



**ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL
EX-CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION**
Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
5th June 2016 – The Cathedral Crypt - 1.00pm**

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members to the 2016 Annual General Meeting and Reunion and thanked everyone for attending. He explained that the Association had been unable to use the Deanery because it was undergoing significant refurbishment.

The Chairman also thanked Moira and Paul Dean for arranging pre-lunch drinks and snacks.

2. Members Present & Apologies

The meeting was attended by 24 members with three guests. Apologies were received from 21 members including committee members John Meager (Honorary Treasurer), Libby Godlee, Peter Jeffs and Laura Hicks.

3. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting – Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2015 AGM had been published on the ECA website; no matters were arising.

The Chairman outlined the main elements which had been reported/discussed which included:

- Exquire singing a Saturday Choral mass which ended with Choral Eucharist on 5th June.
- The lack of an Honorary Secretary, which was a continuing issue.
- The possibility of another Luccombe Camp for which, sadly, there was insufficient interest on the available dates.
- The timings of our Annual General Meeting, which today, as discussed, was combined with an ECA event.

The Chairman moved that the minutes were an accurate reflection of the 2015 AGM and be accepted.

Proposed: David Ireson

Seconded: Nicolas Gibbon

4. Chairman's Report for the year ended 31st March 2016

Another year passes, my ninth year as Chairman, and I begin my report with a tribute to our President, Peter Hurford, who is now very frail but despite three minor strokes in 2015 continues to show his enjoyment of music. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter, Pat and the family

First of all, an apology for not being able to issue the 2016 ECA Members' Year Book as planned. As some of you know, I have had some difficult family issues over the last few weeks that have rather monopolised my time. I will, however, try to find an appropriate opportunity to publish the Year Book shortly after the summer holiday period.

Our activities and events have been rather low-key during the twelve months to 31st March with only one event – the Veteran's 'Gaudy' which included a visit to the Muniment Room, a place not usually open to the congregation or the general public. Everyone seemed to enjoy listening to some of our earlier recordings which are being catalogued and preserved in the Cathedral Choir archives and also the opportunity to go upstairs to the triforium (46 stone circular stairs in fact) and I should like to record my

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thanks to Dr David Kelsall for giving us some insights into the work that goes on to preserve the records of the Cathedral for future generations and posterity.

We have continued to issue our quarterly newsletter, Alban Notes, and maintain our ECA website and my thanks to Tony Price for his continued enthusiasm and excellent work as our IT Manager.

Whilst not strictly an ECA activity, my book, "The Choirs and Musicians of St Albans Cathedral," was published in January by Rhinegold. I've now sold over 170 copies which has yielded an amount in excess of £1,500 which will be donated to the Cathedral Choirs early in the Autumn Term.

Looking to the future, your new committee will begin to identify opportunities and plan a programme of activities for the forthcoming year, and whilst I am heartened by today's support and participation, I do have some concerns as to the long term sustainability of our Association given that our events seem to be supported by fewer and fewer members and those mostly from earlier eras which, perhaps, is not surprising. From 2007/8 for about 5-6 years, attendances at our reunions were very good but the difficulty in obtaining dates in the Cathedral diary, even one year in advance, continues to prove time-consuming and may be having an adverse impact on maintaining members' interest and commitment.

Next year I will have been Chairman for ten years so perhaps it will be time for a fresh face at the helm and a new look at the way we are organised, what we do, and how best to communicate with our members - and also bring on to the committee members from more recent eras.

I should like to thank the outgoing committee members for their support during the last year.

Finally, a reminder that on Saturday 25th June the Abbey Girls Choir celebrates its 20th Anniversary with a Service of Choral Evensong at which a specially commissioned work by Judith Weir called Holy Innocents, partly sponsored by the ECA, will be performed and I would encourage you to attend the service to support the choir.

Thank you.

Malcolm Bury – Chairman
5th June 2016

*Acceptance Proposed: Rhodri Pazzi-Axworthy
Seconded: Trevor Jarvis*

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report

John Meager Honorary Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting but his report had been submitted as follows:

Hon. Treasurer's report for the Annual General Meeting on 5th June 2016

I offer my apologies for not being present to read my report to you. As you will see from the Financial Report (see Attachment 1) we have experienced another year with not very much happening by way of events that have involved the Association's finances. The Gaudy get-together of those who were not put off by being named Veterans was an enjoyable and informative event and the small cost to the Association of £97.50 is of little consequence related to the renewing of contact with old friends. It was a pity that more old friends were not able to add to, and join in with, the enjoyment of those who were present.

The main expense this year has been the part sponsorship of the Judith Weir commission for the Abbey Girls Choir 20th Anniversary. We contributed 50% of the estimated cost. The Association ended the financial year with a healthy bank balance. Copies of the Financial Statements are available to members on request.

Thank you.

John Meager

*Acceptance Proposed: Nicolas Gibbon
Seconded: David Ireson*

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6. Election of Officers

The Chairman explained that there have been no nominations from members to elect new officers or re-elect the existing committee.

John Meager has indicated that he does not wish to stand for re-election as Honorary Treasurer which meant that the Association moves into the new operating period without two office bearers which are required in order to comply with our Constitution.

Richard Lilley had offered himself for election.

*Proposed: David Ireson
Seconded: Simon Morley*

The remaining current committee members had indicated that they would continue and the Chairman recommended that they now be re-elected *en bloc*.

*Proposed: Simon Morley
Seconded: Tony de Rivaz*

7. Any other business

7.1 Luccombe 2017

The possibility of a further visit to Luccombe in 2017 was discussed subject to suitable dates being agreed given that 2017 is an IOFS year. Pat Hurford suggested the weekend of 22/23rd July, i.e. after the IOF. Tony de Rivaz agreed to act as Camp Master if the 'camp' went ahead.

The Chairman advised the meeting that Ex-Choristers who were 'minors' would not be able to participate in the camp unless accompanied by a parent/appointed guardian. The new committee will discuss this at the planning meeting in September.

7.2 ECA Musical

There was general agreement that the Choral Eucharist, held on the day of the Reunion/AGM had been very successful musically with 28 former treble/soprano choristers and lay clerks participating as Exquire.

The Dean commented that the Sumsion Leicester Service was very powerful and if Exquire can produce this quality of music then both he and the Precentor would support the idea of finding a suitable day/date for a similar annual event.

The Chairman advised that the 5th June had not been an ideal date because many of the younger ECA members / Abbey Singers were focussed on their exams.

The new committee will discuss this at the planning meeting in September, to which the Precentor, Rev'd Berkeley Zych, will be invited.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1.50pm.

Signed:

Malcolm G Bury - Chairman

Date: