

Minutes of Lichfield Cathedral Chamber Choir Committee Meeting Thursday 9th June 2022, 8.00pm, held on Zoom

The members were welcomed by Jenny Mason, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Jenny Arthur.

1. **Present:** Megan Barr, Jenny Mason, Geoff Mason, Martyn Rawles, Wendy Shepperson, Vicki Shirtliff, Andrew Woodburn-Drayton

Apologies: Jenny Arthur, Tina Shakeshaft

2. **Minutes and Matters arising:** The previous minutes were approved, with no matters arising which were not to be covered in the agenda.

3. **Finance:** Vicki has invoiced the NMA for the forthcoming Naming Ceremony. Discussion ensued on the level of our fees, which were last established at the beginning of 2019. It was agreed that we should increase the choir fees to £450 for a small choir (12 voices or fewer) and £550 for a larger choir. Conductor and organist fees should remain at £150 each, as this was in line with Cathedral charges.

The current charge for the Naming Ceremony will stand, but future NMA events will be charged according to the new rates.

It was also pointed out that at the Weston Park wedding there was no printed or verbal acknowledgement of choir, conductor or organist, and this requirement will be included in future bookings as part of the contractual agreement.

4. **Recruitment and auditions:** Luke (tenor) has been auditioned and Martyn has accepted him into the choir. Hettie (alto) has been contacted but has not yet responded. Martyn intends to speak to Ian Parry soon about his future intentions.

Tina will be asked about putting another piece on Facebook to encourage possible new members, perhaps in August or early September.

Attendance: the choir members continue to be very responsible in letting Geoff know of any absences or late arrivals. Attendance has been very encouraging lately.

5. **Calendar of Events:**

- a) Our recent performances have been well received.
- b) Length of rehearsal times before services was discussed. It was felt that the morning rehearsal was the correct length, but the rehearsal before evensong should be extended slightly, starting at 2.15.
- c) Dates for next year: Martyn is in the process of confirming these.

40th Anniversary planning: Megan had sent the committee the breakdown of the recent poll on the various suggestions made for celebrating our 40th anniversary. The two most popular items were to give a concert, and to have a work commissioned for us. All suggestions were well received by most, and it was felt that all could be possible over a period of time.

a) Consideration was given to the possibility of a commission. Martyn will explore potential composers, processes, costs and timings.

b) We could hold a concert in a country church, with tea (possibly provided by the members), sometime next year. Whittington and Clifton Campville were suggested as potential venues. We could also have a concert in the cathedral - it would be good to use our cathedral option in the not-too-distant future.

Both of these options will be revisited before our final performance this term on July 17th. Megan will produce a brief summary of the poll results to be sent out to the choir members.

6. Website, Publicity, Social Media update : Wendy confirmed that we no longer have our former google address, and the new one is lichfieldcathedralcc@gmail.com.

The Members area is almost ready. It will include a list of choir members and committee members, but no contact details. (Choir contact details will be sent to members separately by email.) The welcome document will be updated before the area is opened up to members. The archives and other general information are already there.

It was also pointed out that the old website can still be accessed, and the material on it needs to be deleted. Wendy will investigate this.

Andrew asked Martyn if he could write an informal piece about the choir to go onto the home page, which he agreed to do.

A new choir photo on the website would be good...Martyn will discuss this with Chris Lockwood. We could have an informal as well as a formal photo.

7. AOB:

Megan drew attention to the information about this year's ACVC weekend, which is to take place in Derby on October 22nd and 23rd. Martyn confirmed that we would not be required in the cathedral that weekend, and therefore the invitation and details will be circulated to members for their consideration.

8. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday, September 20th, 8.00pm. There will be an interim brief informal meeting before July 17th to expand on explorations of 40th Anniversary options.

The meeting closed at 9.14pm.

