

22.09.25, Monday Mail

Good morning, all,

No rehearsal this Tuesday, 23 September.

Next rehearsal is on Tuesday week, 30 September, 6.30pm at QAH.

Warm thanks to everyone who contributed to last Saturday's Mass Appeal concert. It was a huge challenge to learn so much new music in so many different styles over such a short season, and it was really inspiring to see how the choir pulled together with such dedication to deliver that performance in St Andrew's. Your support – whether you were singing as a soloist or part of the choir, baking, serving tea, printing, recording, setting up or striking down the stage, sorting out music or tickets or finances, or performing any of the other myriad tasks which needed doing – made the concert possible. Special congratulations and thanks to Brett for shepherding us through it all with such generosity and encouragement. It's a joy to be part of such camaraderie and harmony, pun intended!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2026:

As Sue indicated during last Tuesday's rehearsal, Deb and the committee will be working hard to book and confirm these 2026 dates as soon as possible, but in the meantime, please pencil them in your diary (and maybe try to plan holidays around them?!).

Jan 27 – first rehearsal

First weekend in Feb, tbc – open workshop, South African music, with exciting special guest ...

May 16 or 17 – concert with orchestra, featuring *Lux* by Dan Forrest

Mid to late July – 30th anniversary celebratory dinner

September 12 or 13 – Music of the spheres/science concert

December 6 – Christmas concert

AND FINALLY, THIS WEEK:

Just a short piece during our rare break. My head's still buzzing with Saturday's music, including John Rutter's *Agnus Dei*, and I can't possibly ignore Rutter's 80th birthday this week. Hard to pick one work among the hundreds that this stalwart of the English choral scene has composed, edited, arranged or conducted, but here's his *A Choral Fanfare*, as a fitting overture to our Christmas season. Happy birthday, John Rutter! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBtYggfyDv0>

See you all on the 30th, when we welcome back Deb, after her well-earned break!

Janet