

The Association of Cathedral Voluntary Choirs

Representatives' meeting

Derby Cathedral, Sunday 23rd October 2022

MINUTES

1. Members in attendance

Wells – James M

Derby – Susan B (Treasurer), Zoe L (Minutes), Helen F, Helen N, David T, Edward T
(Chair)

Guildford – Pauline R, Marie C

Coventry – Matthew H

Hereford – Penny M

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed upon as being correct.

3. Attendance and membership

The hosting choir was expecting about twice the number of people to attend the festival this weekend. A few of the voluntary choirs listed have unfortunately folded during the pandemic. There were a few places that were on duty this weekend. Some choirs are reforming. One choir director forgot to send the information about the weekend out to the members. Norwich cathedral is no longer a service choir so they have asked to be removed from the list. In addition to the contact list that was handed down, various avenues were explored. There was still very little response to these enquiries but Southwark Cathedral, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and Blackburn Cathedral have now been added to the contact list. The hope is that when there is some spare time next half term that we can look into why there was a lack of response to emails and phone calls.

Coventry thanked Ed for going above and beyond the call trying to organise and contact everyone. It has been a herculean effort not to fold during the pandemic partly because members were reluctant to come back due to covid or were used to having the free time.

Wells have changed their nature, rebranded and renamed, and has lost around half the choir through auditions. Things have been very unsettled but have managed to keep things going and I think the new members are not quite as present as the old membership was. There is a lot more flux as to who appears at what service and rehearsal.

This weekend has proved that things are picking back up again after the pandemic, but some energy is going to be needed.

It was noted by a few members that their own choirs were singing this weekend due to it being half term. There was positivity about the next date having already been set. It was suggested that a date during term time may be more suitable.

This weekend the choirs that have been represented are Coventry, Guildford, Hereford, Lichfield, Rochester, Southwell, Wells, and Derby.

4. Financial report

We no longer have a separate account as it becomes difficult to keep changing signatories. The funds are now transferred between the bank accounts of the previous host and the future host. A £200 loss was made largely due to the lack of numbers. When budgeting for the event the hotel chosen was informed that there would be between 60-100 guests. Due to the large number of people, the hotel kindly waived the hire fee for the room. However, this cost was reintroduced when the hotel was informed that these numbers were going to be lower. Two deputy Lay clerks were also brought in to boost the lower voices, though one kindly waived his fee.

Accounts Summary:

Date		Credit	Debit	Cash (Deb)
21 Feb 22	Zen Internet for ACVC website host and domain name		86.26 11.99	
16 Mar	Balance of ACVC funds (received from Rochester Cathedral via Chapter of Derby Cathedral)	1460.81		
Aug-Oct	Payments received for 26 singers and dinner @ £28	700.00		28.00
	3 paid £31 (see * below)	93.00		
Dec	3 Payments for singing only @ £3:	6.00		3.00
20 Oct	Invoice, Cathedral Quarter Hotel for room hire and dinner		900.00	
16 Nov	Invoice, fee for Deputy Lay Clerk		40.00	
	Refreshments			(16.05)
	*Refund overpayment			(9.00)
		2259.81	1038.25	
	Balance to be carried forward	1221.56		5.95 cash
	Total to be transferred to Winchester Cathedral	1227.51		

5. Future festivals

Winchester Cathedral is potentially interested in hosting on the 19th/20th of November 2024. This will be in term time. A couple of suggestions were put forward to the committee. A possible midday concert on Saturday and maybe Matins on Sunday morning. It was noted that some choirs do not get the same rehearsal time as others and therefore would not get the same opportunity to rehearse a larger repertoire. ET to advise the new hosts that both a concert and Matins (on top of the usual services) might be more music than rehearsal time sensibly allows.

6. Feedback

The signing-up system that was employed had generally good feedback. It made the difference between a few members coming or not coming as there may not have been an ACVC representative present to collect details of people who would like to have attended. One of the things mentioned was that there was no real time over the summer to push the event as members would not be in regular communication. The flexibility of the form was noted, and it was appreciated that people could pick and choose the elements of the weekend they wished to be a part of.

It was noted that the weekend was very well-organised and the music presented just the right amount of challenge.

7. Any other business

The situation of Derby Cathedral was noted as being in a good position in relation to hotels around the city centre.

The tourist board in Derby was thanked for being helpful as a few members called and helped to sort out travel and accommodation for those visiting the city.

The visitors to the event would like to thank Derby very much for your kindness, and your welcome to us all. It's been a lovely weekend and it has been lovely to get to know you all again. Thank you for mixing the visiting choirs within Derby's choir.

Thank you to Ed for organising this weekend.