

Wrexham One Love Choir

About Wrexham One Love Choir

Through our weekly rehearsals and provision of hot meals of which we have served **1207 in the past 12 months**, we offer vital support to some of the most vulnerable members of society, including the homeless, individuals with mental health issues, and those in recovery.



Our choir serves as more than just a musical group; it acts as a **lifeline for many, providing social interaction and a sense of belonging**. For some members, this choir represents their only opportunity for social contact during the week, highlighting its importance in combating isolation and loneliness.

The choir offers a warm welcome to all who wish to join, regardless of their circumstances. By offering support services and facilitating referrals to other programs and agencies, we actively address the diverse needs of our members, ensuring holistic care and assistance. Furthermore, our choir serves as a platform for **personal growth and empowerment**.

Through the therapeutic power of music, members develop confidence, self-esteem, and a renewed sense of purpose. This transformative impact is invaluable, as it not only enhances individual well-being but also strengthens the fabric of the entire community.

In addition to our direct support services, our outreach efforts extend to fundraising, grant applications, and community engagement. Our dedication to sustainability and growth ensures the longevity of our impact, making us a worthy recipient of financial support.

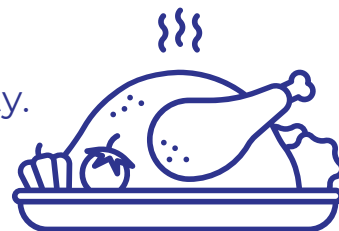
Overall, the Wrexham One Love choir embodies the spirit of **community service and resilience**.

Our commitment to uplifting others and fostering connection makes us an excellent example of the positive change that can occur when people come together in support of one another.

Events Over the Last 12 Months

Ty Pawb International Festive Lunch Service 15th December 2023

For our Christmas efforts last year, we collaborated with local international acts from our diverse local community. The venue Ty Pawb is an epicentre of the local community, offering a range of products including handmade and a food court.



The Wrexham One Love Choir took centre stage at the lunchtime event performing a combination of Christmas songs and popular hits. The Choir was led by our musical director Chris Watson and joined by fellow choir member musicians. We took our collection buckets and people gave generously.

Eagles Meadow 9th March 2024



Eagles Meadow is a busy shopping district within the Wrexham town centre, boasting shops which include River Island, Boots, Clarks, F.Hinds, popular eating establishments and many more. On the 9th of March 2024, they hosted a boutique Victorian Market in the centre of their establishment. They kindly invited us there to perform some of our songs.



The Choir entertained the crowds on this cold Saturday afternoon. They were singing hits such as 'Chasing Cars' and a song called 'Back to the Past' which was written by one of our choir members, Karl Spiers. It's a reflection of the past and the people we may have lost. Karl performed a lovely rendition in his solo part of the song.

FOCUS Wales 11th May 2024

FOCUS Wales is an international showcase festival taking place in multiple venues across the city of Wrexham, North Wales. The festival places the music industry spotlight firmly on the emerging talent that Wales has to offer the world, alongside a selection of the best new acts from across the globe.

The Choir were lucky enough to make it through the selection process and be asked to open the show at the prestigious Parish church at 4pm on 11th May 2024. The choir lit up the church and set the tone for the day, with sing alongs with the audience to our famous 'One Love' song. To conclude our set, we had a mighty roar from the audience and an invite back next year. So we are clearly doing something right!



Events Over the Last 12 Months

Sports Day

12th June 2024

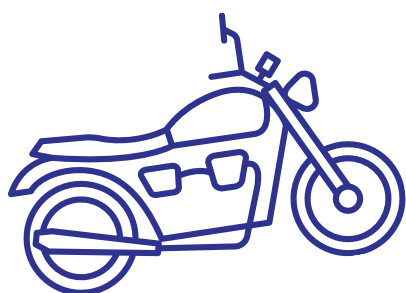
Adferiad organises a sports day for the staff and service users once a year and this year it was organised by Champions House's very own George James. It was held at the Queensway Sports Stadium in Wrexham.



The choir were asked to perform at this special event which supports the company's ethos of healthy mind and healthy body. The choir performed some of our greatest hits to the delight of the watching crowd, we were even honoured with the Mayoress joining us for a good old fashion sing song. Hope to see you there next year.

Motor Fest 27th July 2024

Nightingale House is a large local hospice very close to Wrexham's heart. They are completely self-funded and rely on the generosity of the community and surrounding areas. That's why when they asked us to perform at their Motor Fest event we of course said yes in support of raising money for this charitable cause.



The terrain and the revs of the giant trucks made this one of our more challenging events but we managed to belt out some hits including 'Moving On Up' and 'Twist and Shout' which definitely got the crowd going, leading to another invite to come back next year.



I love the choir because it has helped me make new friends and build my confidence. It has helped with my mental health. I feel passionate when I am singing the songs especially 'Mad World'. I love helping in choir and have recently raised £51 by doing a sponsored walk.

