

## Modbury Gospel Singers Committee meeting 11<sup>th</sup> November 25

Tim, Maureen, Heather, Hans, Kathy and Ashleigh (standing in for Sian)

Apologies from Sian, Jane and Paul

### 1. Treasurer's report. Fee for bank account Maureen

The number of paid-up members has fallen slightly and so far this term we have 33 fully paid-up members, including 3 new members. This remains just above the magic number 30 on which the termly subscription of £60 was set and will cover our costs. The bank account is healthy with a current balance of £3,128, from a term starting balance of £2,000.

After a year of free banking with Lloyds, there will now be a monthly fee of £8.50. **Maureen** to investigate if it is worth switching to another bank.

### 2. Membership report Sian.

Sian reported 34 members. This comprises 14 Sopranos, 13 Altos, 5 Bass and 2 Tenors (a slight discrepancy here from the treasurer's report but not worth worrying about!) Membership is down by 7 from last year

6 people have indicated that they are likely to re-join next term

### 3. Recruitment/publicity. Workshop to generate interest?

It was agreed that word of mouth encouragement by choir members to friends and neighbours is the best method of recruitment.

**Ashleigh** has compiled a list of the many clubs and events that take place in the Modbury, Ermington, AG, Ugborough, Ivybridge, Loddiswell areas and agreed to talk to the choir members at the next practice and see if people are willing to spread the word to any groups or events, maybe handing out flyers and chatting about what we do.

A video recording of us all smiling and looking happy and energised, while singing a simple short song or round could be used when chatting to people, on the website and pinned at the top of the Facebook page so that the first thing new visitors see is a decent representation of what we can do.

Tim agreed to chat to Freya about ideas for a possible workshop with an emphasis on attracting new members, especially men

### 4. Thoughts on term to date

- Freya's calm, encouraging manner has been greatly appreciated. Clear conducting and patient teaching of parts. Lots of repetition makes sure everyone knows what they should be singing
- Warm ups are clear and effective
- Recordings of songs on the website are very useful.
- Disappointing number of men has caused problems. Very difficult for such a small number of tenors to hold their part. It was suggested that either we sing in 3 parts or if in 4 parts we rearrange so some altos sing the tenor part in support.
- Although repetition is good, too long on one song can be a bit boring.
- Too much looking down at words is preventing people from seeing Freya's helpful hand movements
- The website recordings are really helpful but only if people practise with them.

5. Concert in January.

There was concern that we may not be ready for the planned concert in January. **Tim** to chat with Freya about dropping it and having our first concert with Freya at the Modbury May Fair. This would take the pressure off everyone involved and give time to get a good repertoire together.

6. Last session of term (Freya unable to come)

We decided to go ahead with a DIY Christmas special. Discuss with Jean about refreshments.

**Ashleigh, Heather and Kathy** to decide on some Christmas songs. Heather is unable to be there but will provide a keyboard and do words for the songs which can be shown on the screen in the hall.