



**Annual General Meeting of Trinity Singers held at 8 p.m. on March 14th 2017 at Churchill Primary School.**

**MINUTES**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting (available on website)
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Musical Director's Report
6. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts to 31.12.2016  
Approval of Budget 2017 and 2018

7. Election of Committee and Officers

The following offer themselves for re-election:-

a) Officers

Chair            Bob Shapland

Secretary    Suzie Leech

Treasurer    Sarah Pearson

b) Committee Members

Massimo Morelli, Katherine Hatch-Morelli, and Susannah Read

This leaves one vacancy, but any member of the choir is encouraged to consider standing for the committee

8. Any Other Business

It would be helpful to be advised of items to be raised under AOB by 8<sup>th</sup> March although that does not preclude members raising points for discussion at the meeting.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Draft Accounts to 31.12.2016

Budget for years 2017 and 2018

Committee Nomination Forms (To be with the Secretary 7<sup>th</sup> March latest)

**Attendees:** Barry Day, Clare Day, Roger Ellery, John Jenkins, Janet Rogers, Elizabeth Stell, Pauline Kemp, Gill Preddy, Georgina Yule, Simon Medd, Sally Varley, Nick Varley, Judy Ashley, Margaret Avery, David de Boos, Roy Stickland, Tony Moorby, Margaret Leimdorfer, Jenni Keane, Katherine Hatch-Morelli (kH-M), Belinda May, Louisa Purcell, Clare Attrill, Valerie Pain, Janet Wilson, Ursula Dornton (UD), Susannah Read (SR), Bob Shapland (BS), Sarah Pearson (SP), Suzie Leech, Andrew Tyrrell (AT)

1. **Apologies** - Jan Thompson, Bill Witter, Martin West, Sally Vaux, Heather Lee, Anne Seabright, Ros Harrison, Massimo Morelli

2. **Approval of 2016 minutes** - minutes approved by members. Bob Shapland will sign off the minutes

3. **Matters arising** - still haven't looked into hiring out the music. BS asked members if anyone keen to help Georgina with sorting out the music and managing the hiring of Trinity Singers' music.

#### 4. **Chairman's report - Bob Shapland**

Well doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself! Here we are another year on, looking back at what (I hope we all feel) has been a challenging, but enjoyable, year of singing together in a variety of concerts.

At the AGM last year, we were in the preparation period for "All Through the Night", a concert which was financially successful, well received, and gave a large number of the choir the opportunity to contribute individually and in small groups.

Shortly after that we paid our annual visit to St Michaels in Axbridge where it always a rewarding experience to provide entertainment to the residents. We followed that by eventually finding a parking space and then enjoying supper and skittles in the "bijoux" skittle alley in Axbridge.

Roy was the "anchor tenant" at our Plant Sale and achieved record sales! It seems we have a number of regular visitors to this event, and I would like to thank Roy particularly, but all the others who contribute.

On to June and Evensong at Burrington. Once again, this was enjoyed by the congregation and provided the opportunity to demonstrate our versatility, and touch the choir's roots in Church Music.

Sadly, a number of us attended the Memorial Service of Richard Dent in July. Richard, and also his wife Ann, had been members of Trinity Singers for a number of years, before moving to Clevedon. It was lovely to be able to sing two of Richard's favourite choral works in his memory.

At that time work was in hand for the Autumn Concert, but rehearsals began in earnest in September. I think that term tested our resolve, although I am really not sure why! The music was challenging, but not impossible, yet we seemed to be "stuck in the mud" and not really making progress for a number of weeks. I am sure Andrew will have something to say about it, but it required huge efforts on everyone's part to produce what was, in the end, a great concert with the Bristol Brass Consort. If anyone can help to explain what went on we would love to hear!

The end result was that our planned overlapping of rehearsals was dropped and we had to concentrate on the matter in hand.

That ran us into the rather frenetic build up to Christmas, with both the Burrington Carols and the Supper Concert. In the end, we acquitted ourselves well, the Carol Service was "Standing Room only", and the Supper Concert was a "sell-out" yet again. In addition we raised £200 for MacMillan Cancer Support at the concert, and the collection from the Carol Service resulted in over £500 going from Holy Trinity to St Francis' Hospital, Katete in Zambia.

