concert - Taunton Minster  
Concert Manager : Duncan Hughes  
**Concert Manager required** if we proceed.

## Sat 28.10.23

Festival of Brass and Voices, Royal Albert Hall (Postponed from 2021)  
There will be two preliminary rehearsals.  
Transport and accommodation to be arranged.

Choir Lead : John Capell

## Fri 11.11.23

Army Benevolent Fund Concert  
In aid of the ABF.

Concert Manager : Steve Reed if we proceed.

## Fri 22.3.24 to Sun 24.3.24

Northamptonshire Tour  
The proposal is to sing with Corby MVC on Fri night, Northampton MVC on Sat night and, if possible, to find a singing venue on Sun am on the way home.

**Tour management team required** if we proceed.

## Fri 3.5.24 to Mon 6.5.24

Cornwall International Male Choral Festival. Details to follow

**Tour management team required** if we proceed.



# Christmas Concert

*featuring*

## **Let's Sing**

Sunday 18th December at 3.30  
St George's Church  
Wilton

**The concert will include festive music from the choir and their guests - a brass quintet.**

**Entry is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton.**

**We hope you can join us**



## **The Magic of Handbells at Christmas**



Come and hear ringers from all over the South West as we celebrate Christmas with a festival of traditional and modern seasonal music

Join in with our carols - children most welcome

**Free entry** - retiring collection for Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

7pm St Michael's Church, Galmington

*Further information 01837 52565*

Guest appearance by the  
**Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir**



*Handbell Ringers of Great Britain is a registered charity no 298945*



# Cork International Choral Festival

