

## Merrow Community Gospel Choir

I have always believed that singing together as a community, develops friendship.



Having spent some time with Emily Bollon chatting about the joy of being a part of a gospel choir, Rona and I and a growing group of friends from St John's are becoming increasingly excited about creating our own Gospel Choir. We believe it will make a difference to our Community

**But, we need you.**

Not long ago I interviewed Emily for the Parish magazine and what came across loud and clear was her passion and commitment! We are so lucky to have such a talented young choir leader living in Guildford! Emily not only composes her own music but gets her choirs motivated and singing with all their hearts. I think it's a really promising project, I hope you'll agree...

*Dermot:* Emily, can you say how it all started?

*Emily:* I used to be in a youth gospel choir with none other than the fabulous Karen Gibson! You may recognise her from the Royal Wedding where she led her incredible Kingdom Choir and has since been signed by Sony Music. Then when I started my studies at the University of Surrey, of course, I dreamed of being in another inspirational gospel choir. No luck! There wasn't one running! So I started one. And I guess that's where it all began.

*Dermot:* Tell us what's going on in your busy week?

*Emily:* What takes up the majority of my 'work' life? I put 'work' in inverted commas because it's still hard to believe that work can be so incredibly enjoyable and rewarding! It is my community and health choirs! Through my own business, Motivation by Music, I run 4 weekly choirs: ToC Voices, harmony against cancer, MbM Gospel Choir, Guildford's vibrant and inclusive community choir, Parkinsons Voices, complementing standard treatments for PD, and now, Merrow Community Gospel Choir - which I am SO excited to be a part of!

*Dermot:* And, where do you see Merrow Community Gospel Choir going?

*Emily:* I see St John's being at the very heart of the Merrow community, and feel that this hub is an absolutely perfect setting for a community gospel choir! A place where members of the community can gather side by side and sing with one voice and one heart. Every choir is shaped, not just by the leader, but by each and every person who steps in the front doors! I'm excited to be a part of the development of this choir and this community! Ask me again once we get going!!

*Dermot:* Any words of encouragement for anybody thinking about joining?

*Emily:* Okay, person number one says 'I can't sing' and walks away; person number two says 'I can't sing' and comes along anyway. Who do you think makes friends with wild and wonderful people? Who does things they never imagined possible? Who reaps the incredible benefits of singing that research and experiences has shown us time and time again?

*Dermot:* I guess your message is to be person number 2... come along and try.

*Emily:* Exactly, release your potential and watch the magic happen.

*Dermot,* Summer 2018



FREE taster dates 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
September 5.00 – 6.00pm

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