

ASSOCIATION OF CATHEDRAL VOLUNTARY CHOIRS

REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING

held in the Education Room at Wells Cathedral at 12.30pm Sunday 30 October 2016

1. Representatives in attendance:

<u>Wells CVC (1997, 2016):</u>	Michael Cockerham (Chairman), Jane James (Secretary), Kath Bristow (Festival Treasurer), Lynne Browning, Nancy McGiveron
<u>Guildford Cathedral Singers (1998, 2018):</u>	Pauline Read, Trish Lambert
<u>Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Choir (2015):</u>	Sarah Elsom
<u>Carlisle Choir, Carlisle:</u>	Hilary Lawrence
<u>Chelmsford CVC (2009):</u>	Lucy Bubb (apologies from Elizabeth Marshall)
<u>Derby CVC (2007, 2014):</u>	Helen Nash
<u>Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers (2012):</u>	Emma Greenfield
<u>St Peter's Singers, Exeter (2003):</u>	Monika Schmidt
<u>Hereford CVC:</u>	Pauline Powell
<u>Rochester CVC (2004):</u>	Douglas Henn-Macrae (Dir), Rosemary Clemence
<u>Worcester CVC (2001, 2010):</u>	John Bleney, Leon Joynes

Apologies were received from:

<u>St David's CS:</u>	Rona Liggitt
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2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2015 at Lichfield Cathedral had been circulated prior to the meeting, together with Final Income & Expenditure sheet.

At the last two meetings at Derby and Lichfield it was decided to create a central "e-Committee". However as nothing has happened over the last eighteen months, the need for such a committee was once again discussed. Megan Barr from Lichfield and Jane James from Wells worked hard to update the contact details of all the Cathedrals with Voluntary Choirs both before and after Lichfield 2015. The handover from Lichfield to Wells then went very smoothly. If this continues with the handover from Wells to Guildford, there should be no need for a central committee. The website also creates an extra central channel for information.

At this point Douglas Henn-Macrae expressed his personal thanks to Ben Potter and his team at Wells for upgrading the website to one which can be easily managed by the current ACVC host choir.

Helen Nash expressed concern that the official photo from Derby 2014 seemed to have disappeared. However a hard copy has appeared on their display, so will be scanned, sent to Jane, and added to the ACVC website as soon as is feasible. *(Post meeting note: this turned out to be from 2007, so if anyone has any photos from 2014 please could they let Helen and Jane know.)*

It was suggested that it is much easier to have a single booklet of music for an ACVC weekend, rather than lots of separate pieces of paper. This would cut down on the amount of paper rustling in services. It was agreed that when PDFs of extra pieces of music are circulated electronically it is up to each choir to make their own booklet. They should perhaps be encouraged to do this.

The host choir should ensure that they have enough correct contacts to circulate information to, so that nothing can get lost in the wrong department.

3. Finances - Treasurer's time: Kath Bristow, Treasurer for Wells 2016, reported that we should be able to circulate a spreadsheet of the accounts by the end of November. At that point she will also send a cheque for the float of approximately £1400 to Guildford.

Although a healthy float is necessary, Kath asked whether it is currently too large. We have invested an amount of approximately £233 on ACVC sashes and badges which will be passed to the next host for future use. We have also paid a single fee of £30 and committed to an annual expenditure of (currently) £59.94 for hosting the new website. It was agreed by all present that there are always bills to be paid up front, before any fees can be claimed from visiting choirs, so £1400 is thought to be a realistic amount.

At this point Jane expressed thanks to Kath for creating an ACVC logo which was used on the sashes and also on the cake. Last year at Lichfield it was agreed that a logo was desirable, but nothing had happened, so Kath created one in the summer when we organised the purchase of the sashes.

4. **Website:** The acvc.org.uk website has been upgraded by Ben Potter of Wells to a more user-friendly "Wordpress" site. This means that each host choir can take over the use and upkeep of the site, passing it on when ready to the next hosts. Jane said that it is very easy to use - she has done quite a bit of work on it, and will update various pages before it is passed on.

Ben has offered to go to Guildford, possibly with Kath and/or Jane, to train someone in the use and management of the website.

Pauline and Trish said that they have identified Katrina Jenkins, a member of their choir and Events Organiser at Guildford Cathedral, who is happy to take on the management of the site when it is passed to them. Katrina's email address for future reference is katrina@guildford-cathedral.org.

5. **Future festivals:**

26 - 27 May 2018: Guildford Cathedral Singers have kindly offered to host this. Pauline and Trish confirmed this, and reminded everyone that the Cathedral is out of town, on the top of a hill, unlike many Cathedrals which are in the city centre. They sound very organised already, with a venue being booked for dinner, and everything starting to be organised.

Autumn 2019: Douglas Henn-Macrae has offered to host this festival at Rochester. He would like to do another before he retires, as he will have been Director of Rochester CVC for 25 years in the autumn! He hopes to avoid a weekend when we should all be on duty at home, All Saints weekend being a prime example of this. He will circulate some suggested dates so that choirs can respond to say what would not work for them.

Spring/Summer 2021: Pauline Powell from Hereford said that it is impossible to offer a weekend which would fit the normal pattern of festivals, as the Three Choirs Festival is held at Hereford every three years. The autumn dates are also impossible. It was pointed out that the pattern is not set in stone, so that other times of year would be possible if they wished to make an offer.

Hilary Lawrence from Carlisle said that they might be able to offer a weekend in Spring/Summer 2021. She will check when she gets home and report back.

(Post meeting note: Jane has since received an email from Edward Turner, Organ Scholar, and Simon Hogan, Assistant Director of Music, from Southwell Minster. They said that they would be very pleased to host a future festival. Jane has circulated this to the representatives, with particular reference to Carlisle, so that hopefully 2021 can be decided upon.)

6. **Feedback and suggestions:** Helen Nash said that the quality of singing had improved vastly over the last twenty years. Everyone agreed that singers seemed well prepared this year, and it was helpful to have received the music list in good time.

Nancy McGiveron said that she has templates and hard copies of badges, notices, etc. to pass on to Guildford.

Lynne asked whether the ACVC exhibition is worth repeating. It entailed a great deal of work. The general feeling was that it is, though there may not be a suitable space at Guildford. This will be decided later.

In November 2015 Lynne circulated a survey which only a few choirs completed. Some of the choirs represented at the meeting had not, but offered to do so if the form was re-sent. It is particularly interesting to know details about other choirs: how and when they were formed, how many singers form the choir, how many services they sing in a year, and so on.

The meeting finished in time for representatives to enjoy a sandwich lunch before rehearsal for Evensong.