

Exeter Cathedral Old Choristers Association AGM - Monday 22nd April 2019 at 17:00

1. Welcome from the Chairman and Precentor - JM thanked the association on behalf of the D&C and spoke of how invaluable the ECOCA are. JM is now precentor rep for the FCM and in comparison to other cathedrals Exeter is leading the way in chorister recruitment and the old chorister's association in Exeter is also one of the best in the country.

1b. Apologies from: *List at the foot of the minutes.*

2. Tim Hampshire, Richard Fellows, Chris Hall

3. Accepted

4. No matters

5. 2018/2019 has been a busy and fulfilling year. Things in the Cathedral have settled down since various organisational changes. TN thanked his colleagues for their hard work TP, HF, JM, SF and chaperones.

- 2018 tour to Bratislava and Vienna was a great success
- 2018 CD recording was successfully completed after the tour
- May 2018 - The Cathedral choir performed Bach's B minor mass with the University

Chapel Choir.

- The last Sunday of the summer term the Nelson Mass was performed with an Orchestra.
- October 2018 - The Cathedral Choir performed its Orchestral Evensong with the Exeter Symphony orchestra.
- Christmas 2018 was busy as normal with another performance of Handel's Messiah

alongside the usual commitments.

- January voice trials were successful. 25 applicants for no more than 9 places. The standard of applicants was very high allowing for 20 girls and 20 boys in September 2019.
- Hugely successful holy week which was started by Bach's St John Passion on Palm Sunday.

- Trinity 2019 is a busy term. On the 12th of May there will be a collaborative evensong with Truro Cathedral choir.

- June Summer Concert with Devon Baroque to raise funds for the Music Foundation Trust.

- Just before the end of the summer term for a British company that brings Americans to the UK to experience English culture. As part of their historical tour they have a variety of musical concerts (such as Tenebrae/Sixteen). This year is their first trip down to the West-country and have asked the Cathedral choir to perform. The fees will help the tour fund.

- October 2019 - Concert with the City of London Orchestra

- 17th November is the 25th Anniversary of Girl Choristers at Exeter Cathedral to include a commission (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis) by Nico Muhly. TN hopes that the Muhly 'Exeter Service' will become part of Cathedral repertoire across the country.

- Over Easter 2020 the choir will be touring the US within New York and Boston to promote the launch the 'American Friends of Exeter Cathedral.'

6. JF hoped that the OC's felt well looked after today and welcomed everyone back. The Headmaster thanked the association for all their support to the choristers. There are choristers that are able to be in the Cathedral choir due to the support of the ECOCA.

- ECS have created a specific aim for the school for the first time. (JT to get them from JF)
- DoM has been in post for 2 terms. Dylan was former Head of Brass at Wellington College in Berkshire. Sean Fitzpatrick works alongside Dylan as Assistant Director of Music and Chorister tutor.
- The Charity concert featured every pupil from Year 3 to Year 8 and raised £4000 for Farms for City Children. There are now 3 compulsory choirs throughout the school.
- There is a new head of boarding who is also the Head of Languages and the numbers within boarding are healthy.
- Record Academic Success in 2018. 51% of all CE papers were graded A* or A.
A* - B was 79%.
- Best scholarship results for leavers in 2019.
2015 was 54% where as in 2019 81% of Year 8 pupils have been awarded a scholarship or exhibition.
- 66% of all ABRSM graded at Distinction or Merit
- 100% of all Trinity Exams at Distinction
- A full Musical was performed at the end of Trinity Term 2018. Alice's Musical Adventure in Wonderland.
- In 2019 there will be a Musical Extravaganza in the Corn Exchange.

7. Chairman's report.

8. Treasurer's report - *Proposed* - Jonathan Edwards *Seconded* - John Pedlar.

9. 2019 it was £15. GP proposed to stay at £15, NP seconded.

10. Bursary fund.

- 2017 accounts were signed off by independent reviewer and send to charities commission website.
- 2018 accounts - £22,328 of investment income.
- In 2018 DA invested £60,000 of the £150k (approx) cash in the bank.
- 2018 expenditure - £11,300 (would have been £16,450 due to a missing invoice)
- There was a reduction in investments last year as there was a global reduction in all investments.

11. Carole Dobson is happy to continue as IE for P - GP, S - GM.

John Clifford would like to step down from Bursary fund but will do 2019. P - DA, S - GM.
Carole Dobson

12. Charles to continue as Chair - P - JT, S - JP

Jonny to continue as Secretary - P - CP, S - NP

Gordon to continue as Treasurer - P - DA, S - Eric Dare.

Charlotte Smith (P- CR, S- HD) and Hannah Deasy (P- JT, S- CS) to join committee.

CR proposes to reelect the rest of the committee enmass - HD - seconded.

13. AOB - Commision by Nico Muhly for the 25th Anniversary will cost the Cathedral £6400. The association have been asked if they would like to make a contribution. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer have suggested to use some of the Frank Cotton fund. The Association agreed to make a contribution of £1000 towards the commission.

25th Anniversary - When are the invites being sent out to the former girl choristers?
Committee to discuss this with the Precentor.

List of apologies for the 2019 reunion:

Mr Lucian Nethsingha, Martin Lister, Jonathan Sturtridge, David Davies, Donald Rutter, Lea Grocott, meiling Daniell-Greenhalgh, Nicholas Hotswell, Roger Cleverdon, Carl Williams, Richard Abbott, William Hopkins, Anya Yeld, Howard Grawshaw, Pamela Carter Baker, Simon Beattie, Andrew Hydon, Neville Gibbings, Christopher Helyer, Chris Michelmore, Andrew Watts, Andrew Nethsingha, Matt Smith, Ellie Smith, John Thomas.