

**Ashendon Voices**  
**Annual Village Meeting 2023**

We are immensely proud to be singing together after a very difficult time, trying not to catch Covid! Ironically, after an event in March, several of us did succumb, but we all survived to sing another day!

Our objectives are very varied. Of course, singing is very important to us; it has, among other things, physical and mental health benefits, it supports us all socially through good and challenging times, but most importantly, it is FUN! We enjoy a huge variety of different styles of music and are gradually increasing our confidence to perform.

Throughout the year we contribute to church services in Ashendon, as well as helping out at the Memory Café occasionally, and we like to join in village events with a song, if appropriate. We enjoy an annual visit to the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs very much. We only have to prepare 15 minutes of music, and we get to listen to a variety of different choirs, which always proves very interesting. Oh....and... there's cake!

Later this month, we will be taking a huge step forward by presenting our own concert here in Ashendon Church. If you're free on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm, please come and support us. We are teaming up with a string ensemble and will be presenting a wide variety of musical styles. We are raising money for the Syria and Turkey earthquake appeal, so please come and help us raise lots of cash!

This choir is amazing, and not necessarily because we're fantastic singers. When we first started, hardly any of the ladies had ever sung in a choir before, and several had been told to mime, or read, rather than sing. Imagine how that would make you feel! But, gradually, we are improving, and, as the leader of this very special group, I'm immensely proud of how hard everyone works, and of our achievements to date.

We are always happy to have new members. We have a new lady who comes all the way from Cuddington to take part! So, even if you don't want to commit every week, or can only come occasionally, please get in touch with me, Fiona Jacob.

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