However, preparation for Christmas had impacted on the intended start to rehearsing Bach and Bernstein! So again we were up against it. We decided that we would benefit from having a regular rehearsal accompanist for this term and were fortunate that Alison Blundell was able and willing to provide that support. I think we all agree that having Alison, together with the enormous support which

Andrew gave by way of additional rehearsal time, CDs, Rehearsal files, and huge encouragement, resulted in us being far more prepared for the Joint Concerts than we may have expected, and, in the end, we were pretty comfortably on top of the music for the recent events.

This rehearsal pressure has caused the Committee to take a good look at ways in which we might re-arrange concerts, and adopt different styles in future. More of that later.

I would like to let you know that, behind the scenes of the Joint Concert, Sarah has been trying to introduce some proper organisation and budget control into what has been a rather loose arrangement between the two schools and the two choirs. She has given a great deal of time to a successful bid for an underwriting of losses by the Paragon Concert Society, preparing and controlling budgets, and pushing for posters and other promotional efforts which needed co-ordinating. I want to say a specific thank you to Sarah on this score.

During this year we have seen the retirement of Carol Taylor, and Ursula Dornton, both long standing, and committed, members of Trinity Singers who will be missed in rehearsal and performances.

You will all be aware of Ursula's wide range of involvements in the local music and artistic community - particularly the terrific development of Churchill Music and all its causes, developing music in schools.

Because of that your Committee has asked Ursula to become our first ever Patron, and we were delighted when she accepted. This will ensure that we will still benefit from Ursula's wide contacts and involvements to develop our audiences and opportunities. We are delighted that you, Ursula, will continue to have this involvement with Trinity Singers.

On to other matters.

I apologise for the fact that we have not managed to organise the school to give us heating during holidays. We are on the case, but it seems their system can't cope with working in half terms! Other than that, I believe that we are well served by rehearsing at Churchill Primary School.

Some other words of thanks.

I hope that I don't make a rod for my own back, but I would like to say thank you to some individuals in the choir.

Margaret Avery stood down from the Committee last year, but agreed to continue with organising some specific events, and her organisation of the food at the Wrington Concert was, again, wonderful. Jill Preddy has managed to tame the monster of ticket allocation for that event, and does a great job sorting table plans as well!

Although it is part of her "day job", Clare Attrill is a very helpful link to St. Mary's Yatton. Andrew and I have visited the church on a number of occasions to plan layouts and experiment with ideas, and she and Steve (and of course Chantelle) help to put the church back together after we have trashed it!

Janet Rogers is now co-ordinating other social aspects as well as the Plant Sale, and, of course, Georgina does a great job in the unenviable role of Librarian.

Although not a member, Alison Blundell is a great asset for us in that she seems willing to come and help us out of little crises, and does so in such a wonderfully friendly, and competent, way.

Thank you to all those I have mentioned, and, of course, to you all for your support and commitment.

During the year we also established the role of "Voice Representatives" just to make sure that there is a conduit for views, comments and suggestions to be made to me, and or other members of the committee, in order to avoid there being any matters which might "fester" and develop into bigger problems. To date, nothing has come to us by that route, but I hope that it does provide re-assurance that your committee really is open to feedback.

Finally on matters of thanks, I would like to specifically than Andrew for his untiring commitment to Trinity Singers. The work he does in preparation for rehearsals, provision of "aids", and planning of future concerts is enormous.

I hope that you all agree we are very lucky to have him as our MD. Thanks you Andrew.

Looking forward, we will now start rehearsing for the concerts at Sandford Station and Axbridge, Evensong at Burrington, and then our "Shared Concert" with the Churchill Academy Chamber Choir in

November. The latter event is an attempt to reduce the rehearsal load in the Autumn term by not having to prepare a whole concert ourselves. I hope that it works! Then on to Carols and the Supper Concert.

