

St John the  
Evangelist  
Concert  
Staplegrove

Taunton  
Minster  
Summer  
Sojourn

Choir  
Annual  
General  
Meeting

Provisional  
2023-2024  
programme

New Choir  
Sponsorship

# Voice • Male



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

New Series Issue 16 July 2023

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

## St John the Evangelist Church Staplegrove Concert

**S**taplegrove village is a relatively unknown part of NW Taunton, tucked away on Corkscrew Lane.



*Staplegrove church*

The village developed from what was originally an 18<sup>th</sup> century hamlet. It had a blacksmith, a primitive store and a small school and later lunatic asylum.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May this year, the enthusiastic and lively locals made the choir most welcome.

Singing there was such a pleasure for the choristers with the excellent acoustics of the church and in such a beautiful setting.

The church dates back to 1308 and legend has it that the angled or



*A break during the glorious sunshine*

‘squint’ windows in the main tower were to allow lepers to peer in during the service. The church tower has 5 bells and a vestry was added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The beautiful well-kept graveyard is surrounded by all types of mature trees and adds to the peaceful atmosphere.

Lych gates were constructed like a porch with a roof over them. Clergy would meet the mourners at these gates and assume responsibility for the body, preparing it for the burial service.



*Lych Gate*

### **Musical Director's Comments**

**I was very pleased with the past weekend's performances, where there was a good turn out from us to a very appreciative audience. The first outing of *The Soldiers' Chorus* was most encouraging.**

**The acoustics of the church proved very rewarding. There are a few of things I need to address with a couple of the songs, such as *Bring Him Home* where there are some odd timings which have crept in for some reason.**

**Nick Thomas**



## Taunton Minster for a Summer Sojourn

On 17th June this year the choir held their annual concert at the Taunton Minster instead of the usual venue, the Tacchi Morris Arts Centre.

Once again, we were delighted to be performing with the talented Liam Atherton. The ever popular Liam is becoming a regular soloist at our Taunton events and his songs are always well received.



*A keen audience*







*Happy faces*

Councillor Mayor Nick O'Donnell, Councillor Mike Best, Chair, Somerset Council, Councillor Hazel Prior-Sankey, Deputy Chair, Somerset Council were in attendance.



