

Trinity Singers AGM

Tuesday 18 April 2023, 7.30pm

Attendees:

Suzie Leech, Bob Shapland, Susannah Read, Claire Turner, Phil Willis, Margaret Leimdorfer, Jane Stidard, Elizabeth Spiller, Margaret Avery, Jenny Bott, Valerie Pain, Judy Taylor, Jo Williams, Sarah Gunn, Roger Ellery, Georgina Yule, Andrew Tyrrell, Simon Medd. Sarah Pearson, Nick Varley, Sally Varley, Steve Hutchinson, Roy Stickland.

1. Apologies:

Stacey Stockden, Anya Sitaram, Sue Watson, Martin West, Belinda May, Max Morelli, Katherine Hatch-Morelli

2. **2022 AGM minutes** - proposed by Georgina Yule, seconded Elizabeth Spiller, all members present at AGM approved.

3. Chairmans's report

In 2022 we resumed a (more or less) normal pattern of events. Our numbers are well down on pre-Covid, but we are fortunate to have quite a few new voices joining us and we welcome them wholeheartedly.

We started with the all French programme at Yatton in April. This provided the new challenge of singing in French, but the result of our hard work was enjoyed by a good audience.

In May we sang Evensong in Burrington which was not as well attended as we had hoped, although it seems to have been appreciated by those who were there. Following that we started preparations for the Joint Concert with Churchill Academy at All Saints Weston in October. It was a bit disappointing that numbers in the CA choir were well down on what we have had in the past, partially due to a clash of dates. Obviously we have also lost the link we had through Paul Harrison. Nonetheless we managed to put on the "Covid delayed" Vivaldi Gloria in the wonderful acoustic of All Saints, Weston.

The run up to Christmas resulted in Burrington Carol Service, "Street Carolling" in Wrington, the Light up a Life service in Weston, and our Supper Concert also in Wrington. Quite a busy period!! All these Christmas events went well and will be repeated this year. The use of an outside caterer for the Supper Concert meant much less work for choir members, and we will repeat that, with a few tweaks.

We would love to get back to our pre-Covid numbers of around 40 singers, and welcome anyone who would be interested in joining us. However, it is important to say that we do want to maintain, and improve if possible, our standards so new singers would be expected to have some sight reading ability, and a vocal tone suitable for singing in a choir, as judged by our MD. Tenors and basses especially welcome!

During the Autumn your Committee worked on a new Constitution to enable TS to become a Charity and benefit from Gift Aid income. This took a lot of time but was adopted by you, and became effective 1st January. Although that enabled us to be a Charity, we had to apply to the Charity Commission to become a "Registered" Charity, as our annual income is in excess of £5,000. This involved quite a lot of form filling but, with the assistance of Making Music, I am delighted to say that our application was accepted and we are officially Registered Charity number 1202501.

Although not within the year to 31 st December I must also mention the "Music for a Royal Occasion" concert on 25 th March. I had a lot of great feedback with a number of people rating it as our best concert ever! Thanks to all who really did bring this concert to such a high level.

We then move on to our Summer Term which has always been tricky as many of us have competing interests /holidays etc. resulting in unreliable attendance. We have therefore reduced

our commitment to “performances” this year, to avoid being unable to perform to the standard we desire. However, we will give a concert to those living at Sandford Station (St. Monica’s) in June. Alongside preparation for that we will commence work on the programme for our Autumn joint concert with Peter Leech’s Costanzi Consort at All Saints, Weston. This will be a wonderful opportunity to sing works requiring bigger resources than we can muster alone. More about this from Andrew.

I want to thank all my fellow Trustees (Committee Members) for putting up with the numerous emails and late night meetings we have in order to keep TS moving forward. Thanks also to those members who have taken on other roles or work setting up for concerts and rehearsals.

Finally, we owe a great deal of thanks to Andrew for his patience, encouragement, good humour (mostly!) and all the background work he undertakes in assembling a programme of music suitable for our resources, yet stretching enough to keep our interest.

So – onward and upward through 2023 and 2024.

Comments: *Susannah thanked Bob, on behalf of all members, for all his work*

4. Musical Director’s report

It’s been a typical Trinity Singers’ year, a lot of new notes to learn, sometimes in a short time frame. This time last year we did the Fauré Requiem, an Evensong, then a joint concert in the summer with Churchill, followed by Christmas program.

Music for a Royal Occasion was the most challenging (vocally and notes to learn) program in the 8 years Andrew has been with us, it all came together at just the right time and showed beautiful and confident singing.

Future programs: Sandford station in the Summer is a lighter, gentler musical program, then Vaughan Williams (along with early English music) program in the Autumn with Costanzi Consort.

We have spent a lot of last 9 months singing Baroque and Classical music, so will be good to focus on different genres of music.

Thanked Bob for the many hours he spends on the work he does for the choir

Thanked Georgina for all the work she does as a librarian

Thanked Sarah for storing the music and bringing the keyboard to every rehearsal

Thanked all members for their contributions.

Please continue to work hard, please let Bob know when you can’t make a rehearsal or concert.

Andrew along with all is looking forward to another great year of singing together.

Comments: *No comments*

5. Treasurer’s report and adoption of accounts to 31.12.2022

Sarah sent out the accounts in advance of the AGM. She discussed the accounts. 2022 gross income and gross expenses was almost double that of 2021, therefore our financial risk is greater now that we are back to normal.

We want to run the accounts so that once every two-three years we can do a concert with a big ‘band’ and can afford to subsidise the concert through the income we generate from other concerts and subs.

Comments: *Bob - bottom line is there is cash in the bank of £6,353 which is £201 less than 2021 year end.*

Bob thanked Alex Read for auditing the accounts.

Bob thanked Sarah for preparing the accounts and all the other jobs she does

Adoption of accounts to 31.12.22 were proposed by Simon Medd, seconded Nick Varley, all members present at AGM adopted the accounts.

6. Approval of budget 2023 and 2024 (including a new subscription rate to be effective 1st May

Budget shared with members prior to the AGM.

Bob gave background on the rationale for increasing the subs by £5 per month (50% increase). He raised the point subs have not increased in at least 9 years.

Sarah raised the point that the choir used to do a lot of additional fund raising which was organised by a few members. Furthermore members would spend money at these events. By increasing subs, it means the additional income is shared out across members and these fund raising aren't necessary to cover the running costs of the choir.

Members should aim to change their standing order to £15 per month (preferred method of payment) in May/June 2023.

The subs are discretionary if anyone has a problem paying the subs. Members are encouraged to speak to Chair and Treasurer if they do have a problem with affording the subs.

Comments: *No comments*

Budget proposed by Roy, seconded by Steve, all members present at AGM approved.

7. Election of Trustees and Officers

NOTE Under the Trinity Singers Constitution effective 1.1.23 one third of Trustees must retire annually but can offer themselves for re-election. Those Officers/Trustees who retired and are standing for re-election are marked with an asterisk *.

Nominations received

Officers (and Trustees)

Chair: Bob Shapland

Secretary: Suzie Leech* proposed by Bob Shapland, seconded by Nick Varley

Treasurer: Sarah Pearson* proposed by Bob Shapland, seconded by Nick Varley

Trustees

Susannah Read

Elizabeth Spiller

Sal Varley

Nick Varley* proposed by Bob Shapland, seconded by Sally Varley

No other nominations received from members. Bob highlighted that if anyone is interested, they are welcome to come to a committee meeting, get involved.

All members present at the AGM approved the election of the Trustees and Officers named above.

Comments: No comments

8. AOB

No other business

Meeting closed at 20:23