Finally, I want to mention the Committee members who work so hard behind the scenes, responding to my emails (!), and taking responsibility for specific aspects of the organisation of Trinity Singers. We do it because we enjoy it, but nevertheless it is a huge commitment and I am truly grateful for all you do - Sarah, Suzie, Susannah, Kat, Max and not forgetting Andrew, who is fully involved in all our discussions.

## **5. Musical Director's report - Andrew Tyrrell**

Thank you Bob for comprehensive and well ranging report.

Three words to describe the last year challenge, despair and triumph. Challenge, it has been a tough year, but also the challenge we have taken on, the range of music from so many different periods. The music in the All through the night concert, there was a broad sweep of style and musical language.

The November concert 0 Italian and English Baroque, there was huge variety. A highlight for Andrew was the Purcell's Funeral Sentences.

Bach and Bernstein brought huge challenges but we met those challenges.

Andrew emphasised that he likes to programme a variety of music to keep it interesting. The three projects we have done in the last year have had some outstanding music achievements. Andrew takes some blame for the hard grind of note bashing, and thinks perhaps there was too much music in the November concert, which made rehearsals a challenge. In particular November concert programme was tough and this could be partly due to unavoidable absences.

Having Alison Blundell accompanying was crucial for the B&B rehearsals to speed up our learning.

Future - Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis music hasn't been chosen for the Holy Trinity Evensong. In the year ahead Andrew says he will think carefully about the programme to ensure more time available to shape the music and not just learn the notes. Happy to continue producing rehearsal CDs.

Open your mouths when you sing, make more of the words. We need more tenors and basses, please encourage anyone you know who will be an advantage. Our soprano line would benefit from a few younger voices.

A fourth word - smug. No danger of us becoming complacent, but we can look back on the past year performances and feel smug about we have achieved. To sum up, he took us back to what Bristol Brass said to Andrew and Susannah after the November concert 'You guys can really sing'. Andrew thanked members for a very good year.

## **6. Treasurer's report - Sarah Pearson**

### **Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts to 31.12.2016**

Sarah took us through the two documents circulated in advance of the AGM. Budget 2017/2018 and Accounts for year ending 31st December.

Our bottom line is fantastic. We are making profit on the cheap and cheerful concerts and much less of loss on big concerts than we have budgeted for.

Profit in 2016 £2,326.

#### **Comments:**

Roy expressed concern that his plants may not be ready in time for the plant sale. It was expressed by BS and SP that if it couldn't go ahead, it wouldn't be a major problem for the budget.

Susannah - Thanked Sarah for presenting very a well prepared set of accounts.

**Proposer of adoption of accounts - Roy Stickland**

**Seconder to adopt the accounts - John Jenkins**

All members voted in favour of adopting the accounts

## **Approval of Budget 2017 and 2018**

**Proposer of adoption of accounts - Tony Moorby**

**Secunder to adopt the accounts - Elizabeth Stell**

All members voted in favour of adopting the 2017/2018 budget

### **Comments:**

Stage lighting is in the budget. Barry asked if we could have LED lights. BS asked if Barry could help him with investigating stage lighting

## **7. Election of Committee and Officers**

**Bob emphasised that there is a vacancy, and invited members to out themselves forward. Also encouraged**

**BS suggested**

**Members voted in unanimously by all members present.**

## **8. AOB**

**Margaret (MA)** - from a social perspective MA has concerns about the plant sale stopping when we have dropped the quiz. The social interaction these events bring is invaluable. Sarah highlighted that we also haven't had a Christmas party at Sarah's for a couple of years because the diary has been so busy at Christmas time.

**Roy** mentioned that we could have a garden party at his house in the summer which would

**KH-M** - could we do another exchange? Suggestions of location - Florence, Holland. It was suggested that we could just go on tour rather than do an exchange.

**Ursula Dornton** - thrilled to be asked to be a patron of the choir. Will use her contacts and connections to publicise our events.

**Barry Day** - venues, could Blagddon church be considered since it has been refurbished?

**Simon Medd** - venues, could Wrington church be considered since it has been refurbished?

Meeting closed at 9.00pm