*The complete company*



# Choir Annual General Meeting



*Four Wise Men*



*Francis gets 20 Years Service Award*



*Graham gets 20 Years Service Award*



*Alan gets 20 Years Service Award*

*An excellent attendance*

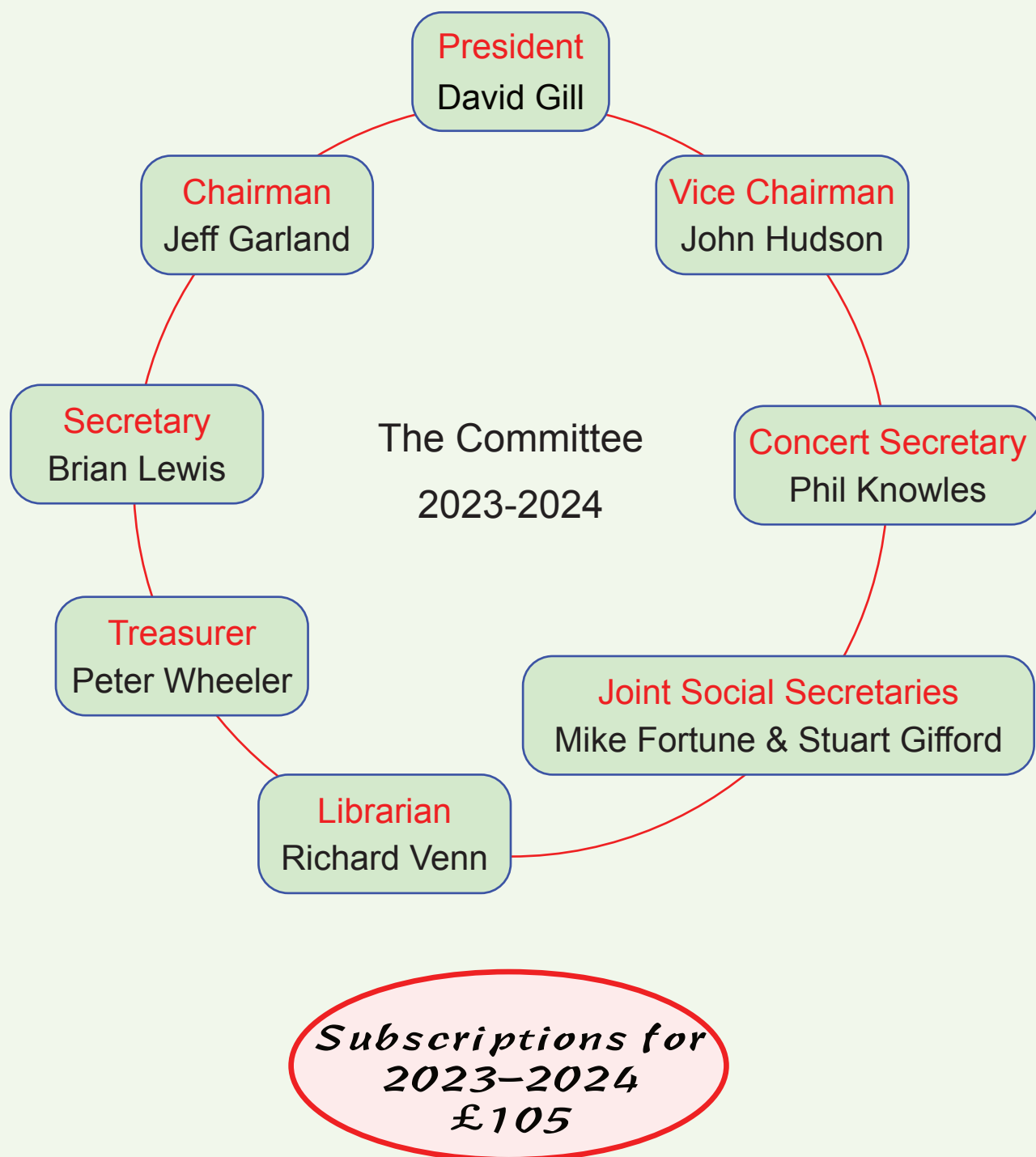




**B**efore the meeting was opened, Jeff Garland thanked all who worked for the success of the recent summer concert and also the committee for their work during the year.

A special vote of thanks was given to Richard Salter who ends his term of office as Choir Secretary. David Gill took the chair and welcomed all those attending.

At David's request, a minute's silence was held to remember all choir members who had passed away during the last few years.





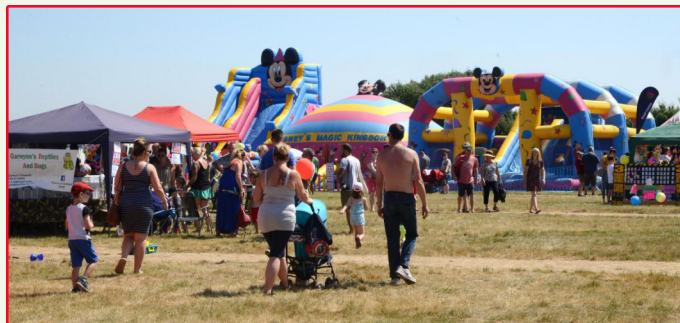
# Provisional Choir Programme 2023-2024

(As at 18th June 2023)

**Sat 16.9.2023  
and Sun 17.9.2023**

Somerset County Show, Taunton  
Racecourse

We have a slot on the stage on both  
days of the Show. 1.30pm for 45  
minutes on each day.



