

We are near to the time when we should be delivering our Christmas Concert, but instead, it will be the third concert we have had to cancel in this dreadful year. How long before conditions are eased remains unknown, but we have a tentative date of 20 March for our Spring Concert. If we can be singing by then, Phil will decide whether we have time to return to the Brahms, but if not we'll sing something else and leave the Brahms for another year.

On the basis of nothing ventured, nothing gained, we asked Calne Town Council if there was any way that even a few of us could sing some carols outside, somewhere in the Town before Christmas. They rejected the idea, as the ban on amateur choirs performing was in the original Regulations and they are still in place. They are not changed by the new Tier Regulations, which mainly concern restrictions on numbers in some activities, with exceptions for support services and essential functions. One exception has been for religious services and the principal requirements (ie distancing), still remain in place for them. It's the same reason as the Salvation Army and similar groups normally seen out over Christmas will not be seen this year.

I have no doubt that many of you, like myself, have only seen your families over social media, this year, if at all. I'm sure that some have experienced worse, with loss of family or friends. Hope emerges as vaccines are approved but even with the slight relaxation of restrictions over Christmas itself, it will not be the same. 2020 will not be forgotten easily.

My very best wishes to you all for whatever festivities you and your family will enjoy and to look forward to us all singing again in 2021.

David