

## Chair's Annual Report for AGM 24/10/20

The autumn of 2019 was very busy in rehearsals as we prepared for two events. In St Mary's Church, Thirsk, (**Haydn: *The Creation***), 58 of us were accompanied by *North Yorkshire Pro Musica Orchestra* and three fabulous soloists. The following weekend, an afternoon Christmas concert in All Saints, Northallerton (**Bullard: *A Light in the Stable***) was a much smaller performance with readings and audience carols. In January rehearsals began again, but only for a few weeks. It was very disappointing that, due to the pandemic, our Conductor and Chorus Director of 13 years, Greg Smith, was unable to lead us in the Elijah concert scheduled for May. Five members of the Committee made a farewell presentation to him of gift vouchers, flowers and a framed and engraved picture of an NYC concert, at his home in July.

The committee has had a busy and difficult year dealing with many changes. As everyone knows, the spread of Coronavirus has caused confusion, anxiety and tragedy; it has resulted in a very different social and musical life for us all. Committee meetings have continued on Zoom and have considered how best to proceed, our prime concern being members' well-being. The committee has also spent time managing the change of Musical Director and Conductor and we were fortunate to appoint Peter Stallworthy in March, just before lockdown. There were also changes in committee membership and we are sad to lose two excellent colleagues: Richard Gott decided to step down after 3 years as Treasurer and Peter Perkins is leaving us after 4 years as Membership Secretary. Many thanks go to them both for their hard work on our behalf.