

Dare to Sing

Ladies Choir

CÔR MERCHED ABERDÂR

Christmas Newsletter 2025



Chairperson's address

As we come to the close of our 10th year as Dare to Sing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to every single chorister. Your commitment, enthusiasm and dedication continue to be the heartbeat of our choir, and it is a privilege to sing alongside such an inspiring group of women.

This has been my first year as Chair and it has been an absolute pleasure so far! I am incredibly grateful for the support, encouragement, and goodwill from both our committee, musical team and members and I look forward to continuing to see the choir go from strength to strength in the year ahead.

My sincere gratitude goes to our fantastic Musical Director, Llinos Davies, whose passion and musical brilliance, constantly challenge us to sing our very best, and to our wonderful accompanist, Andrew Chinnock whose skills and support, bring our music to life week after week.

We've been incredibly fortunate to find our new venue and home at Green Street Chapel. Their warm welcome, (as well it being fully heated during the winter months!) has made rehearsals a real pleasure. We've just performed our very own, first Christmas Concert there and it was a truly special moment and couldn't have been more perfect.

This year has been filled with memorable performances and adventures. We saw our first trips to Ireland, Oxford and Llangollen, together with singing at St David's Day Concert, Our Annual Concert, Caradogfest, Morlais Male Voice Choir's Annual Concert, Brecon Food Festival and Maggie's Annual Christmas Concert in Cardiff. Our commitment to raising funds for charity will always be a focus and this year, it has been for Breast Cancer UK.

Alongside our musical achievements, we've also enjoyed our friendships and had fun. Our Ladies Day was an excuse to dress up and enjoy our very own take on a "race day" with some great entertainment. Quiz nights and social events throughout the year remind us that Dare to Sing is also about our get togethers, as well as our music!

Our choir continues to grow in strength and reputation, and I am delighted to say that we are welcoming a record number of new choristers in the New Year. The sheer hard work from everyone over the last 10 years, has given us the perfect balance of both camaraderie and strong friendships, together with an ever-increasing extensive repertoire of songs – and long may it continue! Finally, I'd like to dedicate my first year as Chair to one of our much-loved choristers, who sadly lost her battle to cancer this month. Linda Lewis will be greatly missed by everyone and will always remain in our hearts.

Thank you all for making this year so special, here's to an exciting year ahead and to Dare to Sing continuing to flourish.

With warmest wishes
Rhian Johnson

2025 has been our busiest year yet! With three trips away, along with many local events, the choir ladies have been having a lot of fun! We started the year off with a bang at our annual post-Christmas party in Aberdare Golf Club. Thanks to them for a fabulous turkey dinner, we later danced it off to the fabulous Jamie Yates, always a favorite of the choir.

In March we were thrilled to again be a part of Green Street Church Daffodil Festival. It also gave us a chance to try out our new shawls, which were made possible thanks to Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund awarding us a grant in their micro fund at the end of 2024.



More local events.... In the summer we were honoured once again to take part in the annual Caradogfest Gala Concert in St Elvan's church, along with the massed choirs of Cwmbach, Cwmdare and Pelenna MVC. This year it was a delight to also see West End Star Sophie Evans make an appearance.

We also made our now regular appearance on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph for the singing of hymns, it was lovely to see a huge turnout on another very wet day.

Other enjoyable events this year have been an evening in September with Cor Meibion Morlais at their Annual concert over in St Dunstons in Ferndale, another trip to the lovely Brecon Food Festival in October, and once again it was a delight to take part in Maggie's Cardiff excellent Christmas concert in the Tabernacle Church in the Hayes, Cardiff. A cause very close to our hearts. Our Christmas concert this year was held at Green Street, thanks to the ladies of Green Street for their help and our guests Mountain Ash RFC Singers and Josef Gray.



2025 ANNUAL CONCERT

This year, we held our ten-year anniversary annual concert in a different venue – the lovely auditorium at Aberdare Community School. It was a wonderful occasion with our invited guest – West End Star Samuel Wyn-Morris. Special thanks to all our volunteers, invited guests, the staff at ACS, and an extra thank you also goes to our honorary president Shelley Rees-Owen for being our entertaining host for the evening. We are already planning next year's event in the same venue so keep your eyes peeled for ticket announcements!



DARE TO SING
LADIES CHOIR

PRESENT THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL GALA CONCERT
FEATURING WEST END STAR

SAMUEL WYN-MORRIS

Sat. 12th April 7pm at
Aberdare Community School Theatre

Tickets £15 Available to purchase from Green St. Chapel, Aberdare
5:00 to 7:00 on Monday Evenings or from Choir members.
Call: 07395090720 Email: dtseventscoordinator@gmail.com

Further Details: <https://daretosing.co.uk> or
Follow Us on Facebook

SOLD OUT



Models for a Day!

In the summer of 2024, some of our ladies had a ball being models for a day! They enjoyed a photoshoot up on the Penrhys mountain. The photos were played this March as part of a St David's day production (A Modern Welsh Takeover) at Shoreditch Art Centre.



Thank you to Denise Manning.

This year our founding Chairperson Denise Manning stepped down after ten successful years at the helm. Denise is still playing a vital role on the committee and everyone in the choir was delighted to thank her for all her hard work over the years.



OXFORD.

In October, we were thrilled to travel to Oxford for the weekend, joining the **Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir** for a beautiful concert in Watlington. We had a wonderful evening which included our first afterglow in a Tepee!! Fabulous evening we'll never forget with lots of Welsh *Hywl*. The ladies also enjoyed a lovely hotel stay and shopping trip to Oxford.



Ireland

We had a fabulous trip in September to Ireland. Staying in Kinsale, the wonderful **City of Cork Male Voice Choir** were the perfect hosts. Let's just say there were more than a few Guinness drunk over the weekend!



After a lovely trip to the National Eisteddfod in 2024, we were thrilled to attend and perform at the **International Eisteddfod** in July in **Llangollen**. The ladies even managed to squeeze in a shopping trip to Chester!



New members: we are taking on new ladies in January! If you're interested, then come along on Monday 5th January to Green Street Church at 6.30pm to see if it's for you.

Contacts:

To join our waiting list email:
daretosing2017@gmail.com or message us
through the website and social media.
For concert and event enquiries email:
DTSeventscoordinator@gmail.com
For all other inquiries email:
Secretarydaretosing@gmail.com

Keep your eyes peeled to our social media accounts for 2026 events
including our Annual concert which will again be in ACS on Saturday 25th April!

Keep up with our latest news, concerts, and videos on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/daretosing/>

Website: www.Daretosing.co.uk

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@daretosingladieschoir7301>

Charity Fundraising.

Each year we support a number of charities. This year our chosen charity for the Christmas concert was Breast Cancer UK. This tied in with the shawls that we purchased at the beginning of the year which were designed especially by Great Scot as the official Pink Ribbon Foundation Tartan, with a portion from each sale being donated to charity.

Lots to thank this year. To all the ladies, committee, and volunteers; without you turning up, setting up equipment, selling raffle tickets, fundraising, getting us on stage, taking videos and photographs and the camaraderie, none of this could happen without you all pitching in. To Green Street Methodist Church, and all our hosts and fellow choirs who have hosted us this year, or joined us at our concerts, thank you all. Finally, a huge thanks to Llinos and Andrew, the dream team, we couldn't do any of it without you.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Choristers, Family
and Friends.**

See you all in 2026 and KEEP SINGING!



