

Patron:
Her Excellency
Marjorie Jackson-Nelson
AC, CVO, MBE,
Governor of South
Australia

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Treasurer:
Mr John Winnall

**Conductor/Director of
Music:**
Mr William Shaw

Accompanist:
Mr Edward Kitek

Vice Patrons:
Miss Gladys Bailey OAM
Mr Ray Brown
Mr Doug Karran
Mr Len Turner
Mrs Connie Tremethick
Mrs Genty Stevens
Mrs Myfanwy James

*Practices are held every Monday
at 7.45pm to 9.45 pm in the
Hall at the rear of the Church of
Christ, 100 Grote Street,
Adelaide*

New Directions

Do you remember June 24th 1998? On that Thursday evening the Adelaide Male Voice Choir and their guests, the Harvard Glee Club, combined to perform a landmark concert in Elder Hall, Adelaide University. The Choir had worked for several months to make the visit by the 60 or so members of the American choir a reality. The members of the AMVC came together to provide billeting, food, rehearsal space, entertainment and a splendid welcome to the touring young men. Many of our members are still in touch with singers they met on that project.

For the Adelaide Male Voice Choir it was a turning point. We realised that we were a group capable of first class performance standards, that we could hold our own with overseas choirs, and that we could sing a challenging programme of choral music from memory! Since then we have never looked back, and have advanced firmly on musical as well as administrative fronts.

One of the ways we have changed is to now offer three major concerts a year rather than only one as in former years. This has given us the opportunity of working with soloists, and with other instrumental groups in a much more structured way. The last concert for 2002 is scheduled for 20th October and will be on the theme of 'Music from Stage and Screen'. We will be performing a variety of music from stage shows and films from the turn of the 20th century up to the 80's with solos

and choir involved. This concert promises to be a very pleasant reminiscence for those who love this music. We look forward to seeing you at the concert and supporting our endeavours.

As this article goes to press, we are in the process of finalising next year's programme, and what an exciting one it will be. Three major concerts, with soloists that will take the Choir into new areas of repertoire, and will provide three feasts of music for our audiences. More than that, we'll be offering entry to all three concerts through a season ticket which will allow you to hear all three concerts for a very favourable price. More about that later! In the meantime, come to Pilgrim on October 20th and sit back and enjoy another pleasant Spring afternoon of beautiful music. See you there!

Bill Shaw, Conductor

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PROFILE

Low-down on James Thoday

Jim's love of music and singing was nurtured as a youngster by his father's family, which included two singers and a pianist. His father had a beautiful baritone voice, one aunt was a soprano and another was a fine pianist. During the second world war the family lived in Whyalla, where his sister Betty still lives and plays the organ in her local church. In his twenties he began lessons at the Elder Conservatorium under the tutelage of Clement Q. Williams and took part in concerts and opera presentations during this time.

In the 1960's he moved to Port Augusta with his first wife and two children and while there he appeared in productions of Gilbert and Sullivan and musicals such as *The Mikado*, in which he played the part of Koko, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *White Horse Inn* and *Lilac Time* as well as a performance of Handel's *Messiah* and worked on these shows along with Bob Cooter and Don Jessop.

While based at Port Augusta his job entailed quite a degree of outback travel which at times took him as far north as Arnhem Land to aboriginal settlements there. En route he says he often took time while travelling to go over his lines and practise his singing at remote stops by the roadside.

Jim did two stints overseas working for Immigration and claims he kept Covent Garden afloat during this time and heard some of his most admired opera singers in various operatic roles.

Jim retired in 1989 and with his wife, Mary, returned to Adelaide where for

Jim is an accomplished musician, regularly singing solos and impressing audiences with his interpretations of various pieces. He has a quiet sense of humour and should go by the title "Gentleman Jim".

several years he kept up his singing practise with the aid of an accompanist friend from his earlier singing days and sang solos for her when she held musical gatherings in her own home. These days he enjoys keeping his voice in good working order at sessions with another Adelaide musician, John Drake, in between the regular rehearsals with the Choir. He says he regrets not taking the advice of Messrs Cooter and Jessop and becoming a member of the Choir earlier as he is finding great enjoyment in all aspects of the experience.