**Fri 22.9.2023**

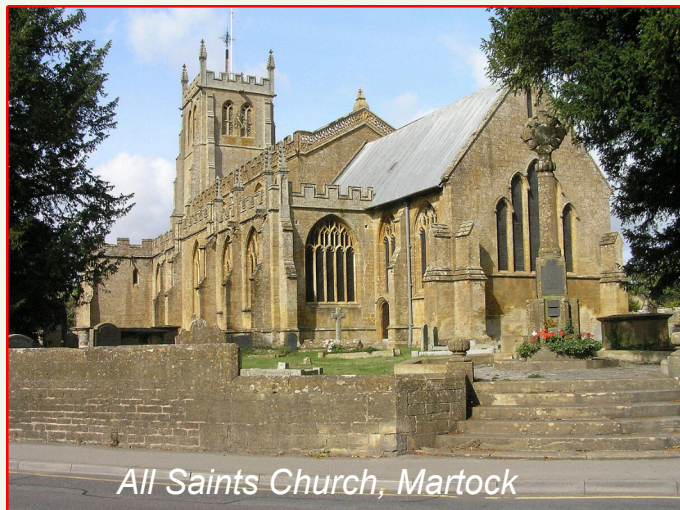
Social evening  
**Taunton Bowls Club**  
Details to follow

**Sat 21.10.2023**

Concert at All Saints Church, Martock  
7.30pm

In aid of the Church

**Concert Manager required**



*All Saints Church, Martock*

**Sat 4.11.2023**

Informal evening at the Lord Nelson,  
Norton-Sub-Hamdon. 7.30pm start  
We have been engaged to provide an  
evening's entertainment at the Lord  
Nelson. Please note that the pub can  
only accommodate around 20 singers,  
so selection may have to be on a first  
come, first served basis, subject to  
achieving a balanced choir.

**PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE** (moved  
from 21.10.2023)



*Lord Nelson, Norton-Sub-Hamdon*

**Sat 25.11.2023**

Concert in Oake Village Hall  
organised by Mr Peter Vann in aid of  
The Alzheimer's Society

Details to follow

**Concert Manager required**



*Oake Village Hall*



**Mon 11.12.2023**

Carols Around the Bandstand, Vivary Park

Details to follow. We are asked once again to support this event organised by the Mayor's Office

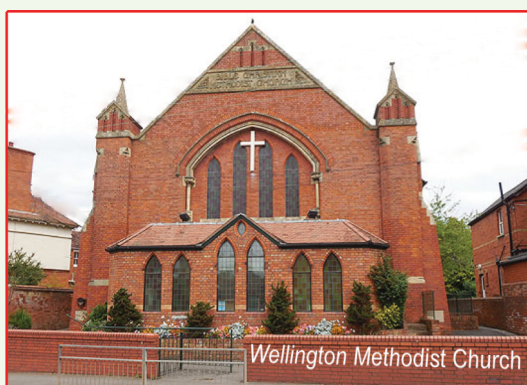


**Sat 16.12.2023**

Christmas Concert, Wellington Methodist Church

Details to follow

Concert Manager: Tony Waite

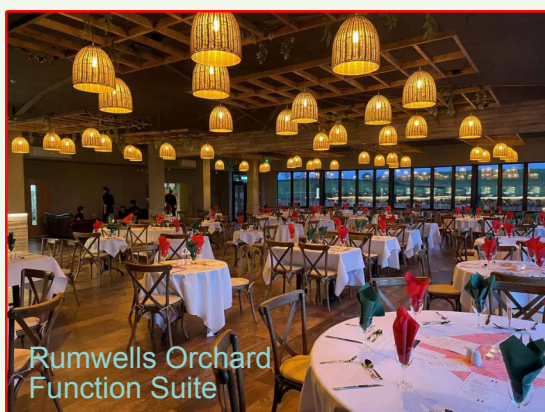


**Sat 3.2.2024**

Biennial Dinner

Probably Rumwells Function Suite

Details to follow – venue and time to be confirmed



**New Choir Sponsors**



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Blakes Coach Holidays Based in Tiverton, Devon, feature a wide range of quality and value for money holidays, both within the UK and Europe.

**Calverts**  
the home of fine furniture

Calverts, a family owned furniture store, established in 1944, has grown from a small shop into the impressive 25,000sq ft store.

From the Station Road, Taunton store, they supply to customers throughout Somerset and surrounding counties.

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