



ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL EX-CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Crypt 1.00 pm Saturday 7th July 2012

Present: Malcolm Bury (Chair), Maureen Adams (Hon. Sec.), Dr Jeffrey John (Dean and Patron), Alan Godfrey, Peter Jeffs, Moira Dean, John Adams, Gemma Saunders, Hannah Watts, Trevor Jarvis, John Bate, Peter Pearson, Kay Pearson, Nicolas Gibbon, Anne Robson, David Ireson, Andrew Shepstone, Rhodri Pazzi-Axworthy, Stephen Guy, John Pettit.

The Meeting opened with a prayer - (Attachment 1)

1. Welcome and Apologies:

The Chairman explained the origin of the prayer he had offered. The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations had invited its affiliated associations to submit a prayer to be considered for adoption nationally. Malcolm submitted his adaptation of 'The Musician's Prayer' on behalf of the St Albans Ex-Choristers' Association, and this has been accepted as the national prayer of the FCOCA.

The Meeting remembered Barry Smith and Jeffrey Collins, both former Trebles, who had died in the year since the last AGM

There were 32 apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising. David Ireson proposed the Minutes be adopted, seconded by Rhodri Pazzi-Axworthy.

3. Chairman's Report (Attachment 2)

The Chairman read his report which focused firstly on the need for (a) maintaining communications and the resources required and (b) providing events which will draw members, and in particular the younger members of the Association. The second focus was on the future - (a) the ECA concert on 22nd September and (b) the major event hosting the FCOCA Festival in St Albans. Malcolm has been elected to the Executive Committee as a regional representative, and he commented on the changes which suggested a more dynamic feeling in the FCOCA.

The Chairman commended the report for adoption, seconded by John Bate.

4. Financial Report (Attachment 3)

The Chairman presented the financial report and stated that the report would not appear on the website but copies were available to members on request.

He explained that although the balance of funds appeared to have diminished, this was because large amounts have had to be paid in advance for the ECA concert and the 2013 Festival e.g. the hire of the Old Town Hall. These costs will be recovered from ticket sales and festival delegates' fees in 2013, and will be reflected in the financial statement for that year.

The Chairman commended the report for adoption, seconded by Trevor Jarvis.

5. Election of Committee Members

Nicolas Gibbon had indicated his willingness to stand for the Committee. Malcolm Bury proposed he be elected, seconded by David Ireson.

There were no other nominations and as all members of the current Committee were willing to continue Malcolm Bury proposed the Committee be re-elected, seconded by Peter Jeffs.

6. Any Other Business

(a) In response to Nicolas Gibbon's question regarding the Festival, the Chairman explained the Town Hall was booked for the FCOCA Festival customary dinner, with a three-course meal, a guest speaker and entertainment. Lussmanns are catering.

(b) Rhodri Pazzi-Axworthy commented on the use of Facebook. Hannah Watts had made a Group page for the ECA Reunion which had been most successful in contacting and sustaining communications about the reunion with her peer group and their friends and contacts. Hannah said she would continue to develop this medium. The Meeting agreed it was not the right time to join Twitter.

Action: Hannah Watts

(c) David Ireson asked whether progress had been made on securing a guest speaker for the 2013 Festival. He suggested Richard Morrison (Chief Culture Writer of The Times). Malcolm Bury said that no decision had yet been made although his inclination would be someone more closely associated with the Abbey and the Ex-Choristers' Association.

Action: Malcolm Bury

(d) Alan Godfrey raised the question of the ECA applying for charitable status. The Chairman said that although the income generated by tax relief would be fairly small it would be worth pursuing. He and the Committee will pursue this initially through John Rowlands the Abbey.

Action: Malcolm Bury

(e) Trevor Jarvis asked whether consideration had been given to maintaining links with Luccombe. He suggested the possibility of having a meeting there - a Luccombe reunion. People still visit informally. The Dean reminded members of the Icon which had been given to Luccombe Church from the Abbey. There was agreement that this matter would be taken further in the committee.

Action: Malcolm Bury and the Committee

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked members for attendance, and the meeting closed at 1.30 after a vote of thanks by John Adams to the Chairman for all his work.