

***Friends of St Alphege Music***

***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6th November 2022***

***St. Alphege Church***

***Minutes***

**1. Welcome and Prayers** The Chairman, Nick Cahm, welcomed members to the A.G.M.

**2. Apologies** Helen Russell, John Emmett, Peter Ecclestone, Viv Dobson, Ruth Sabbagh, Mike and Frances Rumball.

**3. Minutes of the 2021 A.G.M.** The Minutes of the 2021 A.G.M. were read and agreed. Proposed by Geraldine Burge Seconded Lynne Groutage Carried unopposed.

**4.** **The Hon. Treasurer’s Report** wasread by the Hon. Treasurer, Pam Price. She said there had been one major event, the Jubilee Concert, which had been cost neutral because admission had been free as a condition of the grant which had been received. Income from regular recitals had been very good at approximately £4000. John Emmett’s donation had enabled the digitising of old recordings. If anyone has any more of these recordings, please let us have them for digitising. Choir maintenance included refreshments, stationery, robes, recruitment leaflets etc. and is recorded below Choral and Organ Scholars on the financial statement. Bursaries have been given to Choir members for instrumental lessons. It was very good to have been able to do a residential Choir Week, costs for which had been subsidised as they always had been. Overall, the loss for the year was £2000. Unfortunately, no Independent Examiner had been found, but HMRC had not queried this. The financial loss cannot be carried in the long term, but in current circumstances it was felt that the annual membership subscription should not be increased; £15 was very reasonable. Fund raising would therefore be essential. Pam gave her thanks to all supporters and thanked Chris for his first year’s excellent service. Barry Hall expressed how much the recitals were appreciated.

Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Isabel Baumber and seconded by Bridget Wright. Carried unopposed.

**5. Membership Secretary Isabel Baumber** reported the continuing need to recruit more members. With larger numbers in the Choir there was a larger number from whom to recruit. Isabel noted that Standing Orders were the easiest way to collect subscriptions. Renewal date was the end of October, so it was too early to predict numbers for the coming year.

Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Ann Taylor and seconded by Susan Gomm and carried unanimously.

**6. Chairman’s Report** ChairmanNick Cahm said that much had been achieved in the preceding year. He noted that talented Senior Choristers had moved to University or other educational settings and he thanked them for their years of loyal and distinguished service. He noted the importance of the Beer Festival as a fund-raiser. He thanked the recital team for their successful fund-raising and outreach. He noted the deaths of long-term supporters Maureen Longthorn and Maureen Weatherhead. Peter Gregory, who had been for many years Director of Music and built up the Choir, and encouraged the founding and work of FoSAM, had also died; his funeral was attended by a large number of people including many previous Choristers. Nick also thanked the Committee for all their hard work. Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Audrey Hall and seconded by Alison Pratt and carried unanimously.

**7. Report by the Director of Music** Director Chris Thomas noted that there were not enough Choir members in the boys’ and girls’ sections, though choristers were individually talented. Recruitment continues to be crucial in all sections. Chris’s hours were reduced compared with Joe Cooper’s, so the rehearsal schedule had had to be simplified. *Minims* had been restored. The wide repertoire of music was being maintained, while new music had also been introduced with new congregational *Gloria* settings. Juniors were working with the *Worship Band*. The *Youth Choir* was firmly established as was the *Voice for Life* programme. All Choirs were now organised on an eight-week rotation. *Vespers* with *Compline* and a reception after the service had been introduced on the fifth Sunday of the month when that occurred. On Easter Day there had been a Parish Service at 10.30 a.m. including the Junction and the usual 10.30 a.m. congregation. Chris also noted the wonderful choir including former members assembled for Peter Gregory’s funeral. He was grateful for the donation from the Solihull Celebrating Communities Fund. Other notable Choir events were visits to Lichfield and St. David’s Cathedrals. He concluded by emphasising the importance of recruitment to all voice parts. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Barry Hall and seconded by Bridget Wright. It was passed unopposed.

**8. Election of Officers and Committee Members** The election of James Mawson to the Committee was proposed, with the re-election of the Officers *en bloc,* by Geraldine Burge, seconded by Susan Gomm and passed unopposed.

**9. Appointment of Independent Examiner** It had not been possible to appoint an Independent Examiner.

**11. Any Other Business** There was no further business and the Chairman closed the meeting.

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