

ASSOCIATION OF CATHEDRAL VOLUNTARY CHOIRS

Meeting of choir representatives at Lichfield Cathedral on Sunday 19 July 2015

chaired by Megan Barr of the host choir.

1. Representatives attending: list attached below.

2. Matters arising from last year's minutes:

Future festivals: No further details yet from Guildford regarding their offer to host in 2018. Wells confirmed their offer to host in 2016 (29/30 October), the 20th anniversary of the formation of ACVC.

Mixed seating at the dinner: Had worked well this time – future host choirs would need to ensure their members carried out this policy.

Low representation: Some cathedrals still seemed to think it wasn't worth sending a small number to the festival – a clear policy needed to be issued from the Central Committee (see below).

3. Finance: The Lichfield Treasurer would provide a breakdown of income and expenditure and a copy would be circulated to each participating choir. The balance would be forwarded to Wells, next year's host cathedral.

4. General discussion: Points mentioned in the Derby minutes continued to be the main focus of discussion, i.e. communication problems, the extent to which the website can contribute in this area, and the need for an appropriately structured Central Committee.

It was proposed that a Permanent Standing Committee (PSC) be established, to which a representative from the next host cathedral be added on a temporary basis. The PSC would first need to draw up and circulate its Terms of Reference, with its role and responsibilities clearly defined, and establish the extent to which it should act as the focal point for communications.

One obvious role would be to provide guidelines as to what's involved in holding the annual festival (see 5 below), acting where appropriate as the link between the host and participating cathedrals.

The website, with Douglas (Rochester) and Ben (Wells) taking the lead in determining whether in its current form it represented the most suitable vehicle for assisting with inter-cathedral communications, could also fit within the responsibilities of the PSC.

5. Areas for consideration by a host choir: The following suggestions were made:

When selecting the programme, it is preferable for the MD to aim for a balance in respect of difficulty, and to incorporate some 'new' music rather than just concentrate on well-known standard repertoire.

Specify the edition required, and provide a list of the markings.

Produce a booklet incorporating in order the hymns, responses and psalms, and any music which might need to be downloaded, and e-mail it as a PDF booklet to participating cathedrals.

All the above information to be provided well in advance, to give participating choirs adequate time to obtain the music and to rehearse.

Ensure that participating choirs provide the host with accurate details of those attending, names/voice parts including whether first or second choir/any particular problems of a mobility or dietary nature.

Organise a method of processing if practical.

6. AOB:

An ACVC logo – suggestions, for use on letterheads, the website, cakes, etc, should be submitted to Jane James by the end of October half-term.

Wells were hoping to commission a piece from Bob Chilcott. This had not yet reached the stage of being costed – if substantial they would have to consider if appropriate to use part of the annual expenses fund transferred to the next host choir.

Each choir was asked to check their cathedral's insurance policy regarding Public Liability in respect of any accident to a member of a visiting choir.

Worcester had produced a short recruitment DVD sent to local schools – it could be viewed on their cathedral website.

Derby to check what had happened to their photo

Megan Barr was congratulated on organising a successful event at Lichfield Cathedral, incorporating an entertaining dinner and providing two splendid cakes for distribution to the delighted morning service congregation. Martyn Rawles, cathedral organist and MD of the Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Choir, was also praised both for his choice of music and his sympathetic and humorous rehearsal style.

Total numbers taking part in the weekend's festival were as follows:-

Choir members: 89 + 1 soloist

Dinner attendance: 95 (including 4 complimentary)

Total weekend attendance including guests: 120

Minutes taken by Geoff Mason

ACVC Representatives meeting – 19/07/2015

Cathedral	Representative	Best contact
Wells	Kath Bristow	kybristow@ndirect.co.uk
"	Jane James	
"	Nancy McGiveron	
"	Lynne Browning	
"	Michael Cockerham	mgc1@gmail.com
"	Ben Potter	ben@dunviewin.org.uk
Chelmsford	Elizabeth Marshall	ej.marshall@blueyonder.co.uk
Rochester	Douglas Henn-Macrae	douglas@gundulf.org.uk
"	Rosemary Clemence	rosemaryclemence@gmail.com
Derby	Helen Nash	nashes466@ad.com
Hereford	Pauline Powell	pollyf1965@gmail.com
Worcester	Leon Joynes	
"	John Bleney	justinmiller@worcestercathedral.org.uk
Ely	Emma Greenfield	greenoaks@tesco.net
Exeter	Monika Schmidt	monika.devon@gmail.com
Lichfield	Megan Barr	megbarr@yahoo.com
"	Malcolm Piper (treasurer)	
"	Geoff Mason(minutes)	