

St Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers Association

The Constitution

1. Name of the Association

The name of the association shall be the St Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers Association.

2. Objectives of the Association

The primary objective of the Association shall be to provide a point of contact between current and former choristers of the Cathedral Choir and the Cathedral Girls Choir, Lay Clerks and Musicians with a view to renewing or developing friendships rooted in their musical experiences with the Cathedral.

The Association shall also aim to support the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Girls Choir.

3. Glossary of Terms

3.1 The Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Girls Choir (formerly Abbey Girls Choir) will be referred to as the '*Cathedral Choirs*' from hereon.

3.2 The term *Ex-Chorister* shall mean all choristers who have served in the Cathedral Choirs.

3.3 Lay Clerk shall mean those who have served in the Cathedral Choirs on a permanent or part-time basis, including specifically invited former Choristers who have received payment for their services.

3.4 Musician, in the context of the Association shall mean former Masters of the Music, Assistant Masters of the Music, Organ Scholars and former Precentors.

3.5 Committee shall be the office bearers and general members appointed, co-opted or elected from time to time.

4. Organisation

4.1 Membership

The following categories of membership shall be established and shall be granted as appropriate subject to meeting the necessary qualifications for that category of membership.

Principal Patron: The Committee shall be empowered to invite the Dean of the Cathedral to be the Principal Patron of the Association. Other patrons may, from time to time, be invited at the absolute discretion of the Committee.

Honorary President:

The Committee shall be empowered to invite notable musicians having a connection to the Cathedral choirs to be the Honorary President of the Association. A Presidency shall be conferred for the life of the incumbent or until such time as that person relinquishes the position. The Committee may invite a retiring President to become an Honorary Life Member of the Association.

The primary role of the Honorary President shall be to attend the Association's events and to offer advice and guidance to the Committee in respect of the general management of its activities.

Honorary Vice Presidents

The committee shall be empowered to invite the current and former Masters of the Music to be Honorary Vice Presidents. A vice-presidency shall be conferred for the life of the incumbent or until such time as that person relinquishes the position.

Full Members

Full membership of the Association shall be available to all former choristers of the Cathedral Choirs, former Lay Clerks, Precentors and Organ Scholars. Deputy Lay Clerks shall be entitled to

membership at the discretion of the Committee. Full Members shall be entitled to vote at general meetings of the Association.

Honorary Life Members:

The Committee shall be empowered to confer Honorary Life Membership at its absolute discretion on such basis as it deems appropriate. Honorary Life Members who also qualify as Full Members shall be entitled to vote at general meetings of the Association.

Honorary Members:

The Committee shall be empowered to confer Honorary Memberships at its absolute discretion on Assistant Masters of the Music in order that they may continue to be formally connected to the Association and to attend its events. Honorary memberships may also be granted at the absolute discretion of the Committee to other people who have given exemplary service to the Cathedral Choirs or the Ex-Choristers Association.

Associate Members:

Associate Membership shall be available, at the discretion of the Committee, to individuals who are or have been associated with the Cathedral Choirs and are interested in the well-being of the Ex-Choristers Association. Associate Members may attend Association events but shall not be eligible to serve on the Management Committee nor have voting rights at any general meetings of the Association.

Associate membership may include those who, on retirement / valediction from their current position, will be entitled to Full Membership. Associate membership may include Full Members of other similar Ex-chorister Associations throughout the United Kingdom, whose closest Cathedral by virtue of their residency, is St. Albans.

Associate membership may include all current Clergy of St. Albans Cathedral.

4.2 Management Committee

The Management Committee shall comprise the Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, as Office Bearers, together with a maximum of ten general committee members representing former choristers of the Cathedral Choirs and Lay Clerks.

It is desirable that the position of either Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson should be held by a former member of the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Girls Choir.

Committee Meetings

The Management Committee shall meet at least once a year, in addition to the Annual General Meeting. Four shall be the required quorum for a committee meeting to be held.

Minutes of committee meetings shall be maintained to record all topics debated and resolutions shall be proposed and agreed and properly recorded. A copy of the minutes shall be signed by the person chairing the meeting and retained by the Honorary Secretary.

Proposals and resolutions shall be carried by simple majority of those attending with the person chairing the meeting having a casting vote.

The Management Committee shall have the power to:

- Manage and administer the business of the Association according to the constitution and shall in all things act for and in the name of the Association
- Co-opt members to assist them in the administration of special functions
- Deal with any matter not covered by this Constitution

Elections of Officers

Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

The Office Bearers shall hold office for one year or until such time as they submit their resignation or when 15 full members of Association submit to the Honorary Secretary a written request for a General Meeting to be held in order to appoint an alternative member to a committee position.

The Committee shall be empowered to co-opt members to the committee at its discretion, in particular those with specific and required expertise. Co-opted members shall have the right to vote at Committee Meetings.

4.3 Association Events

All members of the Association shall be invited to meet once a year, on a date agreed by the Committee with the Master of the Music and the Dean of the Cathedral, for the purposes of attending the Annual General Meeting for which the quorum shall be the numbers attending.

The Committee shall be empowered to organise other events including Reunions and attendances at Services of Choral Evensong, other musical and non-musical events and social gatherings.

5. Finance & General Management

The Committee shall have all necessary powers to ensure the proper running of the Association including, for the avoidance of doubt, the powers to open bank accounts and generally administer all dealings and finances of the Association, in a prudent manner.

The financial year of the Association shall end on 31st March with financial statements being produced and presented to the members at the next Annual General Meeting.

Financial statements may be subject to audit or independent scrutiny by such person and in such form as determined by the Committee.

6. Subscriptions

The Committee shall have the power to levy an Annual Subscription on Members of the Association and determine the amounts thereof for the various categories of membership. Such proposal of a Subscription shall be required to be put to an Annual General Meeting of the Association for approval or rejection by a simple majority of members attending the Annual General Meeting in accordance with item 7 of this Constitution.

7. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to this Constitution shall be presented to members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting and shall be approved by simple majority with the person chairing the meeting having a casting vote.

8. Dissolution of the Association

Upon the winding-up and dissolution of the Association all bank accounts shall be closed, and all monies held shall be transferred to the Cathedral Treasurer for the account of the Cathedral Music Trust.