

Friends of St Alphege Music



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22nd October 2023

St. Alphege Church

Minutes

Prayers were offered by Rector Designate the Revd. Nick Parker.

Welcome

The Chairman, Nick Cahm, welcomed members to the A.G.M.

Present

The Revd. Nick Parker, Chairman Nick Cahm, Secretary Carol Southworth, Treasure Pam Price, Membership Secretary Isabel Baumber, Committee Members Lynne Groutage and James Mawson, Director of Music Chris Thomas plus nine members.

Apologies

Ruth Sabbagh, Geraldine and Sherwood Burge, Helen and Robert Russell, Suzanne Barraclough, Will and Gill Odling, Henry Brockbank, Bridget Wright.

1. Minutes of the 2021 A.G.M.

The Minutes of the 2022 A.G.M. had been placed on the website, but not read by all those present so no vote was taken to accept them.

- #### **2. Treasurer's Report** was read by the Hon. Treasurer, Pam Price. The Report in full is in the attached booklet The loss from last year had been turned into a profit this year of £3,519.21, largely because of the profits made at the Beer and Gin Festivals. Bank interest had increased recently. Also Choir Maintenance costs were down as Choir and Organ Scholars had not been present for the whole year. Bursaries for younger member however were up. The subsidy for the cathedral Week at Llandaffad been approximately £3,000. Unfortunately no Independent Examiner had been found for the accounts, but they had been accepted by the Charity

Commission. If anyone could do this, or knew a suitable person, that would be helpful. In view of current inflation, the subscription had been pegged again; at £15 was very reasonable. As Choir numbers increased there would be more potential members. Fund-raising would continue to be essential as costs were estimated to be about £20,000 for the coming year. The weekly recitals continued to raise substantial funds. Pam expressed gratitude to all supporters and thanked Chris for his continued excellent service.

Audrey Hall asked if numbers of Junior Chorister were increasing and was assured that some new children had started.

Barry Hall expressed how much the recitals were appreciated and proposed acceptance of the report. John Emmett seconded the proposal which was carried unopposed.

3. Membership Secretary's Report

Isabel Baumber's full Report is in the attached booklet.

Membership numbers had remained low; five were honorary members. Parents of new Choristers should be encouraged to join and understand the benefits of membership, e.g. payment for medals, subsidies for outings and cathedral weeks. Sadly, long-standing members Michael Palmer and Maureen Weatherhead had died during the past year.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by John Emmett, seconded by Ann Taylor and passed unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report

The Report in full is in the attached booklet. Nick Cahm emphasised the team effort made by the Committee and others to work hard to achieve the aims of FoSAM. He spoke of the high quality of the Wednesday recitals, the success of the Beer Festival, the Gin and Jazz festival, the Choir's week's residence at Llandaff cathedral, and the appointment of Junior Organ Scholars and now the successful appointment of Harry Brown as Organ Scholar. He left Chris Thomas to report on a very successful year musically and ended by thanking the hard-working Committee.

5. Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Susan Gomm, seconded by Alison Pratt and unanimously accepted.

6. Report from Chris Thomas, Director of Music and Organist

Chris reported on a very busy year for the Choirs. He highlighted the continuing problem of recruitment to the Boys' and Girls' Choirs after the loss of several Seniors at the start of the new academic year but was pleased with the standards and the hard work of the Choristers. He noted the musical highlights of the year. The cathedral residency at Llandaff had been very successful and the Choir would be going to Rochester Cathedral in the Summer of 2024. He reported that an Assistant Organist would be appointed from January 2024. He was also delighted that the new Rector Designate was very musical and that his daughter had joined the Choir. Unfortunately no

Vespers had been held recently as the fifth Sunday had fallen in July and October in school holidays.

Barry Hall asked how successful the move to take music into schools had been. Chris replied that it was going very well and a grant from the Cathedral Music Trust was supporting the outreach financially, enabling four choirs to be set up in schools: Yew Tree, Widney, Sharmans Cross and Oak Cottage Schools. Once appointed, the new Assistant Organist would take over two of the schools. One child from this programme has enquired about joining the St. Alphege Choir.

There would be a concert on 11th November to raise funds.

6. As there were no nominations for new members, it was proposed by the Secretary and seconded by John Emmett that the Committee be re-elected *en bloc*. The proposal was carried unanimously.
7. No matters were raised under Any other Business.
The Chairman closed the meeting.