**Return of music**

Firstly, a big thankyou to the great majority of the choir who always hand their music in at the appointed time. However, over the last few seasons an increasing number of members are either forgetting to return music, have not been aware of deadlines, or are simply being inconsiderate. This is causing the Choir problems, as the late return of music can result in fines from libraries, and causes me considerable inconvenience and a lot of extra work in chasing up individuals by phone, email and in person, and dealing with lending libraries and external choirs.

The normal date for giving music in is the Tuesday following a concert – if it is left until the following week there can be problems returning it to the lenders in time. Return dates vary but can be as short as two weeks after the concert! Remember also that once the music is returned to me, my job is not finished. I still have to sort it, check it to ensure markings have been rubbed out, and package it up for the post.

We will therefore be asking choir members who miss the deadline by three or more days to make a donation of £5 to choir funds to cover fines and any excess postage involved in late return of music. There will always be reminders in the notices about how and when to return music, and opportunities for those who have difficulties returning their music to do so at the concert. Seriously extenuating circumstances will always be sympathetically heard.

It would be good if the 100% dedication involved – and given - to a concert continued for everyone until the music was back in. We rely on libraries and other choirs to lend us their music, and if we do not honour our obligations, we may find them unwilling to be accommodating in future. After all, the concert is not over until the postmistress sings!