



FEDERATION OF CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

NEWSHEET 16

Dear All

In Newsheet 15, which gave an overview of the 2015 AGM, it was reported that I would not be seeking re-election as your Secretary at the 2016 AGM. Our constitution states that officers shall not normally hold their posts for longer than five consecutive years and, as I will then have completed seven years in office, I decided that it was time for someone else to take over the position. Please find below a message from our Chairman:

Fancy a new challenge?

We need a new Federation Secretary.

After many years of loyal service, Richard Belton is stepping down from the role of Federation Secretary at the AGM in Wakefield this year. We have known about this for a year now, and need to find a replacement sooner or later for this very important role. We had hoped to have a volunteer step forward in time for the handover at the AGM in May 2016, but so far we have had no volunteers. Maybe you, or one of your members, cannot commit to taking on this role this year due to other commitments, but would consider taking up this role in 2017 or 2018. The existing committee can potentially keep things going for a year (or 2 years at the most) whilst we wait for our new Secretary, but not indefinitely. If we do not find a Federation Secretary soon, or at least a future contender, the service that the Federation can offer individual associations and the wider membership will diminish, and work at a slower pace. Reminders of dates for events may get forgotten or delayed, and news may fail to be published. I for one would be very disappointed if the Federation fails due to a lack of volunteer help. Please consider taking on this role or advertise it amongst your membership. It is not hugely time-consuming, but it is very rewarding. If you would be interested in fulfilling this role please speak to either Richard or myself.

Alastair Pollard, Federation Chairman

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2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held at Wakefield on Saturday 7th May and the programme and booking forms, which include an invitation to join the members of the Wakefield Association for their Golden Jubilee celebrations on 6th May, have already been sent out and are available on the website.

If you wish to join in the Golden Jubilee celebrations, please fill in the Statement of Intent and return **ASAP**. This is necessary as the number of places which will be taken by delegates from other Associations needs to be known. You will then have to forward the Booking Form as stated by Friday, 4th April, 2016.

The documents relating to the meeting itself will be sent out before 26th March. Any nominations for the executive committee of the Federation will be accepted for up to one week before the meeting.

The current officers are as follows;

Chairman	Alastair Pollard (Durham)
Vice Chairman	Nick Hodges (Warwick)
*Secretary	Richard Belton (Leicester)
Treasurer	Michael Lake (Chelmsford)
Publications Officer	Jeremy Jones (Chester)
Association Representatives	The North and Ireland – Alastair Pollard (Durham) Midshires and Wales – Nick Hodges (Warwick) East Anglia and The South East – Ayrton Westwood - Norwich The South West – Stephen Milner - Salisbury

All officers of the committee, including the Chairman, are elected annually.

* denotes those officers not seeking re-election this year

It has been decided not to advertise for the vacant post of Marketing Officer and the Chairman is dealing with any orders for the Federation merchandise.

If your association has not been represented recently at an AGM, or your federation representative is unable to attend this year, please try to encourage one of your members to represent you. Perhaps you have a member who lives in the area?

FUTURE AGM's

The Oxford Christ Church Association will be hosting the 2017 AGM on 6th May. The day will conclude with an evening concert by the choirs of Christ Church, New College and Magdalen Colleges.

The 2018 AGM is planned be held at Chelmsford on 12th May but confirmation of this date in the Cathedral diary is still awaited. The 2019 AGM will be hosted by the Lichfield Association on 11th May.

FESTIVALS

We are pleased to report that a donation of £120 has gratefully been received from the Exeter Association following the 2015 festival.

Arrangements for the 2016 festival, which for the first time will be held at Wells from 29th April to 1st May, are firmly in hand and bookings are being received. Details are available on the website. The closing date for bookings is 31st March, so if you are still intending to attend and have not yet sent in your booking form, please bear this date in mind.

Arrangements for the 2017 festival at Norwich from 9th to 11th June are also at a very advanced stage. The 2018 festival will be held at Peterborough from 14th to 16th September and Portsmouth have booked for 2019 from 5th to 7th July.

TOURS

A suggestion has been received from Mr Brian Ferris of Worcester, a participant of past tours, regarding a tour of the West Midlands in 2017. His suggestion was to stay in one hotel and he has listed local attractions and day trips. He knows the area well and would be willing to help organise the event, but for various reasons cannot commit to being the "leader".

Your committee have talked through the reasons again why it had been already decided not to organise any future tours. Andrew Orland would be happy to drive for another one but neither would he, Geoffrey Mitchell and David Horwood want the work in organising another one.

If anyone is interested, please do let me know and I can send out Brian's suggestions. We appreciate that it may now be too late for this to take place in 2017.

MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to report that there has been one more application for Individual Membership bringing the total number to five. Michael Stoddart, the DOM at Newcastle Cathedral, who was responsible for re-forming their association, is moving to Auckland, NZ and has intimated that an application for membership of the federation might be looked into in due course.

On a sadder note, we have regrettably had to terminate the membership of Leeds Cathedral OCA with immediate effect as they were not responding to reminders relating to overdue subscriptions. The association joined the federation in 2010 and have only paid their first annual subscription.

NEWS FROM CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL, NEW ZEALAND

Richard Watts (Westminster Abbey) writes *"I visited Christchurch Cathedral last month, my first since the FCOCA 2007 tour, and met with Tim Andrews and their new organist John Linker.*

The situation is not fixed about the cathedral but a decision has been made in December to rebuild on the original site. However the style of rebuilding has not been finalised.

One school of thought wants a rebuild as near as possible of the old cathedral whereas others want a totally new design.

Part of this is down to funding as a rebuild is considerably more expensive than a brand new design. The insurance seems to have been insufficient anyway and I heard stories from others about the delays still in settling insurance claims from five years ago.

WAOCA Purcell Club sent a donation to the Cathedral when the earthquake happened and this is still remembered all those years later.

Worship continues in the temporary cathedral build on the site of St. John's which was totally destroyed and a good job has been done to keep the whole thing going and the music continues with its great tradition as we experienced during our tour. <http://www.christchurchcathedralchoir.com/> is the choir website.

Paul Ellis who was assistant organist during our tour is now DM at St. Michaels <http://www.chchstmichaels.org.nz/> and this church, being made of wood, remains untouched by the earthquake.

Brian Law, DM during our tour, has retired as has Dean Beck who went into politics for a short while before going back into ministry so I understand.

The whole area round Christchurch has been badly affected. Round the Transitional Cathedral is like a bomb site as is a lot of the city. Further out East whole areas have been condemned as being unsuitable for building and have been levelled. Some was like London after the war."

Richard Belton
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25th February 2016