

Dagnall Choir Small Grant Report - May 2023

Good evening and thank you for inviting me to address you this evening at your Annual Parish Meeting.

My name is Stephen Holder, and I am the Chair of Dagnall Community Choir.

Inspired by the enormous success of Gareth Malone and his choirs revolution, Dagnall Community Choir was formed in February 2010. As a Community Choir we encourage people who may never have sung in a choir previously to come along, get together with the choir to sing and have fun whilst doing it. Our members are drawn from throughout the area including Edlesborough, Eaton Bray and Dagnall. The choir is a not-for-profit organisation, and at times raises funds for named charities notably the Motor Neuron Disease Association and locally Dagnall Village School.

Members are not required to be able to read music and there are no auditions. Of course, we also encourage people who have previous singing experience to ensure we have a good balance throughout the choir. We have an experienced Musical Director and accompanist to lead us through the music we sing.

The Choir rehearse at All Saints Church Dagnall every Monday evening from 7.45 to 9.45pm and new members are always welcome. Since its formation the choir has sung and performed at a number of Community events as well as successfully competing in Music Festivals.

These include a regular appearance at the Eaton Bray Poppy Prom, an annual Christmas Carol Concert at Dagnall Village Hall, Dagnall Flower Festival, concerts at Eaton Bray Village Hall, The Salvation Army Luton, Little Gaddesden Village Hall, St Andrews Church Redbourne, St Mary's Dunstable. Additionally, we have competed successfully at the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts for Dance, Music and Drama and the Bedford Music Festival.

Sadly, Covid interfered with the choir for two long years which resulted in the loss of choir members, and we are now in the process of rebuilding our membership. The choir has also gone through some

changes at the end of 2022, and we are currently preparing ourselves in readiness to perform once again.

The award of the Edlesborough Parish Council Small Grant has enabled the choir to move ahead with the purchase of a new lightweight electric piano and we are now actively looking at singing at new, smaller venues, something we were unable to do as pianos were not generally available, but we can now take a piano with us. We are delighted with our new piano and proud that Edlesborough Parish Council were able to help us with the purchase.

The keyboard is an essential element to the success of the choir. It will, without doubt, be used to the benefit of choir, audiences and charities alike for the next several years.

Report given by Stephen Holder.