

Exeter Cathedral Old Choristers Association AGM - Monday 10th April 2023 at 17:00

1. Welcome from the Chairman who thanked everyone coming to the AGM. (Apologies from Barry Ferguson, John Lomax, Roger Cleaverdon, Bishop Shaw, Charlotte Longhurst, James Skuse, Chris Helliyer, Phil Hickman)

2. A minute's silence was held for those who have died. (*none that we know of*) Geoffrey Mitchell, Chris Teuton, Andrew Hydon & Mike Dobson.

2b. (precentor's report) The precentor thanked the Chairman for being President at this morning's eucharist. JM thanked the ECOCA on behalf of the Dean and Chapter for the strong support that the ECOCA give to the choristers of the cathedral. Our support was gratefully received by eleven families who have been supported by the ECOCA this year. It's an exciting time for the cathedral with works underway to reinstate the cloister and replace the flooring in the Quire.

3. TN thanked the ECOCA for their support of the current choristers and the life changing difference this makes. Thank you also for the singing at eucharist and evensong in such an expressive and musical way.

It has been a successful year for the choir, including the annual messiah concert at christmas which included soloists who are all chorister parents. This year there were 2 BACFAD events from which 85 children were given the opportunity to be a chorister for a day which led to 26 applications for 7 places at voice trails this year. (2/3 girls to 1/3 boys) In September the choir will continue to be full.

New undergraduate choral scholars have been appointed for September who are now housed in 9a The Close (up to 5 scholars). Sadly, Dr Mike Dobson will be retiring this summer and we have appointed a former choral scholar, Alice Risdon, who will be Exeter's first ever female Lay Vicar. Also sadly, James Anderson-Bessant, will be leaving us in June and be taking up the post of Director of Music at Truro Cathedral. The cathedral has appointed Michael Stephens-John as Assistant Director of Music and Giles XXX will be the new Organ Scholar for September 2023. James McVinnie will be helping the choir out in James' absence this summer term.

The choir will be singing the Symphony of Psalms this summer with Devon Philharmonic Orchestra and the choir will be touring Wales and Ireland this summer.

4. The Head welcomed the members of the AGM and thanked them for coming today and hoped that those who had booked for lunch enjoyed it. The head echoed the thanks from the DoM and Precentor for the impact the association has on the lives of those it supports. The school is continuing to have good numbers with 272 pupils with 2 form-entry throughout. The school continues to hold Common Entrance examinations and 95% of those who sat scholarship trails were successful. The school now runs a 2 week timetable including the addition of drama and spanish into the curriculum. There is a new Head of Learning Support and two new school nurses. There will also be a new lay chaplain starting in the summer term. The music department has been fully refurbished and each child has a music lesson from reception up to Year 8. The school has been able to start school trips properly again including the french trip and Year 8 residential.

From September 2024, the school will become a day school. Due to the school growing alongside the current limited space and national picture of boarders has led to the school concluding that closing the boarding house would be the best option for the school. This would allow an enormous amount of space which could be used by the entire school for generations. (4 chorister would be affected but the school is working with their families to keep them at the school) The school received an excellent report from the "good schools' guide" which will be circulated to those who would like a copy.

5. Chairman's report attached.

6. GP handed out the accounts for 2022 which will need to be signed by an independent examiner.

7. 2023 rate was £20. All agreed to it to stay at £20

8. *Attached.*

9. *Decisions to be made in the committee meetings in the future. Not currently needed for the bursary fund as income is under £25k*

10. Charles continues as Chair, *proposed Jonny Titchin, Seconded by Dominic Asater*
Jonny continues as Secretary, *proposed Charles Roberts, Seconded by Cressida Peers*
Gordon continues as Treasurer, *proposed Charles Roberts, seconded by Nick Pedlar*

JT proposed that Joe Harker joined the committee seconded by Alex Stevens. The rest of the committee was elected enmasse.

11. JT proposed that the committee commit to a large data push from its members to include consent.

Nigel Mitchell thanked the association on behalf of the governors of Exeter Cathedral School.