

The Choir Association of St John's College, Cambridge

Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18 January 2020

In the Lecture Theatre, Old Divinity School, St John's College

Present: Mr Simon Robson Brown (Chairman), Miss Caroline Marks (Choir Administrator), Mrs Anna Ahuja, Rev'd Anthony Bushell, Mr Tom Cogan, Mr Dominic Collingwood, Mrs Suzanna D'Oyly, Mr David Garrett, Mr Edward Hart, Mr Richard Hart, Mrs Rosemary Hart, Mr Selwyn Image, Mr Tim Jones, Mr Laurence Kidman, Miss Jill McMahon, Mr Alastair Roberts, Dr Sophia Wellbeloved, Mr David Wilson and Mrs Yuko Wilkinson.

Apologies: Rev'd Mark Oakley (Dean of Chapel), Mr Andrew Nethsingha (Director of Music), Mr Tom Butler (Gent's representative), Mr Peter Ball, Mr Francis Burrows, Mr Brian Coleman, Mr Peter Davis, Mr Glen Dempsey, Mr Rupert Forbes, Dr Ron Hyam, Dr David Hill, Mrs Jane Jackson, Mr Jonathan Jones, Mr Dan Jordan, Mr Michael Lumley, The Rev'd Victor Malan, Mrs Anne Matthewman, Commander Mark Metcalf, Mr Martin Redfearn and Mr Paul Woodward.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. He offered apologies for absence from the Dean of Chapel, who was away from Cambridge undertaking a long-standing speaking engagement.

2. Reflection – Professor Sir Christopher Dobson

The Chairman made a warm tribute to Professor Sir Christopher Dobson, the President of the Association from 2008 to 2019.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 19 January 2019

The Minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Income and Expenditure for the financial year ended 30 June 2019

An Income and Expenditure sheet for the year ended 30 June 2019 was distributed to those present. Caroline Marks reported that income had shown a downturn – she would be looking into the reasons for this once the tour to the USA was completed. There had been no further expenditure on the database project in 2018-19. Catering costs had increased significantly, this was a result of the revised tariffs charged by the Catering & Conference Department, which applied throughout the College. Otherwise costs were broadly in line with the previous year.

5. Choir Association Social Activities 2019

Caroline Marks reported that around 130 Members, Friends and Choir families had attended the Epiphany Carol Service tea in January, and around 210 Members, Friends and Choir families had attended the Garden Party in June. The Choir Reunion Evensong and

Dinner in July had been attended by 220 members and had been deemed a great success by those attending. The next Reunion Dinner would take place in 2024 to coincide with the Centenary of George Guest's birth. In view of the number of social engagements during the summer of 2019, the Committee had made the decision to hold over the London Drinks Party to spring 2020.

6. Choir Association Administration

i) Staffing

Caroline Marks reported that it had not yet been possible to recruit to the post of Choir Association Administrator, but that she hoped an appointment would be made soon.

ii) Communications

A Newsletter had been issued in the summer which rounded up the 2018-19 Academic Year. The next Newsletter would be issued in summer 2020 covering the 2019-20 Academic Year.

7. Choir Association Bursary Awards 2019

Caroline Marks reported that three grants totalling £3,000 had been awarded in 2019. The three recipients had all expressed their gratitude to the Association for the vital financial support provided towards the cost of their studies.

8. Choir activities

James Beddoe had prepared a presentation on the Choir's activities during 2019. Caroline Marks reported there had been three tours – Sweden at Easter, followed by Aix en Provence and the Netherlands in December. Two CDs had been released – *Locus Iste* in April and *Magnificat* in October. There had also been joint services with Gonville & Caius, Clare and King's Colleges – the latter being one of Sir Stephen Cleobury's last services before retirement. To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Chapel, the College had commissioned a piece of music from Julian Anderson.

Future Choir plans included a tour to the USA at Easter and the release of two CDs – Ash Wednesday on Friday 21 February and Pious Anthems and Voluntaries (music by Michael Finnissy) on Friday 26 June.

The College has a pastoral link with the Church of St John the Divine in Kennington and regularly hosts the church choir for a residential weekend of services in late July. In May 2019 the church choir joined with the College Choir for a Joint Evensong – the photographs displayed showed lots of enthusiasm for these events from the visiting children.

9. Appointment of Honorary Patrons

The Chairman reported that Lady Dobson had accepted the invitation to become an Honorary Patron of the Association.

10. Election of Committee members

The Chairman reported that Mrs Suzanna D'Oyly had been co-opted onto the Committee during 2019 pending formal appointment at the AGM:

Mrs Suzanna D'Oyly	St Johns's College School nominated member
	Nominated by Selwyn Image
	Seconded by Dominic Collingwood

The Chairman reported that there were two Members of the Committee standing for re-election for a further three years from January 2020 and nominations had been received as follows:

Mr Dominic Collingwood	Former Choral Scholar
	Nominated by Jill MacMahon
	Seconded by Tim Jones
Mr David Garrett	Former Chorister
	Nominated by Alastair Roberts
	Seconded by Tim Jones

The nominations were approved unanimously by those present.

11. Election of a Chairman

The Chairman reported that he had come to the end of his second term of office and was required to stand down at this meeting. Tim Jones had agreed to put himself forward for the role. The Chairman invited Tim to give a short resume of his background. The Chairman then proposed that Tim Jones should be appointed for three years, this was seconded by Alastair Roberts and David Garrett.

Tim Jones took the chair for the rest of the meeting.

12. Any other business

Caroline Marks reported that Philip White, the former Association Administration Assistant, had sadly passed away in October following a short illness. The College and Association were represented at his funeral.

Alastair Roberts noted that Ursula Howells had agreed to act as Patron of the Association when it was first founded. He felt that this should continue to be recorded. Caroline Marks would look into options for listing her as 'Founding Patron' on letterheads and the website.

Jill MacMahon asked if the tenure of an Honorary Patron was for life. Caroline Marks confirmed this was the default position, although a person could ask to resign if they wished.

13. Vote of thanks

Tim Jones thanked Simon Robson Brown for his leadership of the Association over the past six years, and for his nine years as a member of the Committee. He also thanked Selwyn Image for his membership of the Committee over the past nine years.

14. Date of next Annual General Meeting

Saturday 23 January 2021 at 3.30 p.m.

C.F.M.
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