



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Trinity Singers will be held at 7.30 p.m. on March 5th 2019 at Churchill Primary School.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting (on website, Members, password Welovetosing, 2018 AGM)
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Musical Director's Report
6. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts to 31.12.2018 (to follow)
Approval of Budget 2019 and 2020 (to follow)
7. Election of Committee and Officers

At last year's AGM, the choir elected Elizabeth Spiller to the committee, and Sal and Nick Varley were co-opted. This was pending discussion as to whether the size of the Committee, as set in the Constitution, was appropriate. Your Committee considered this and concluded that a larger Committee was not necessary or appropriate.

After many years of involvement in the Trinity Singers Committee, Kat and Max have decided not to offer themselves for re-election this year.

The other members of the Committee retire in accordance with the Constitution, but offer themselves for re-election, and Sal and Nick have been nominated to join the Committee.

The following members have been nominated and seconded in accordance with the Constitution:-

a) Officers

Chair Bob Shapland

Secretary Suzie Leech

Treasurer Sarah Pearson

b) Committee Members

Susannah Read

Elizabeth Spiller

Sal Varley

Nick Varley

8 Any Other Business

It would be helpful to be advised of items to be raised under AOB by 26th February, although that does not preclude members raising points for discussion at the meeting.

The Committee would like to discuss:-

- a) Wearing of robes / surplices when involved in Church Services
- b) General Concert Dress Code
- c) Possible change of rehearsal timings to 1945 – 2145
- d) Coffee Break length

MINUTES of the 2019 AGM, 5th March 2019, 8:15pm, Churchill Primary School.

Present

Margaret Avery, Adele Byford, Clare Day, Liz Goodall, Jennie Keane, Ros Harrison, Katherine Hatch-Morelli, Sue Horseman, Margaret Leimdorfer, Belinda May, Valerie Pain, Sarah Pearson, Susannah Read, Janet Wilson, Roger Ellery, Stephen Bishop, Barry Day, Simon Medd, Phil Willis, Stephen Barton, Paul Harrison, Janet Rogers, Anne Seabright, Louisa Purcell, Jill Preddy, Pauline Kemp, Joanna Mills, Elizabeth Spiller, Georgina Yule, Sally Varley,, Suzie Leech, Jan Thomson, Bill Witter, Roy Stickland, Nick Varley, Martin West, Bob Shapland, Andrew Tyrrell.

1. Apologies for absence

Tony Moorby, Massimo Morelli, Stacey Bartlett, Nikita Phippen,

2. Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting

Approved

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

The first choral event of the year was the Yatton Concert in April, including the Britten St Nicholas, plus Holst and Vaughan Williams. It was a complex logistical concert with two organists – John Bodiley and Claire Alsop - plus the Lochrian Ensemble, and boys from St Mary Redcliffe. I have looked back at my notes on “choreography” because there were solos, movements on and off for the choir and the boys, as much staging as we could fit, pews moved etc. A major exercise. I will leave AT to comment on the musical side, but I have to commend him for keeping his equilibrium in the rehearsal when faced with the fact that the boys had not been prepared for a large chunk of what was expected!! Thanks to our ladies for working hard and fast to ensure that we didn't have a total black hole at some points.

We held our Plant Sale on 5th May and again achieved a very respectable profit from a day which ran smoothly thanks to Janet's co-ordination and the involvement of many others. Of course, the biggest thanks is to Roy who is our “Anchor Tenant”.

In June we sang Evensong in Burrington, which morphed into a welcome for the new Vicar (David Gent) who is now a big fan of Trinity Singers as a result. The contribution was much appreciated by the Burrington PCC and the congregation.

The Summer Term ended with our visit to St Michaels in Axbridge, where the audience (larger than normal I believe) thoroughly enjoyed their entertainment as usual. Thanks to Susannah for giving us this opportunity to do something additional to our normal concerts. This was followed again by Supper and Skittles, organised by Margaret Avery, to end our term.

