

The Choir Association of St John's College, Cambridge

Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 20 January 2018

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

Present: Mr Simon Robson Brown (Chairman), Rev'd Carol Barrett Ford (Acting Dean), Miss Caroline Marks (Choir Administrator), Mr James Beddoe (Choir Marketing and Communications Officer), Mr Roger Brown, Rev'd Anthony Bushell, Mrs Gillian Flinn, Mr Miguel Fragoso, Mr David Garrett, Mr Edward Hart, Mr Selwyn Image, Ms Jane Jackson, Mr Tim Jones, Mr Laurence Kidman, Rev'd Victor Malan, Ms Jill McMahon, Mr Martin Redfearn, Mr Alastair Roberts and Mrs Christi Seyd Brown.

Apologies: The Master (President), Mr Andrew Nethsingha (Director of Music), Ms Fiona Whelan (Secretary), Mr Peter Ball, Mr Daniel Brown, Mr Archie Burdon-Cooper, Mr Neil Chippington, Mr Dominic Collingwood, Mr Richard Davies, Mr Peter Davis, Mr Martin Roberts, Mrs Angharad Watkin, Mr Howard Wiles and Mr David Wilson.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. He also welcomed the Rev'd Barrett Ford, the Acting Dean, to her first meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 21 January 2017

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

3. Income and Expenditure for the financial year ended 30 June 2017

Caroline Marks commented on the figures in the spreadsheet, in particular where there had been significant changes on the previous year. The Chairman enquired what happened to the surplus of income over expenditure – could this be returned to the Association at a later stage? Caroline Marks reported that, in line with the terms of the Constitution, the money was used to support the Choir's activities. She further reported that the residual balance transferred from the Old Association was currently valued in the region of £29k.

Caroline Marks reported that donations totalling £2.7k had been received from Choir Association members to support the recording of *Kyrie*, which had been released in September 2017. The donations received for the Vaughan Williams disc currently totalled £12.5k, including a single donation of £10k from one donor.

Caroline Marks reported that a legacy campaign for the Choir Association had been launched during 2017. Any member of the Association who signed up to the legacy campaign would automatically be enrolled as a member of the College's Beaufort Society. Leaflets would be available after the meeting. Mr Redfearn enquired whether these leaflets would be widely available in Chapel and at external Choir events. The Acting Dean outlined plans for the re-ordering of the Ante Chapel, which would include a provision for leaflet display. Caroline Marks explained that it is not

usually contractually permissible to actively fundraise in external venues, opportunities are therefore limited, but are taken up where they exist.

4. Choir Association Social Activities 2017

Caroline Marks reported that almost 150 people had attended the Epiphany Carol Service tea in 2017, approximately 50 more than had indicated they would be attending. Although the numbers responding to the invitation this year were in the region of 90, she had 'over catered' in anticipation that the numbers who actually attended would be similar to last year.

The London Drinks Party had been held at the Francis Taylor Building Chambers, courtesy of Mrs Morag Bushell. Two Honorary Fellows and thirty Association members had been present. Laurence Kidman reported that he had attended and offered his thanks for an excellent event.

The Garden Party had been held in the Master's Lodge Garden, by kind permission of the President and Dr Dobson. The weather had been very kind and the afternoon was enjoyed by all who attended. Again numbers attending had been much higher than the number of responses received.

5. Choir Association Administration

i) Employment of Fiona Whelan

Fiona Whelan had been working on the merger of the Choir Association database with the Development Office database (Raiser's Edge) since the beginning of June. The project had taken more time than had originally been predicted, but the end result was a 'clean' set of data to operate with going forward.

ii) Communications

a) Newsletter

Caroline Marks reported that feedback following the issue of recent Newsletters had been very positive. Fiona Whelan was in the process of putting together the next edition, which would be issued shortly. Members were invited to submit articles or news items which they felt would be appropriate for publication.

b) Christmas Card

Caroline Marks reported there had been quality issues with the colouring of the Christmas Card, but it had been too close to posting deadlines to order a reprint. Martin Redfearn expressed his disappointment at the non-seasonal theme of the card and felt it was difficult to understand the message it was trying to give. Carol Barrett Ford said the message was inclusiveness – the younger members of the Choir were integrating with the older members. However she recognised this had probably not

projected terribly strongly. The Chairman reported that a more seasonal card would be designed for 2018.

c) Membership Cards

Caroline Marks reported that Fiona Whelan would shortly be sending out new Membership Cards – the issue had been delayed because she had been focussing on the database project. Jill McMahon enquired whether, in order to replace plastic waste, consideration had been given to issuing holographic self-adhesive stickers that could be applied to the back of existing cards. Caroline Marks agreed to explore this possibility.

6. Choir Social Media activity

James Beddoe gave an audio visual presentation on the work he was doing to promote social media activity, including video clips of the recent tour to Hungary and Germany. He was congratulated on his achievements, in particular the quality and variety of what was now available, and the surge in interaction with the Choir's activities since he took up his position in October 2016.

7. Choir activities

Caroline Marks reported on the Choir's recent Christmas tour, the plans for the forthcoming tour to the Far East and plans for Christmas 2018 and beyond.

Members were invited to attend the pre-tour Concert in Chapel on Monday 19 March.

8. Chapel 150th Anniversary activities 2019

Caroline Marks reported that plans for the Choir Reunion Event on Friday 12 July 2019 were in progress. Tea would be followed by Evensong and a Dinner in Hall. A simultaneous barbeque would be held for current Choristers/Probationers and their families, and those members of the Association who had not yet reached the age of 18.

9. Appointment of an Honorary Patron

The Chairman reported that Iestyn Davies had been invited to become an Honorary Patron of the Association. Iestyn had very enthusiastically accepted.

10. Election of Committee members

The Chairman reported that there were two vacancies on the Committee to be filled for three years from January 2018 and nominations had been received as follows:

Mr Tim Jones	Former Chorister and Choral Scholar
	Nominated by David Garrett
	Seconded by Dan Jordan

Ms Jill McMahon

Supporting Member

Nominated by

Dan Jordan

Seconded by

Selwyn Image

The Chairman invited Tim Jones and Jill McMahon to give a brief introduction of their background at the meeting.

The nominations were approved unanimously by those present. The Chairman welcomed them to the Committee.

11. Farewell and thanks to departing Committee Members

The Chairman reported that Gillian Flinn (Supporting Member) and Martin Redfearn (former Chorister member) had both served the maximum term on the Committee. He thanked them both for their services over the past nine years and wished them well for the future.

The Chairman also recorded the Association's thanks to the Rev'd Duncan Dormor, former Dean of Chapel, for his support to the Association during his term of office.

12. Any other business

Alastair Roberts enquired whether the Association currently made any reference to Ursula Howells, who was the very first Patron of the Association. It was agreed that Alastair would write an article about Ursula and her involvement with the Association for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

13. Date of next Annual General Meeting

Saturday 19 January 2019 at 3.30 p.m.

C.F.M.
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