

Association of Cathedral Voluntary Choirs

Meeting of the Choir Representatives
Sunday May 3rd 2009
Chelmsford Cathedral Song School

Present: Hazel Blackhall (Derby), Barbara Edmund (Exeter), Pauline Powell (Hereford), Elisabeth Costley-White (Wells), Nancy McGiveron (Wells), Jane James (Wells), Lynne Browning (Wells), Pauline Read (Guildford), Trish Lambert (Guildford), John Bleney (Worcester), Leon Joynes (Worcester), Douglas Henn-Macrae (Rochester), Mervyn Marshall (Chelmsford), Elizabeth Marshall (Chelmsford)

Apologies were received from Rosemary Clemence (Rochester).

1. Review of 2009 Festival

It was noted that one of the responsibilities of the host choir should be to make sure that a venue for the festival in three years' time is agreed in advance of their festival and confirmed at the meeting following their festival. The meeting should also discuss the festival 4½ years ahead so that delegates can go home to discuss/confirm with their cathedrals. Chelmsford apologised for not having contacted other choirs beforehand to set this up but had been unaware that this had been up to them.

Wells requested proof copies of the photograph so that each choir can add names. Rob Hall will be supplying a low resolution copy which Douglas will put on the ACVC website. If possible, the host choir should also produce a newsletter as their 'signing off' with confirmation of the next two festival venues, dates and organisers, news of the web-site progress and listing all the members of the association with their contact details plus any other VC news submitted.

2. 2010 Festival

Hereford was the only choir attending who have not yet hosted a festival. Pauline agreed to go back to their Chapter to request permission. Worcester offered to host for a second time and Exeter were also interested as Paul Morgan is retiring. If we were prepared to move to September, it might be possible to feature his music as he had been very supportive in the setting up of the original Association. It was agreed that all three choirs would come back to Elizabeth with their offers – if possible by the end of May.

3. Spring 2012 Festival / Autumn 2013 Festival

Exeter, Hereford or Worcester, depending on the decision about October 2010.

Rochester also hold a celebration of Rochester composers and invite any interested choirs for Dr Robert Ashfield's centenary in July 2011. It was noted that regional festivals were intended to be a feature of the Association

4. Finance

Chelmsford reported that there had been problems in changing the bank account signatories on receiving the paperwork from Derby. Having asked the bank to set up a new account and to close the original they had been told that this was not possible. However when the bank lost all the files in sending them back to Derby they themselves suggested opening a new account and this was eventually done. Chelmsford are extremely grateful to their Chapter Treasurer who banked all the choir cheques and paid our deposits while we waited for the account to be opened.

The meeting felt that it might be better for Cathedrals to use their own accounts and produce inspected accounts at the end of each festival.

The expenses for the Chelmsford Festival will be high, mainly because of the hire charge for the Shire Hall for the dinner (£632). We had had to make the decision not to pass on the full cost to choir members as it was thought that too high a dinner cost would have reduced the numbers wishing to attend.

5. Event Insurance

Mervyn had asked for this to be included on the Agenda, given the recent possibility of a flu pandemic. The media had been speaking of the possibility of a government ruling of no large public gatherings which would have meant severe financial embarrassment if we had had to cancel. Event Insurance would cover cancellation and might be prudent for future festivals. (www.events-insurance.co.uk £100-200 premium)

6. Current Contact List

Douglas Henn-Macrae has a list of contacts: members were asked to check that theirs are correct.

7. Any Other Business

St Asaph had been contacted but currently has no Voluntary Choir though they had responded to the original invitation.

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich have a ladies choir but were committed this weekend.

Ely, Truro and Southwell had not replied. Lichfield had expressed interest in February but had not taken it further.

Lynne said she was prepared to repeat next year her survey from 15 years ago, if it was felt useful. Douglas offered to assist.

Lynne thanked Douglas for the work he had done recently on the web-site and gave him a CD of some of the archive material which was thought not to have been passed on after the Chester festival.

Lynne requested that photographs for the web-site from previous years be labelled with the names of those attending.

Trish asked for thanks for a very successful weekend to be passed to everyone who helped in whatever way.

EJ Marshall

13.5.09

In the notes you pass on, it would also be good to put in place what has usually happened in the past re public thank yous. If the host from the last festival gives the vote of thanks after the dinner and the next host gives the thanks at the final meeting (or vice versa) it ensures that there isn't a nasty silence awaiting 'some one' getting up!