In common with many others we paid our respects to the ending of WW1 in our Autumn Concert in Wrington. Andrew provided us with a programme which marked “Endings and Beginnings”, and I thought it was a really well planned mixture of music, which was well received by our very good sized audience. Wrington Church threw up some physical challenges despite the work which has been done there – an additional mirror to allow sight lines for the organist, platforms to enable the piano to be moved, and a change of plan by the church which prevented us from removing the pew

fronts, making our space more compact than we had expected. We also had issues with tuning between organ and piano which meant that we had to use our own keyboard. It was lovely to welcome Nina Tyrrell as our trumpeter for the concert.

A number of us then took part, at short notice, in Pages of the Sea. This event was replicated around the country, and Suzie was asked by a friend (on the Tuesday) if she could assemble a choir to perform on the Sunday! Suzie being Suzie took on the challenge and Andrew agreed to conduct the "scratch choir". I think it was around 40 of us from the various choirs Suzie is involved in, who performed Lux Aeterna and Abide With Me, in glorious sunshine under the pier in Weston.

The Carol Service in Burrington was a cramped affair with 37 singers! That is clearly the maximum we can accommodate in future years! We cut one carol compared with previous years, and the school contribution was also reduced, so the service was shorter and this was an improvement overall. The congregation was smaller than previously, but this was a combination of weather, the date being early, and a smaller school choir. Nonetheless, our part was much appreciated and we are booked again for 2019.

The final event of the calendar year was our annual Christmas Supper Concert in Wrington. We made a few changes on the food front to try to make things easier, and have some notes on possible further tweaks next year. The evening was again sold out, and much enjoyed as always. I repeat my thanks to the big team involved in this.

During the year a number of singers have left us – Clare Attrill, Sally Vaux, Heather Lee, John Jenkins, Stephen Barton, and Judy Ashley.

But we have some new faces too - Nikita Phippen (Margaret Leimdorfer's granddaughter), Liz Goodall, Suzie Uddin, Stacey Stockdale, and Ellie Tristram. It is also great to have Janet Wilson back with us, and the fuller involvement of Paul Harrison.

Our Treasurer, Sarah Pearson, will take us through the detailed financial position, but the choir remains soundly financed for the foreseeable future.

Although numerically the choir is at a size which enables us to present the sort of music we want, we remain light in the top sopranos and, on occasions, in the basses. Our tenors are currently performing well, although new tenors will always be welcome. Our difficulty is keeping the right balance in the parts, while ensuring that we do not become unmanageable in terms of numbers! If anyone knows of a soprano 1, or bass, who might like to join us, please speak to Andrew.

During the year we have continued to enjoy rehearsing at Churchill Primary, and we are very grateful for their flexibility and the ongoing loan of their staging. There have been some issues with heating and clashes with meetings, but on the whole we believe that we are well served by the rehearsal space.

At the end of January, the first Ursula Dornton Vocal Prize was presented as part of the Churchill Music Young Musician of the Year competition. Your committee felt that this would be a fitting way of remembering Ursula who did so much to encourage music in local schools through Churchill Music, and as part of Trinity Singers. Those who were able to attend the competition will recognise the high standard of all the competitors. We hope that this association will continue, and may result in some of the wonderful young singers joining us.

During the year the committee has been looking at how best to handle the publicity requirements of our concerts, and a report has been produced suggesting the way forward. This is still a work in progress, but we would like to know of anyone who might like to get involved in a sub committee handling such things as Press Releases, Poster design and distribution, Social Media, and anything else pertaining to publicity. This is important work, as we do rely on having audiences not only for financial reasons, but also because it is a very lonely thing to sing to a thinly populated space! I would like to thank Kat for all her work on publicity over the years, as she steps down from the Committee.

On the same note, I would like to thank Massimo for all he has done as a member of the Committee, including a spell as Chair, and then Deputy Chair.