His other interests include reading (especially books on composers and singers), listening to CDs, attending plays and operas and travel – and he can make a pretty good CD cabinet in his workshop.

Season Tickets

Next year's three main concerts are on 4th May, 20th July and 26th October. Price of tickets will be \$15 and \$12 concession.

To attend all three concerts a Season Ticket will cost \$30 and will be available shortly. Please phone 8276 4229.

All our usual soloists will be performing with the choir and you can be sure of a great afternoon's entertainment at all the concerts.

Invitation

to

FRIENDS OF THE CHOIR

Be part of our *Choir Solo Night* on Monday, 2nd December. No charge, but could you please bring a plate of supper and notify John Lawson on 8276 4229 if you are able to attend.

Friends are also invited to be part of the choir's *Christmas Celebrations*, at a dinner, which this year is being held at the Glenelg Golf Clubrooms on Friday, 13th December (7 for 7.30 pm). The cost of this will be between \$25 and \$28 per head. Contact the number above if you would like to come.



The Choir's Annual Spring Concert

SUNDAY, 20th OCTOBER, at PILGRIM CHURCH

What a wonderful show we have for you next Sunday. The Choir should have your feet tapping and you will probably still be humming some of the tunes when you leave Pilgrim Church to go home.

There are three talented artists complementing the choir. Of course, we will have Tasso Bouyessis giving his usual polished performance.

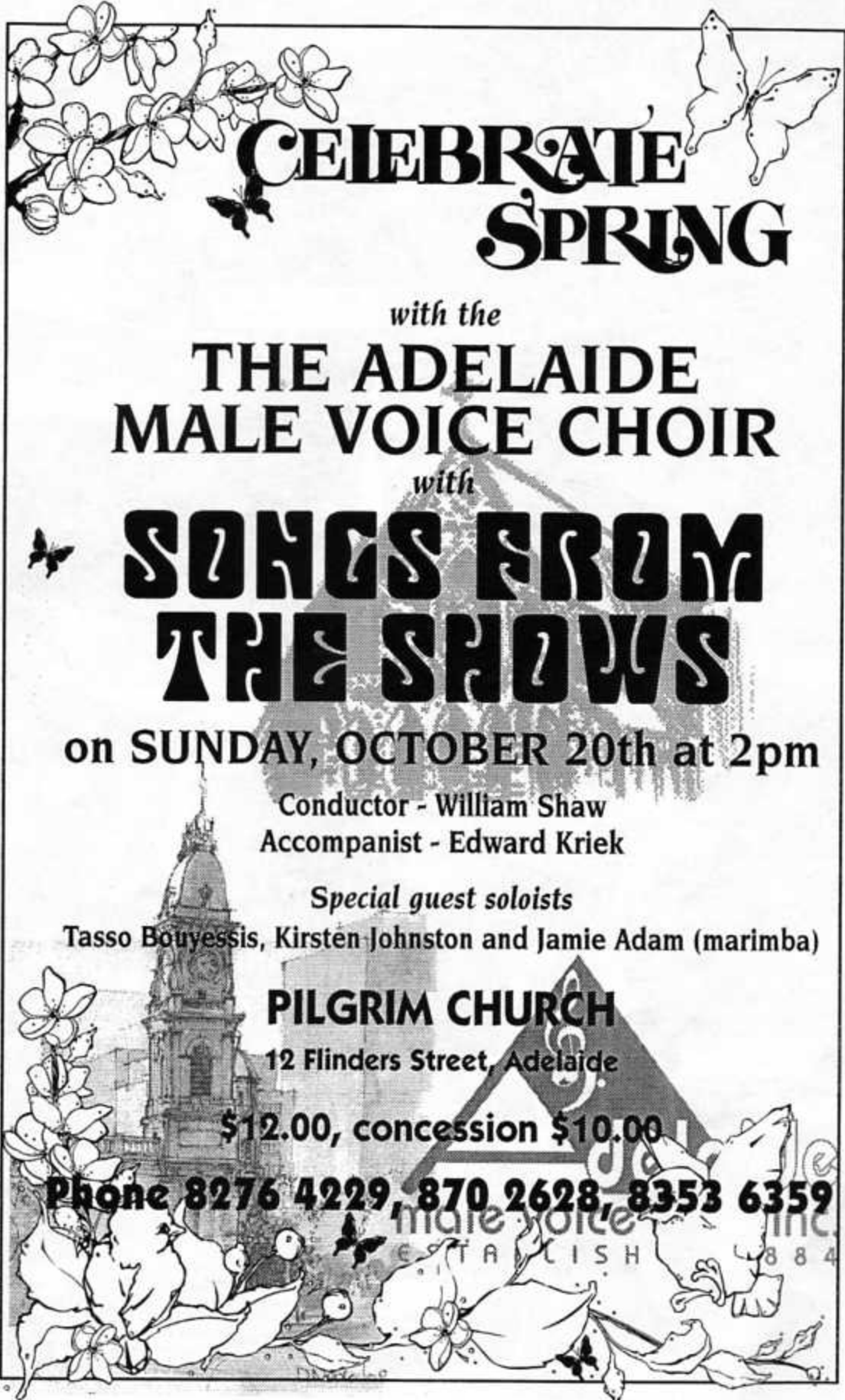
The choir will be introducing Kirsten Johnson from Coonawarra who sang with the choir when they toured the South East earlier this year and has travelled to Adelaide on various occasions to practise for this concert. We know you will enjoy hearing her singing.

