



## **To new or prospective Members – Information about Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society**

Welcome to Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society! You will find us a friendly crowd and we hope that you will enjoy singing with us.

We regularly perform two concerts in the Cathedral each year; the normal dates for these being the Saturday after Advent Sunday and a week before Palm Sunday in March or April. We also hold a “Come & Sing” day during the Summer term.

Our conductor is Matthew Owens, Organist and Master of the Choristers at the Cathedral, so we tend to follow the term and half-term dates for the Cathedral School. This means that we normally have a one to two week break in the Autumn term and a one week break in the Spring.

The annual subscription for singing in the Society, as from 29/09/2010 is £67, payable in the first half of the Autumn term. New singers are welcome at any stage during a term, but the full subscription is payable for that term. A “half-season” subscription of £40 applies only to singers who join the Society for the first time in the January term.

It is obviously preferable for everyone to attend all rehearsals during a term, but we accept that situations do arise which make missing a week imperative. If a member misses more than three rehearsals in a term they may not take part in the concert without personal permission from the conductor. (This might affect a new member joining part-way through a term.) The rehearsals on the Friday evening and Saturday afternoon before a concert are compulsory except with his special permission.

Members who have paid their subscriptions, but know that they will be unable to sing in the concert are entitled to attend rehearsals during that term. We just ask that they do not attend during the final week leading up to the concert, when seating plans and such like become important.

New singers will be auditioned by our conductor, normally before or after rehearsal a couple of weeks into term, in the Friends' Building (choir practice rooms). Auditions are not too difficult, and Matthew is not at all frightening! Just bring along a piece of music you would like to sing – nothing complicated – even a hymn will do! Subscriptions are not due until after a successful audition.

Frank Fisher  
(Hon. Secretary)