Our newer committee members have made valuable contributions during the year, bringing new ideas to the committee. Sally and Nick were very involved in setting up policies for GDPR, and Safeguarding, and Elizabeth has very kindly agreed to take over the website from Suzie, and work is in hand to bring it up to date and ensure that it is user friendly and project our image both to audiences and to potential new members.

Thanks also go to Georgina for her work in sourcing and managing music for concerts. A thankless task, so please try to co-operate in returning music promptly when asked to!

Perhaps it is appropriate to thank John Bodiley, who has become our "Organist in residence" for Evensongs and Carols, Claire Alsop for concerts, and Alison Blundell for our Christmas concert, and her help on the last couple of rehearsals before a concert.

I am also very grateful for the assistance which "partners" are willing to give in setting up and "front of house" at concerts. This help is very much valued.

I am sure that you would all realise that a huge amount of work has to be put in by the committee of an organisation such as Trinity Singers. Although relatively small when compared with choirs in Bath or Bristol, the same hoops have to be jumped through in terms of planning, booking, accounting, insuring, staffing, publicising etc. etc. Your committee continue to be very supportive and hard working, responding to all the issues we are faced with, and I thank them all most sincerely on your behalf.

Finally, I want to thank Andrew for another year of unstinting commitment and sheer hard work in preparing and rehearsing the music we all love to sing. He really does go the extra mile(s?) in supporting us with rehearsal material and making rehearsals fun. I would just ask all of us to reciprocate by using the help he gives, and ensuring good attendance and prompt starts to rehearsals!!

So we now look forward to celebrating our 20th Anniversary at the end of April, and our first trip to Clevedon as part of Somerset Arts Week, and then on through Evensong in Burrington, and St. Michaels to finish the term.

Bob also added that it would be nice to recruit a few more singers in top sop line and bass to fill the gaps

5. Musical Director's Report

Since this time last year the choir has done 7 performances. Year by year AT thinks we are becoming more confident at performing a wider variety of music. He consciously hasn't programmed any medieval or any genuinely contemporary modern music; the contemporary would be a challenge. He said, what we do we do well.

Concert review

Spring 2018 - Serenade to music concert - Serenade to Music, Holst folk songs & St Nicholas with Lochrian ensemble who were fabulous.

St Michael's concert - delightful as always. We were accompanied by Ben Hughes-Games

October 2018- 1918 concert, very moving and wide variety of music.

November 2018 - Pages of the Sea event - thanked Suzie for organising this.

December 2018 - Burrington Carol Service - went well

December 2018 - Wrington supper concert - went well

March 2019 joint concert with Churchill Academy - thrilling concert

Andrew commented that we've welcomed some new members since last year. It has been a good year and we have made strides with our rhythm. Our choral sound is also getting better. Andrew gave a special mention to Paul who has been able to sing with us regularly in the last year.

Next 12 months - bug bear is patchy attendance. Absences mean we have to repeat stuff. He is looking forward to the choir progressing. There is lots of new music lying ahead and it is onwards and upwards.

AT thanked all choir members for their passion. Thanks to the committee and everyone else who does more than just singing, for the choir.

Comments

***Bob** - thanks to Andrew for the extra things he does to support our learning of the music. He endorsed Andrew's comments of improving attendance and also using the resources Andrew gives us. He thanked Andrew for his patience, humour and letting us know when he really isn't happy.*

6a. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts to 31.12.2018

Documents sent to members ahead of the meeting (attached)

Accounts were presented.

