



# ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL EX-CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

*Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations*

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – 1.00 p.m. - The Deanery Chapter Room**

### **Pre-Meeting Note**

Before opening the Annual General Meeting the Chairman thanked Andrew Parnell for directing ExQuire and Nick Freestone for playing the organ and presented them both with a small gift.

### **Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed members to the 2017 ECA Reunion and Annual General Meeting and thanked everyone for coming. A particular welcome was given to former chorister and lay clerk Michael Gough who was visiting from Australia.

Apologies were received from The Dean Jeffrey John, Precentor Berkeley Zych, Honorary Life Members Pat Hurford and David Ireson, Honorary Members Tony & Ros de Rivaz, Committee Members Peter Jeffs and Helen Charlston together with Ordinary Members, John Adams, Mike Hurford, Mat Taylor, Simon Trott and Ian Woods.

The Chairman thanked Moira and Paul Dean for, once again, arranging post-service drinks and snacks.

### **Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting had been published on the ECA website; no matters were arising.

The main elements which had been reported/discussed included:

- *ExQuire* singing a Sunday Choral Eucharist in 2017, which went ahead on 4<sup>th</sup> June
- The lack of an honorary Secretary – which is still a continuing issue although the Chairman expressed his gratitude to Tony Price for his valuable assistance with Alban Notes.
- The possibility of another Luccombe Camp - which will go ahead in July
- The timings of our Annual General Meeting – which again, as agreed, was combined with an ECA event.
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The Chairman moved that the minutes were an accurate reflection of the 2016 AGM and be accepted.

Proposed: Nicolas Gibbon : Seconded: Trevor Jarvis

### **Chairman's Report for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

Another year passes, my tenth as Chairman, and once again I begin my report with a tribute to our President, Peter Hurford, who continues to amaze us with his resilience which I'm sure must be helped by his continued enjoyment of music. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter, Pat and the family

One singular activity took place at the beginning of the current year. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June the Abbey Girls Choir celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Service of Choral Evensong at which a specially commissioned work by Judith Weir CBE called Holy Innocents, and partly sponsored by the ECA, was performed. A good number of former Abbey Girl Choristers participated in the service and joined the current girls for a photograph with cathedral musicians/directors, past and present, and Judith Weir.

This time last year the ECA choir, ExQuire had just sung the Service of Choral Eucharist for the first time and today we had an "action replay" – well almost in that we repeated Sumsion's Leicester Communion service for which we had received some very good compliments but today, Whitsunday, we sang William Harris' Behold, now praise the Lord. My thanks to Andrew Parnell for directing the choir and to Nick Freestone for playing the organ for us!

The 2016 ECA Members' Year Book was published somewhat later than planned – copies are still available free of charge – and as a result of last year's AGM discussions copies are now given to choristers at their valediction.

The association has now published 39 editions of Alban Notes with the 40<sup>th</sup> edition due at the end of this month. We have also maintained 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," continues to be on sale in the Abbey Book Shop and I'm grateful to Julia Cammack for stocking it. Sadly, our friend and colleague, Dr David Kelsall, passed away earlier this year – David, as Cathedral Archivist, had very kindly provided the ECA with insights into the work that goes on to preserve the records of the Cathedral for future generations and posterity.

Looking to the future, as many of you know, a small group of members and their families are returning to Luccombe in July – some will camp in the field; others will take a softer option. There will be a couple of traditional walks and we will sing Choral Evensong on the Sunday afternoon.

Your new committee will try to identify further opportunities and plan a programme of activities for the rest of the year, and whilst I am heartened by today's support and participation, I continue to 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.

I should like to thank the outgoing committee members for their support during the last year and particularly John Meager who is retiring as Honorary Treasurer. I am indebted to John not only for his sterling work on the committee but also 'stepping up to the plate' at the 2012 ECA concert when I was suddenly hospitalised with appendicitis.

I am also grateful to Jeremy Meager and Helen Charlston who were co-opted to the committee during the year and are standing for election today.

I have now been Chairman for ten years so perhaps it will soon 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.

Thank you. Malcolm Bury – Chairman 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Moved: Malcolm Bury: Seconded: Andrew Parnell

### Honorary Treasurer's Report

#### St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers Association Financial Report for the year to 31st March 2017

	£	£	£
<b>Cash at Bank as at 31st March 2016</b>			£2,823.31
<b>Income</b>			
Donations from members		£280.00	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Postage, Stationery & Printing	£8.10		
FCOCA Subscription	£20.00		
2016 Yearbook-Printing/Distribution	£263.79		
Archive boxes	£19.98		
2016 AGM refreshments	£79.04		
Total Expenses and Deficit for the year		£390.91	£110.91
<b>31st March 2017 Cash at Bank</b>			<b>£2,712.40</b>

#### Note

Due to an oversight no invoice was received for the management of the Association's website. A cost of £48 is due. Payment will be made and shown in the 2017/8 accounts.

John Meager, Honorary Treasurer

#### Treasurer's Report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017

This past year has seen little activity to test the recording skills required to produce a statement of the income and expenditure that has taken place.

We have had expenditure for our AGM meeting in 2016 and for the production and distribution costs of our 2016 Yearbook but donations from members covered the overall cost of the Yearbook. Our administration expenses were those normally seen but with one exception as noted at the foot of the Financial statement.

We had an operating cost for the past year of £110.91 and, as shown, we still have a Bank balance of £2,712.40 which, at our present activity rate, should last for many years, even after taking into account the £48 we should have paid in this financial year.

However, we must recognize that an Association such as ours is dependent for its continuance on events that attract the attendance of our members. Those events may be designed and promoted to include the general public and produce income that can boost our reserves enabling us to provide support to the Cathedral's choirs, which is part of our purpose, or they may be just a vehicle to ensure our members have something to attend and to meet their associates. The latter, although an important part of the reason the Association exists, could cost money and reduce our Bank Balance.

Moved: John Meager : Seconded: Rhodri Pazzi-Axworthy

### **Proposal to Change Bank Account**

The Chairman explained that the Association's bank account was held at the Co-Op bank however following a re-organisation all branches close to where the Chairman and Honorary Treasurer lived had been closed making it inconvenient to lodge any cash receipts. It was therefore proposed that the Co-op Bank Account be closed and the monies transferred to either a Barclays or Natwest Community Bank Account whichever was deemed the most convenient for the incoming Honorary Treasurer.

Proposed: Malcolm Bury – Chairman: Seconded Michael Milbourn

### **Election of Committee Members**

The following officers had indicated their willingness to remain on the committee for a further year: Malcolm Bury (Chairman), Tony Price (IT Manager), Laura Hicks (AGC), Nicolas Gibbon, Trevor Jarvis, Peter Jeffs and Richard Lilley (CC).

In addition, recently co-opted members, Helen Charlston and Jeremy Meager have agreed to be nominated with Jeremy offering to become Honorary Treasurer. To expedite proceeding the Chairman made the following proposals:

- that the current members willing to continue are re-elected *en bloc* – Seconded Nick Coleman
- that Helen Charlston and Jeremy Meagre are elected to the committee – Seconded Nic Gibbon
- that Jeremy Meager be appointed Honorary Treasurer – Seconded John Meager

### **Any Other Business**

Tony Price, IT manager, asked the members who accessed the ECA Website and there were a significant number who did.

Michael Milbourn proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his work which was unanimously supported.

The meeting closed at 13.35.

Signed: .....

Date: .....