Lastly, you will hear Jamie Adam playing the Marimba. Jamie, when he was a student at Woodville Special Interest Music School, played for the choir at various concerts and I can assure you that you are in for a treat.

On 23rd October he will be in Sydney competing in the grand final of the Symphony Australia Young Performers Award.

I must not forget to mention that, as usual, Edward Kriek will be accompanying the choir and soloists and Bill Shaw will again be conducting.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.



**CELEBRATE
SPRING**

with the
**THE ADELAIDE
MALE VOICE CHOIR**

with
**SONGS FROM
THE SHOWS**

on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20th** at 2pm

Conductor - William Shaw
Accompanist - Edward Kriek

Special guest soloists
Tasso Bouyessis, Kirsten Johnston and Jamie Adam (marimba)

PILGRIM CHURCH
12 Flinders Street, Adelaide

\$12.00, concession \$10.00

Phone 8276 4229, 870 2628, 8353 6359

male voice choir inc
ESTABLISHED 1884



Photo Gallery of Three Concerts



The Choir singing at a concert for the Senior Citizens of Campbelltown sponsored by the Kiwanis of Athelstone.



The St Paul's Trio, guest soloists at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Blair Athol.



Our conductor leading the clapping in "Tahiti".



The choir at St Paul's Lutheran, Blair Athol



Another view of the choir at St Paul's Lutheran, Blair Athol



No, it's not the Marx Brothers or the Three Cavaliers, it's Anthony Waack, Bill Shaw and Tasso Bouyessis, singing La Mia Dorabella from Così Fan Tutti.



Some of the Choir at the exciting Opera Concert at Pilgrimage Church.



Prue Hompas and Roslyn Lock



Ros Lock performing one of her solo pieces.



Tasso Bouyessis and Anthony Waack



Prue Hompas and Tasso Bouyessis



Our accompanist and solo artist, Edward Krick



Prue Hompas, who stepped in at the last moment and performed so well.

Garage sale - our biggest yet

On Saturday, 21st September, the choir held a garage sale at the home of the President and his wife in St Marys. Not only was it a great success financially (raising over \$1000) but also socially.

About 25 members of the choir attended during the day and Jean-Pierre cooked



sausages which the members enjoyed very much. In addition they were provided with morning and afternoon tea with lovely home-baked cakes by some of the choir members' wives who also enjoyed getting together.



There were an enormous range of items for sale and after the initial rush items were gradually sold during the rest of the day.

Thanks go to Rose-Ann Lawson for helping to organise the whole thing, to Colin Styles and David Conti who



helped set it up on the Friday afternoon, to Jean-Pierre for donating the sausages and cooking them and to the rest of the members who helped on the day.

Thanks also to those who donated goods, including Roger and Pam Wicks (very good friends of the choir).

At the end of the sale there was a lot of clearing to do and members accomplished the job very quickly.



How to breathe . . .

This is an article on breathing exercises. You could start these now and be ready sing longer phrases next year

Good singing involves first of all the mental mastery of the physical means through which command of technique is obtained and much of this work can be done silently, without using the voice at all. This applies especially to breathing exercises which can be practised at odd moments, when waiting for a bus or tram, walking along the street, under the shower, or in one's bedroom.

Garcia in his "Hints to Singers" recommends certain exercises "which, being independent of sound, do not fatigue the voice."

PROGRESSIVE BREATHING EXERCISES

Muscles which are trained and strengthened by regular exercise will do their work more readily and effectively than if only occasionally called upon. The strengthening of the breathing apparatus and development of control can be carried on without using the voice, and choir members should never neglect the regular daily practice of breathing exercises, which are good for the general health as well as for the voice. Each exercise must be mastered and practised a number of times before the next is attempted.

EXERCISE 1. (For the diaphragm only). Stand upright, but with the chest relaxed, not held stiffly. Place one hand in the centre of the body, just below where the ribs divide. Breathe in gently through the nose, as if inhaling a perfume. You should feel a slight expansion just where your hand is placed, a forward movement of the upper abdominal wall. Retain this expanded condition for a second, then exhale. Pause and repeat until you feel that the diaphragm is moving steadily and rhythmically with the inspiration and exhalation, without any lifting of the upper chest or ribs. Of course, if you have been accustomed to lift the chest when inhaling and let it fall when exhaling, you will have a little difficulty in getting the diaphragm to act properly. But a few days' gentle practice will put you on the right road, especially if you practise this exercise while lying down.

EXERCISE 2. Inhale gently, as before, but taking three short breaths with a second's pause between each. A slight forward movement in the centre of the

body should be felt with each inhalation. Hold the breath for a couple of seconds, then exhale through the mouth with three short "puffs," each separated by a second's interval, distinct inward movement of the body being felt with each expiration. Both when inhaling and exhaling there must be a deliberate pause between each movement. When you are accustomed to breathing in and out with three separate movements each time, try to do it with 2, 4 and 6, the latter requiring less



breath to be taken with each separate inhalation. These exercises help to make the diaphragm and its auxiliary muscles both strong and active.

EXERCISE 3. (For the diaphragm and lower ribs). Inhale as at first, but more deeply, feeling an expansion of the lower ribs as well as the diaphragm. Retain this expanded condition for a couple of seconds, then exhale slowly through the mouth. Pause and repeat several times.

EXERCISE 4. Breathe more deeply still, till you feel an expanding movement all round the body and as high as the armpits, but without raising the upper chest. Retain this position several seconds, then exhale slowly. Pause and repeat.

EXERCISE 5. (Retaining rib expansion). Inhale, expanding the body as in Exercise 4. Then holding the ribs firmly expanded, exhale quietly, allowing the diaphragm and abdominal muscles to relax very slowly with an inward and upward movement. Before the exhalation is complete, inhale again by the recoil of the diaphragm, keeping the ribs still expanded. Do this several times, then exhale completely and rest for a moment.

The ability to retain the expanded position of the lower ribs is of great importance, because the diaphragm is thereby prevented from relaxing too quickly and "sagging" or becoming limp, as is the case when the ribs are allowed to relax at the same time as the diaphragm. In a complete exhalation, or when sustaining a long note the diaphragm should first slowly relax, then the ribs with an "inward and

upward" sensation, thus maintaining a perfect, even and steady flow of breath.

After some time, with the help of certain physical exercises (given further on) a normally expanded condition of the rib and chest becomes quite easy to maintain, and the gain in breath control is then apparent.

EXERCISE 6. While walking, or waiting for a tram or train, make a practice of inhaling slowly, retaining the expanded condition of the body for several steps, or several seconds, before exhaling, which should be done slowly and steadily.