Events presented

2 year rolling budget presented. 2 year budget shows we will have £6,000 surplus in the account.
Current account £8,000

Accounts proposed by Elizabeth Spiller

Accounts seconded Roy Stickland

All voted in favour to approve the accounts

6b. Approval of Budget 2019 and 2020

2 year budget shared with members

Budget proposed by Susannah Read

Budget seconded by Roger Ellery

Questions and comments

- *Belinda said thank you for preparing the accounts*
- *Anne Seabright made the point that the accounts haven't yet been independently examined. Bob explained to the choir that the choir were approving the accounts in the format presented at the AGM, and if for any reason, there are changes to the accounts upon inspection, the choir would be notified.*

7. Election of Committee and Officers

Last year we had a high number of new choir members put forward. Committee committed to review the size of the committee, and committee agreed that 7 was optimum number.

Katherine and Massimo decided to step down from the committee this year, thanks was given to them for their contributions to the choir and committee. K&M stepping down means that we do not need to revisit the constitution at this stage, since we only have 7 choir members standing for election.

Nominations

Role	Name	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chair	Bob Shapland	Pauline Kemp	Margaret Leimdorfer
Secretary	Suzie Leech	Elizabeth Spiller	Pauline Kemp
Treasurer	Sarah Pearson	Valerie Pain	Belinda May
Committee Member	Susannah Read	Belinda May	Bill Witter
Committee Member	Elizabeth Spiller	Nick Varley	Jennie Keane
Committee Member	Nick Varley	Roy Stickland	Martin West
Committee Member	Sally Varley	Jan Thomson	Georgina Yule

Committee members were elected by all members present at the committee meeting.

Action

Sarah take Massimo off the bank mandate

8. Any Other Business

a) Length of the coffee break - discussed staffing the coffee on rotation. 15 minute strict break with notices included. Nice to have a break and a chat, and have got to know people better. Will keep the current format and implement a 15 minute break where notices are read out at the start.

b) Time of rehearsal - big support to continue with 7:30 - 9:30pm

c) Robes and surplices - Bob commented that we have 2 events a year where we robe and surplus. The committee recognise that there are some who are uncomfortable singing at church services and wearing robes.

***Bill** - re-emphasise the origins of the choir. They are religious services, they aren't concerts. Huge amount of change going on in Anglican churches about robing. We should ask the incumbent rector of the church whether he wants us robed*

***Margaret A**- every year think there is such a mixture of robes that we don't look that smart. MA has no more men's cassocks. Margaret isn't happy with the way we robe.*

***Sally** - would rather not wear a robe, but is happy to wear one.*

***Elizabeth G**- as a new member, it struck her that the robes all look different. Other bands would wear a uniform, there is something professional about us all looking the same.*

***Elizabeth S** - if we researched buying new robes, we wouldn't necessarily need one for everyone as not everyone would sing at a service.*

Action

Bob will sound out Burrington vicar to see if they would want us robed, and if they do, he will ask Margaret to investigate

d) Concert Dress - review of our current dress code. Agreed that generally we are happy as we are.

Roy asked what feedback we have received about how professional we look on the stage?

Jan Thompson said she wouldn't be comfortable with us all wearing the same.

Choir agreed dress code should be all black and sleeve length below the elbow.

e) Retrospective approval to continue with Ursula Dornton Vocal prize.

Choir agreed we should continue supporting the prize so long as the name of the prize stays the same.

Paul H said thank you for agreeing to continue to support the prize. He also said thank you for the collaboration with the school. He also said what a joy it is to work with Andrew and what a fantastic MD he is, and recognised that the school also benefit from his musicianship and direction. Straw poll with the students about the music choice for the March concert was that Andrew Tyrrell's piece was the favourite!

f) Question asked about whether we give any money to charity

- We raise money from Strictly come Carolling
- We give a monetary prize for Churchill Music Young Musician
- Committee have also discussed how we might support music at Churchill Primary School as a repayment for using the staging
- We perform an annual concert at St Michaels.

g) Question about April concert - Lochrian ensemble and Alison Blundell booked. We invited Jeremy Martin but he is unable to come, have also invited Sheila Abdy. Committee has created a list of past members we want to invite. It

Susannah thanked Bob for all his contributions.

AGM closed at 9:40pm.

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