



A very happy Christmas from Annie



Christian Music Ministries

In January we had a joyous celebration for my 60th birthday in Weston-super-Mare with over 200 friends and family watching, singing and playing **Angel Voices** - see over.

Next year, Roger will be celebrating his 70th with the musical **Rock** at the Coton Centre, Tamworth on Saturday 19 May. We are hoping by then to have a clear picture of what the future holds.



Roger isn't planning to retire - despite rumours for several years! But we do need to plan for the future, so that our wonderful resources of 23 Bible-based musicals, 6 music collections, CDs, DVDs and practical handbooks such as *Worship Works* and *Spirit Works* will continue to be in print and available for many years to come. Towards this end Lindsay Peniston in the CMM Office has been making Kindle versions of many of our publications, and hundreds of our songs and backing tracks are now downloadable from iTunes, Amazon and cdbaby. We also have a YouTube channel with many extracts from the musicals and other events - search under 'Christian Music Ministries - Roger Jones'.

We have a full diary for 2018, with music weeks, weekends, *Worship Works* and *Spirit Works* events. At the moment I have four musical-in-a-day events in my diary, with room for more. If your church, or group of churches, would like to host a musical-in-a-day, please contact CMM (details below). It is such an uplifting day - and singing is good for you!

CMM Choir

It's been another very good year with CMM Choir - such wonderful folk who love sharing their faith by singing Roger's musicals. As well as their special visit to Weston in January with **Angel Voices**, we gave four performances in June and July of **Jail Break**. This Christmas and Epiphany we have nine productions of **Stargazers**, two at retirement villages, and the others in local churches. As the musical is quite short, we are including appropriate poems and carols - and I have written a carol especially for CMM Choir: Carol of the Wise Men - only my second-ever composition. It is a minor-key, quasi mediaeval-sounding carol which works as a round - meaning that the choir sounds amazing - for very little effort! And for the first time the choir are singing with a live band, rather than backing tracks - several with the composer himself at the piano!

If you are near enough to come and support us, here are the New Year **Stargazers** dates:

Sun 14 Jan - Holy Trinity Church, Lickey at 6.00
Rose Hill, Lickey, Worcs, B45 8RR

Sat 20 Jan - St Leonard's, Marston Green at 6.00
31 Elmdon Road, Marston Green, Birmingham, B37 7BT

Sun 4 Feb - Link Community Venue, W.Orton at 6.00
4 New Road, Water Orton, B46 1QU

Sat 10 Feb - St Thomas' Church, Aldridge at 6.00
14 St Thomas' Close, Aldridge, Staffs, WS9 8SL

Sun 18 Feb - Longbridge Retirement Village at 6.00
Austin Avenue, Longbridge, Birmingham, B45 8TD



At my birthday celebration in January, I shared briefly that since being so very ill 8 years ago, three things have contributed enormously to my health and well-being: (a) being appointed Musical Director of CMM Choir, (b) playing viola in The People's Orchestra and (c) doing ballet twice a week

CMM Choir - we bussed the choir down the M5 in a coach to Weston for the day



The People's Orchestra - I played a very exciting YouTube clip - Beyond the Skies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaLereSg7QI>



Ballet - I love my twice-weekly ballet classes at DanceXchange

Just before my birthday, I realised a childhood dream - to dance a simple *pas de deux* with a male ballet dancer and have it professionally filmed. You can see this on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yi75_gqBdcw
or type in 'Annie Routley - pas de deux'

Shaun McLaughlin (professional name John Alexander) was so kind and gracious with me - it was a wonderful experience I will treasure for ever

