

New Membership Application 2011 - 2012

Choir Director: Robin Perris
Choir Administrator: Carole Johnson
Membership Secretary: Pat Benning/Danielle Gaskin/Sandra Lilley



Welcome to the Lakes Gospel Choir. The choir has grown from strength to strength over the years, and we limit our numbers to a 100 voice choir. We now have a few openings in the Soprano, Alto and Tenor sections and we look forward to hearing from you. Our repertoire is a compilation of songs from the Grammy Award winning Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir in New York, plus some other gospel and worship songs.

History: The choir, founded by Robin and Michael Perris in 2003, is a registered charity and a non-profit community choir that is run entirely by volunteers. Although the choir is Christian in ethos and foundation we are open to Christians and non-Christians to enjoy the common joy of singing and the experience of its message. We invite a variety of ages and abilities to join the choir. Many existing members have not previously sung in choirs or read music but Music Director Robin Perris believes that through practice the majority of people can sing within a group - especially gospel music.

Auditions: This is a chance for us to meet, answer questions and determine which choir part you may be singing. You will be auditioned very informally in small groups. Audition nights are held from time to time at Lakes Christian Centre (formerly know as Bowness Methodist Church). You are invited to listen to the choir throughout the evening so that you can get to know us and what we do. Please contact us if you are interested in coming along.

Venue Location: The church is on Lake Road (the main road down to the lake from Windermere village), on the right hand side as you go down the hill (just before the Royalty cinema). There is a pay & display car park shortly after the cinema (free after 6pm), plus limited on street parking.

Annual Membership Subscription: We will ask you to pay a monthly membership subscription by standing order over 12 months as a small contribution to help with running costs, and to sign a Gift Aid declaration form if possible.

The new membership subscription will start in July 2011 for all members and more information on the subscriptions, standing order forms, or other payment methods will be provided. The membership subscription is highly subsidised and covers only a portion of the running costs of the choir. If you audition successfully we will give you the lyrics and practice CDs. Lyrics and practice music in MP3 format are also available from the members' page of the Choir website.

REHEARSAL DATES 2011-2012

Autumn Term: Sept 12 & 19, Oct 3, 10, & 31,
Nov 7, 14 & 21, Dec 5 & 12,
Spring term: Jan 9, 16, 23 & 30, Feb 6, 20 & 27,
Mar 5, 12 & 19,

Summer term: Apr 16, 23 & 30,
May 14 & 28, June 11, 18 & 25, July 9 & 16

CONCERT DATES – 2011

31st July and 28th Aug – Lakes Christian Centre
24th Sept – Whitehaven (+ overnight accomm)
15th Oct – Coronation Hall, Ulverston
26th Nov – Globe Arena, Morecambe

AND 2012

24th March – Bramhall (nr Stockport)
19th May – St Thomas's, Kendal
30th June – St Paul's, Barrow in Furness

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Our commitments to you....

- We will give you practice CDs and/or make available the practice music for you to **download from the members' page of the choir website in MP3 format**. Lyrics will also be available for you to **download from the members' page of the choir website**. You will be informed on the concerts playlist of which songs we will be rehearsing at the next rehearsal.
- Choral books will also be available to use during rehearsal seasons, but to be returned at the end of the season or if you are away from practice. **A £5 refundable deposit is required for all choral books.**
- There is an open door policy with the leadership team to discuss any concerns or ideas.
- We have a prayer team who are committed to pray for any needs or request (which can be submitted anonymously).
- Rehearsals are Monday evenings during school term-time, arrive 7.15pm for a **prompt** 7.30pm start.
- Solo auditions will take place as needed. More information available on request.
- As a choir we are seeking to raise funds for our sound equipment, concerts, transportation and running costs etc. As always we continue to look for ways we can subsidise the cost for you.
- If anyone cannot afford any aspect of the membership subscription, we want to help. We want everyone to be able to take part, and you can privately and confidentially let us know your situation. Please see the leadership team or your Pastoral & Admin Care (PAC) leader.
- We have a music leader for each section, and also a PAC leader who watches out for each person in their section. Please communicate to your PAC leader for any concerns, information or needs. If they cannot help you they will find someone who can!
- By joining/renewing the Lakes Gospel Choir you commit to faithfully serving the commitments of the choir with rehearsals/events and concerts throughout the year. If for legitimate work or health reasons you are unable to fulfil your 80% overall commitment, **upon agreement with the leadership team a period of 'leave of absence' can be given.** Each person is valuable to us and every situation in itself is unique, therefore the choir leadership team will prayerfully consider each situation and reserve the right to make exceptions or withhold or suspend membership.
- Personal information that we collect when applying/renewing your membership is used for Choir purposes only and is **NEVER** passed to others.
- We may occasionally take photographs of choir members at rehearsals, events or concerts that we will use in choir publicity, such as the website, posters, newspaper adverts and articles. **We will assume it is OK to use photos in this way unless you let us know otherwise in writing.**
- 2011 will see the release the 'Choir Handbook' that will provide information and support the growth of the choir.
- The NEW choir website has just been launched ... www.lakesgospelchoir.co.uk We will give you access to the '*members only*' page following your successful audition.

....and your commitment to the choir.....

- We ask that you would commit to practising faithfully with your practice CDs/MP3s and to come prepared each week to rehearsals and concerts.
- We will ask you to pay a monthly membership subscription by standing order over 12 months (July to June inclusive) as a small contribution to help with running costs, and to sign a Gift Aid declaration form if possible.
- You will attend 80% of rehearsals each term and a minimum of 80% concert attendance over the year to ensure everyone progresses at the same rate and to maintain unity within the choir. This will be closely monitored and communication regarding absences is essential. Please carefully consider your availability and commitment to attendance.
- You will inform your PAC leader in advance if you are unable to attend any rehearsals, i.e. for holidays/sickness etc.
- Although it is not mandatory that you are a Christian or a churchgoer to be in the choir, you must accept the ethos of the choir and understand that the choir may also use drama, dance and testimonies in some of their performances.
- And finally, it is essential that everyone has fun!

Additional Information for Under-16s and Parents

If you are under 16, and your parent is not a choir member, you must have a nominated adult choir member to be responsible for you whilst at any choir event – practices, concerts, socials, etc. This person must be CRB checked.

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NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	For Office Use Only
ADDRESS		SOPRANO ALTO TENOR
TELEPHONE		CONTACTS
MOBILE		ADDRESS LIST
EMAIL		BIRTHDAY LIST
		ATTENDANCE REGISTER

	YES/NO
I am able to attend the next choir audition	
I have sung in a choir before	
Have you ever had the chance to sing solo?	
Would you be interested in auditioning for a solo part?	
How did you hear about the choir?	
My usual choir part (if known) Soprano - Alto - Tenor <i>*(please delete as appropriate)</i>	
I would like to support the running of the choir by volunteering to help as needs arise	
Under-16s: The CRB checked nominated adult choir member who is responsible for me whilst at choir events is:	
I have read and understood the commitments of the choir	
Signature (of choir member)	
Signature (of parent or guardian if under 18)	

Please complete and return this page to the Choir Administrator at the address below by post or email or hand it to the Membership Secretary at a rehearsal