

ASSOCIATION OF CATHEDRAL VOLUNTARY CHOIRS

FESTIVAL AT DERBY 20 - 21 OCTOBER 2007

Notes on Meeting with ACVC representatives 21/10/07, created and circulated by Hazel Blackhall, Derby.

Representatives of Chelmsford, Exeter, Derby, Guildford, Peterborough, Rochester, Wells and Worcester Voluntary Choirs met after Eucharist at the Derby festival on 21st October 2007.

Thanks were expressed to Derby for the weekend and discussions took place about the association and the next venue.

Concern was expressed about the non-attendance of some choirs. Derby had had apologies from Salisbury (abroad), Southwell (singing at their own Cathedral), Truro (had a concert on Saturday), but had not heard from others. An email had been sent to some others but no response except from Chelmsford who had sent some singers.

The bank account was discussed and how new rules and regulations had made it awkward for Derby to access the account. Derby reported that as yet they had not used it but might use some money to pay for the Brass group used at Eucharist. When the next hosts are certain the account will then be passed on again.

Exeter reported they had found the music challenging and would have liked longer to learn it but other choirs were happy with the timescale Derby had provided. It is difficult to find music challenging enough, but not too difficult. Derby had tried to ease the pressure by not adding introits and extra anthems. The apparent loss of the archive to be sent round to the host choirs was discussed. It was noted that it had gone missing sometime after the Guildford festival in 1998 and efforts were going to be made to recover it (or ascertain its whereabouts!)

Glenn Fiddy (Peterborough) offered to act as a central link to keep information about choirs. He asked for any archive material and pictures to be sent to him to start rebuilding the archive.

The web site is being constantly updated and all information is to go to Douglas Henn-Macrae at Rochester.

Chelmsford has provisionally offered to host the next festival with Wells standing by if necessary. It was decided to contact other choirs such as Hereford to see if they would like to host the festival in 2012 before we start repeating a host. Hereford had expressed an interest but needed at least 2 years notice to avoid clashes with 3 choirs festivals. Helen from Derby will pass on Ely's details to Glenn as they are wishing to become a member but are a new choir. It was suggested that before they offered to host a weekend it was important that they attend a gathering to see the format and what is entailed.

## ACVC

The following are very brief and incomplete personal notes made by Jane James (Wells) at the meeting held at Derby after the ACVC Festival 21/10/07.

These notes are in no way an official record of the discussions which took place, and were not circulated. Official notes were kept and sent round by Derby, and appear on the previous page.

It was reported that the list on the website is now up to date, and that all were invited to Derby for the Festival. No reply was received from St Asaph and Chester. Others were unable to attend. Derby only started issuing invitations in May.

Members as listed on website:

Chelmsford (hosts 2009)	Birmingham
Chester (hosts 2000)	Bury St Edmunds
Derby (hosts 2007)	Carlisle
Edinburgh	Coventry
Exeter (hosts 2003)	Lichfield
Guildford (hosts 1998)	St Asaph
Peterborough (hosts 2006)	Salisbury
Rochester (hosts 2004)	Truro
Southwell	
Wells (first hosts 1997)	
Worcester (hosts 2001)	

Derby had found some difficulty with the bank account and there was discussion as to whether it needs to change. They had not been able to change the signatories, so had opened a new account.

Lynne Browning asked that we have minutes of these meetings. Nothing was sent after Peterborough, and it would be good to have feedback, including minutes and numbers attending from each Cathedral.

The website is out of date. Past events should be updated, including details of music sung at Festivals.

Derby promised to do a write-up.

There was concern that the archives have been lost. They should have been passed from host city to host city each year, but have disappeared. Guildford had them, then Chester should have done. Worcester is to ask their Secretary if anything is known.

Lynne said that she is having second thoughts about the set-up of the association. Should we have regional meetings?

Glen Fiddy (Peterborough) said he is willing to be the pivotal contact, as well as trying to encourage more choirs to join the association. He gave his contact details as:  
Glen Fiddy, 14 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8DA. 01778 345676. [glenfiddy@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:glenfiddy@tiscali.co.uk).  
He is happy to liaise with Douglas Henn-Macrae about trying to get photos onto the website.

Chelmsford said that they would like to host the festival in 2009. They have a new Precentor who seems supportive. The previous Director of Music at the Cathedral was not keen on holding an ACVC Festival. There is to be an annual festival at Chelmsford in May so the Dean and Chapter might be in favour. They will make a decision in the next month or six weeks, and get in touch by the end of November. The suggested weekend is the Bank Holiday weekend of 2 - 3 May 2009.

Hereford should be able to hold one in October 2010, but no sooner.

Southwell was mentioned for May 2012.

Wells said that they would of course be willing to step into the breach if necessary, though it was felt to be better to continue to hold the Festival at Cathedrals which have not yet hosted one.

Exeter asked whether it was possible to have the music earlier in future. Other choirs felt that they had no problems with the timing.

*Jane James (Wells) October 2007*