Jane - Service User

Support Agencies We Work With

Homeless Prevention

Until April we worked with this agency which helps the homeless and works with local authorities to get people into accommodation.

The Elms

The Substance Misuse Services provides confidential, non-judgemental, professional and accessible support aiming to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol to individuals, families and the local community.

AVOW

AVOW is the County Voluntary Council for Wrexham appointed by the Welsh Government to support third sector organisations.

Steve Morgan Foundation

Who very kindly awarded a grant for the choir to keep functioning. The money has been spent directly on the Choir.

Wrexham and District Pantomime Company

The pantomime donated £750 to the Choir last year from money they had raised during their performances.

Cyfle Cymru

A service that provides help to people with substance misuse issues and or mental health conditions, into work, education or training.

Trinity Church

Trinity Church Wrexham kindly allow us access their hall every week, giving the choir place to practice.

Choir Members

Musical Director:

Chris Watts

Team Leader:

Hollie Benfield

Project Manager:

George James

Volunteer Coordinator:

Maggie Lloyd

Volunteers:

Ian Ashcroft

Naomi Challoner

Sian Davies

Lauren Gleave

Jane Leonard

Ian Parry

Menna Smith



Volunteers Ian Parry (left) and Ian Ashcroft (right):



“ The choir gives opportunities for vulnerable and marginalised people to come together in a safe space to sing, socialise, and sit down and eat lunch together. There is more and more evidence that singing with people is good for their mental health and wellbeing and the choir facilitates this. We have regular members, plus the opportunity for others to drop in and be welcomed. So many members have told me how much the choir means to them and I am proud to be a member of this brave community, who not only sing together but then go out to perform in front of an audience, which is not an easy thing to do. I come back to help week after week because I feel like this is too important of an initiative to risk losing. It is a therapeutic activity that is of great benefit to its members and I will try to support it as long as I can. ”

-Ian Parry, Volunteer

“ I like the choir because I get to meet new people. By doing the teas and coffees, I get to talk to everybody that comes to choir. Also singing makes me feel better, and I get to meet new friends and that's the reason I keep coming. ”

-Ian Ashcroft, Volunteer

“ I like going to the choir because it is friendly and safe, I also get to make new friends. I started 5 years ago and I love going because it helps with my mental health and I enjoy singing. It has made me who I am today. I will always support the choir. ”

-Sian Davies, Volunteer

“ WOLC is one of the most worthwhile and uplifting things I've ever done! Every Wednesday I look forward to singing with my Welsh family - that's what we've got. A real community! We perform with real joy but it's about more than that. Meeting every week we're transported to a safe space by singing together and for that time nothing else really matters. Can you ask for anything more powerful? ”

-Chris Watson, Musical Director

**Volunteer Coordinator
Maggie Lloyd:**



What's next for the choir?

Halloween

October 2024

We will be celebrating Halloween with a spooky session of choir, singing spooky songs and having a Halloween buffet to celebrate the scary season.



Christmas Lights Switch On

16th November 2024

This year's Wrexham Christmas light switch-on spectacular is taking place from the afternoon into the evening on the 16th of November 2024.

The Wrexham One Love Choir have been asked to perform at the event. We are busy practicing our Christmas songs but it will be a medley of other popular music. So dig out your woolly hats and gloves and come and support us.

It's a great free event to attend, starting at Queens Square, Wrexham at 12.30pm and moving down to Eagles Meadows Wrexham later on, with the event finishing at 7.30pm. Come along and bring the family.

Christmas Carol Service

4th December 2024

This year we are doing things a bit differently and putting on our first-ever Christmas Carol Service on the 4th of December 2024, 6pm-8pm, at Trinity Church, Wrexham.

The performance will be at 6.30pm and of course, the main man himself, Father Christmas, will be stopping by to spread some Christmas cheer. You will hopefully enjoy a medley of carols, Christmas songs and popular music.

Then we will be happy to serve you refreshments in the church hall next door, where we hope that you will join us for a mince pie.



Looking Into the New Year...

We have had interest from some care homes in the local area, to go in and sing for the residents, which of course will be lovely to see the smiles on their faces. Also we will be doing Focus Wales 2025, after our successful performance this year. FOCUS Wales is an international showcase festival taking place in multiple venues across the city of Wrexham, North Wales. The festival places the music industry spotlight firmly on the emerging talent that Wales has to offer the world, alongside a selection of the best new acts from across the globe.

Support Our Choir

The One Love Choir couldn't continue to exist as a lifeline to so many members of our community here in Wrexham without the support of generous donations and dedicated volunteers. To continue to offer vital support to some of the most vulnerable members of our society, and combat isolation and loneliness, we rely solely on donations from the public. If you are able to spare a donation of any amount, your support is immensely appreciated and will go a long way towards supporting those in need.



Scan to donate



If you are interested in joining the choir or want to know more, please contact:

holly.benfield@adferiad.org