EXERCISE 7. Inhale quickly with a vigorous action of the diaphragm and lower ribs. Retain for a couple of seconds, then exhale slowly. Repeat several times.

EXERCISE 8. Inhale as slowly and deeply as possible, then exhale quickly and vigorously. Repeat several times.

EXERCISE 9. Take a short breath, then breathe out a little and in again quickly, and lightly, until you feel a rapid "panting" movement taking place at the centre of the body. This is one of the most valuable exercises for singers if properly done, as it promotes activity of the diaphragm and enables breath to be taken instantaneously without perceptible interruption of the tone when singing.

EXERCISE 10. (With speaking voice). Inhale as before, then, while keeping the lower ribs expanded, count audibly from 1 to 10; inhale again and repeat. Do this several times without allowing the ribs to relax. Then finally, continue counting until the ribs are also relaxed and the breath exhausted.

EXERCISE 11. (With speaking voice). Breathe as before, repeating the letters of the alphabet once through in a full tone of voice, without allowing the ribs to relax.

EXERCISE 12. Inhale slowly and deeply, then exhale as slowly as possible through the open mouth, directing the breath on to the hard palate. In doing this do not allow the upper chest to fall. Only the diaphragm and lower ribs should relax.



"Now breathe out!"



Notes from Committee

There are a number of items that the choir and Friends of the Choir might be interested in that came out of the last Committee Meeting.

QUIZ NIGHT

This really is a special night, arranged by Ivy and Kevin Fisher. Although we do raise funds for the choir from it, its principal aim is to get together and enjoy ourselves. MAKE UP A TABLE OF APPROXIMATELY EIGHT PEOPLE - AND THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE CHOIR MEMBERS.

SOLO NIGHT

The format of the Solo Night will be altered this year. There will not be a competition as such but members are asked to still sing a solo or join with other members as a duet or quartet. Bill Shaw will give critiques but there will not be a winner. It will be held in the practice hall more in cabaret form on Monday, 2nd December, at 7.30 pm.

Friends of the Choir are invited to

attend and along with members are asked to bring a plate of supper.

WEB PAGE

A web page, giving all sorts of facts and dates of concerts about the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, will be up and running very shortly. It has been designed by Stefane Milbank, the son of one of the choir's basses, Ian Milbank.

The web address will be: amvc.org.au

MAJOR CONCERTS NEXT YEAR

There will again be three major concerts in 2003. The first will be on 4th May, entitled *We'd Love a Piano*, and will be the launch of a fund to purchase a new piano for the choir. The second is the Opera Concert and this will be our charity concert. On 26th October we will be sharing the proceeds of this major concert with Frontier Services. All concerts will be held in Pilgrim Church.

The Chorister's Prayer

Almighty and most merciful conductor, we have erred and strayed from thy beat like lost sheep; we have followed too much the intonations and tempi of our own hearts; we have offended against thy dynamic markings; we have left unsung those notes which we ought to have sung, we have sung those notes which we ought not to have sung, and there is no support in us. But thou, oh conductor, have mercy upon us miserable singers. Succour the chorally challenged and restore thou them that need extra note bashing. Spare thou them that are without pencil. Pardon our mistakes and have faith that hereafter - we will follow thy direction and sing together in perfect harmony.

(Discovered by George Maddison in a church in Wales following Llangollen 2002.)

Lucky! Who's lucky?

There was this feller, not feeling too well, went to his doctor. After checking him out thoroughly, the doctor said, "I'm afraid it's bad news. You have only two weeks to live." The feller was devastated and said "How can this possibly be". I'm not feeling that bad and in any case what have I got". The doctor said "It's called E17". "E17! What on earth's that. I've never heard of anything called E17." The doctor said "It's a new code that has been dreamed up by the Health Department, supposedly to make things easier for their computers, and it goes like this:

A1-A10 is take a couple of Disprins and come back and see me in a couple of weeks.

A11-A20 is take a couple of Disprins a couple of times a day and come back and see me in a couple of weeks.

B1-B10 is to take a blood sample and come back and see me in a week's time.

