

From Katrine Reimers

Priddy Singers has kept going as a group through the pandemic. We have used video rehearsals, weekly zoom sessions and recording projects to carry the choir through the lockdowns. Members have been extremely loyal, flexible and generous and we have all adapted as best we can.

In summer 2020 we made a video to mark the Priddy Folk Festival weekend. This was recorded in our homes, involving friends and family across the globe, shared on Facebook and viewed over 1,500 times:

<https://youtu.be/wEvIFYOhGGY>

In September we resumed face to face rehearsals down in Westbury-sub-Mendip where two of our members kindly share their grounds and barns for us to have a well-ventilated environment. Rehearsing for shorter sessions in smaller groups to facilitate social distancing, in this context we recorded the vocal lines for another video. This has yet to be publicly shared but you can view it here:

<https://youtu.be/oyAm5KvPOVU>

In December we managed a rehearsal as a full choir in a huge barn in Rodney Stoke. This was our Christmas treat, to have a sing all together! Now emerging from another period of entirely virtual sessions through the latest lockdown, we are currently rehearsing in groups of 6 down in Westbury. Law stipulates amateur rehearsals must be outdoors so we are singing under cover of open gazebos. We hope to be able to rehearse in larger groups from the end of May and to resume full rehearsals in Priddy Village Hall by the summer.

Something high on our current agenda is finding an undercover outdoor (ie less than 50% wall) rehearsal space where we can fit 30 socially distanced singers at 2 metres' separation. If anyone has any suggestions this would be really useful!

I am hoping to start a youth choir to link with the Priddy Singers but will await a more stable and sustainable national situation before getting this off the ground.