

St Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers Association

THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN

Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers Associations

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Held at 12:30 on Saturday 3rd July 2021, in the Chapter Room in the Deanery. Attendance was made up of those present in person in the Deanery, and those who attended remotely using the Zoom teleconferencing software.

The meeting opened with a welcome from the chair, and a specially chosen prayer was offered by the Sub-Dean, Canon Abi Thompson. In his introductory comments, Richard Lilley congratulated Abi on her recent election as the Dean of Sheffield Cathedral.

Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed the members and guests, of whom 19 were in attendance:

In the Deanery:

Maureen and John Adams, Nic Coleman, Moira Dean, Mike Hurford, David Ireson, Richard Lilley (RL), Tony Price, Abi Thompson, Simon Trott.

Remotely:

Paolo Baroni, Stephen Darlington, Simon Filsell, Christopher Freeman, Nic Gibbon, Peter Jeffs, Jeremy Meager, Nina Vinther, Geoff Ward.

Apologies had been received from:

Michael Blight, Malcom Bury, Chris Cutts, Trevor Jarvis, Andrew Lucas, Andrew Parnell, Matt Taylor, John Tournay.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2019

The minutes from the 2019 AGM were circulated to members in advance of this meeting. (No AGM was held in 2020 due to the first Coronavirus lockdown).

Stephen Darlington spoke to say that he is thrilled to take up his role as our President. He said that Associations like ours are incredibly important as 'support networks' for those currently working in cathedral music. During the pandemic, he has admired the innovations and efforts of the St Albans music team, which he regards as at the vanguard of cathedral music departments nationally. He informed the meeting that vital emergency funding to sustain cathedral music through the pandemic has been raised through collaboration between the Ouseley Church Music Trust, the Choir Schools Association and the (national) Cathedral Music Trust. A million pounds has been raised when public donations of £250,000 are added.

There were no issues nor actions arising from the minutes, and were adopted unopposed, proposed by RL, seconded by Peter Jeffs.

Chairman's Report

Adoption of the Chairman's report was proposed by Nic Gibbon, and seconded by Peter Jeffs.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

JM reported that the current account balance at June 2020 stood at £2,027.52.

The **closing balance** at the AGM date (3/7/21) is £1,725.52.

Expenditure in the period: £32 (website hosting costs), £20 (FCOCA membership), £250 (donation to the St Albans Cathedral Music Trust), £831.58 (to print 120 copies of the 2021 ECA Yearbook).

Income in this period: £831.58 (donation from the Hurford family to cover the costs of producing the Yearbook).

Nic Gibbon queried our source of ongoing income. JM reported that a sufficient sum of £85 had been banked from the reunion in 2018.

Election of Committee Members

All the current committee have individually confirmed their willingness to continue for the next year, so RL proposed that they be re-elected 'en bloc'. There were no objections to this proposal which was seconded by Mike Hurford.

Nina Vintner has put herself forward as willing to serve on the committee as a third representative from the Abbey Girls' choir. Nina was nominated for the position by Richard Lilley. The meeting was delighted that she accepted, so after seconding by Moira Dean, Nina was adopted into this post.

The committee is therefore now made up as follows:

Richard Lilley	Chairman
Jeremy Meager	Honorary Treasurer
Simon Trott	Honorary Secretary
Tony Price	IT and Communications Manager
Trevor Jarvis	Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1950s
Nicolas Gibbon	Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1960s
Peter Jeffs	Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1960s
Nick Coleman	Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1970s
Paulo Baroni	Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1990s
Helen Charlston	Representative for the Abbey Girls' Choir
Laura Hicks	Representative for the Abbey Girls' Choir
Nina Vintner	Representative for the Abbey Girls' Choir.

ECA Updates:

The latest edition of the **Members' Yearbook 2021** has now been published. It is available for all to see via the ECA website. 120 'hard' copies have been printed. Copies were distributed to meeting attendees as well as to the cathedral clergy and music staff. RL thanked Tony Price for his hard work to achieve publication. There was universal praise for the quality of presentation of the yearbook.

The **Archive working group** is expecting to resume work in the coming weeks when access restrictions to cathedral facilities are relaxed.

FCOCA (Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers Associations). Our ECA continues to subscribe to the Federation. This year's festival planned to be held at Ely in October has been postponed to September 2022 due to the coronavirus.

The **Hurford memorial Luccombe weekend** planned for September this year has been postponed for a second time due to the coronavirus. Revised planning is in progress for a weekend in early July or early September 2022.

Any Other Business

MD summarised the current clergy/staff moves at the Cathedral:

- Canon Abi Thompson is Dean elect of Sheffield. She will leave St Albans in September (final service date tbc) to take up her new post in October.
- Canon Kevin Walton has been appointed Acting Dean with immediate effect.
- Revd Kim Quak-Winslow, Youth Chaplain, has been appointed as Vicar of St John the Apostle and All Saints, Whetstone (Diocese of London) and leaves St Albans in August.
- Dewi Rees, Organ Scholar, stays for a second year.

Moira Adams asked if any memorial gesture is planned for Peter Hurford. RL advised that planning is in progress for a memorial plaque to be mounted near the organ in Luccombe church.

David Ireson thanked the chair and committee for keeping the work of the ECA going through the pandemic.

The meeting closed at 1:10 pm. Some members shared lunch together, and attended choral evensong.