B11-B20 is to bring in a little bottle and take a blood sample and come back and see me in a week's time.

C1-C10 is to go for an x-ray and

come back and see me in a week's time.

C11-C20 is to go for an CT scan and come back and see me in a week's time.

D1-D10 is to go into hospital and have a minor operation.

D11-D20 is to go into hospital and have a more serious operation.

E1-E10 is to go into hospital and have a major operation.

E11-E20 is to tell you you have only a certain time left.

E17 happens to be only two weeks.

The feller was very shocked by all this and after leaving the doctor's found his way to the local pub, thinking to himself that he might as well get drunk.

After drinking about seven or eight glasses he started getting a bit bored so he fished out a dollar from his pocket and went over to the pokie machines, put in the dollar and pressed the button. Almost immediately bells started ringing and lights started flashing. The manager came over to him and said

"Well, aren't you lucky - you only put in a dollar and you have won \$10,000."

The feller pocketed the \$10,000 and went over to the bar again and proceeded to have another six or seven glasses and then became bored once again. He fished around for another dollar and went over to the pokies again and stuck the coin in the first vacant machine he could find and believe it or not, the bells started ringing and the lights started flashing and the astounded manager came running over and said "Well, I can't believe it - you've won \$10,000 again and you only put in a dollar. You must be the luckiest man alive." The feller said "Lucky! Lucky! I'm not lucky. I've got E17."

The Manager nearly collapsed and said "Well that's beats all - you've also won the chook raffle."



Letters to the Editor

The editor would appreciate letters from anyone who reads this newsletter, critical or otherwise - it will make it much more relevant to know how you feel about the content. (Maybe you could even send a story that you think would be appropriate to include.)

The advantages of a nagging wife

Almost four years ago Bill Brooker's wife spotted an advert in the Messenger newspaper. It stated that the Adelaide Male Voice Choir required bass singers.

As Bill had often said to Isobella "I wish I could sing", she suggested that he go for an audition.

"Oh, I wouldn't be good enough," he replied. She kept nagging him until he finally gave in and made the phone call.

When he returned from the audition he was very non-committal. "it was OK," he said.

The following Monday Isobella was very proud of herself - she didn't say a word, but left it up to Bill to decide whether to go or not.

He went and on his return gave the same answer.

The third week was different. He returned home all smiles and said "It was great".

She also suggested (nagged!) that he join the A.R.P.A. Players. He is now rehearsing a part as male lead in their latest production.

For the present Isobella has stopped nagging and feeling very smug that she has discovered the hidden talents of her man - or has she created a monster.

Isobella Brooker

PS - The Editor joined the choir in similar circumstances.

A Letter to Your God

Dear God,
So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over indulgent. I'm really glad about that.
But in a few minutes God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

OCTOBER

- Sunday 20th 2.00 pm SPRING CONCERT at PILGRIM CHURCH, 12 Flinders Street, Adelaide (see advert. page 3).
Sunday 27th 2.00 pm CONCERT at Res-haven, Silkes Road, Paradise.

NOVEMBER

- Friday 15th QUIZ NIGHT at Mitcham AFA Bowling Club, 150 Belair Rd., Hawthorn.
Sunday 17th 2.00 pm CONCERT at Masonic Homes, 91 Diagona Road, Somerton Park.
Thursday 28th 7.30 pm CONCERT at Lutheran Homes, 24 Avenue Road, Glyde.

DECEMBER

- Monday 2nd 7.30 pm SOLO NIGHT (see page 2)
Friday 13th 7.30 pm CHRISTMAS DINNER, Glenelg Golf Club (see page 2)

"Friends of the Choir" Mailing List

Our special "Friends of the Choir" mailing list informs you of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir's Concerts and Functions.

Functions include dinners and other social occasions at which we would be pleased to welcome you.

For details please contact the Secretary

Mr Colin Styles, 4 Petrel Court, Flagstaff Hill, 5159
Tel : (08) 8270 2628 Email coljud@ozemail.com.au
Please include me on the special "Friends of the Choir" mailing list
Name

Address

Postcode

Phone

Mobile

Email address

