

23 July 2020

Dear Choir,

What a strange year it has been! I am so honoured and grateful to have been through thick and now thin with you as your musical director for the past four years. This coronavirus pandemic has taught us a lot about the most valuable things in life: family, health, and friends. You have shown me the importance of music in our lives, as well as the essential nature of connecting through a choir. I am sure so many of you consider your choir friends your family, and it has been so encouraging to know that we've been able to provide a sense of connection and community through continuing to meet via zoom during lockdown.

Beginning in September 2019, we prepared and executed a beautiful Christmas programme with an impressive 6-year-old violinist stealing the show! It feels like ages ago thinking about having performed all together in the Hedge End village hall, eating up minced pies, mulled wine, and putting together a fantastic show with our new platforms, thanks to Eric!

We had incredible plans for our Golden Concert and started the new year off with some challenging music! You all bore with my changing up "Gold" three or four times, cutting up the Bond medley, and piecing together "Joseph", just to have our summer season cut short with a global pandemic and UK lockdown! I thought you would get to see my belly grow and that I would pop out baby number 3 before our summer concert! Instead, I had almost two months off before the birth, and have been recovering and adjusting to a family of five since then.

I cannot wait to us all to be back together singing without worrying about the spread of this virus soon. Quality of life is more than just living; we need human connection, and we truly need socialisation via group singing. There's really nothing like it and it cannot be replicated virtually. In the meantime, I will do my best preparing videos and coaching via Zoom.

We have been given some extra time to learn our notes and words for our Golden Year Concert (a year late), so keep on singing, and we'll be back together before you know it.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lillian Sediles', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lillian Sediles
Musical Director