



FEDERATION OF CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

NEWSHEET 25

August 2020

The Executive Committee met virtually using Zoom on 9th May 2020 and 4th July 2020.

2020 AGM (Rochester)

The AGM due to be held at Rochester on 9th May 2020 was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has been re-scheduled to be held virtually using Zoom on Saturday 12th September 2020. An agenda has been emailed to all member association, and people are invited to register their intention by emailing the secretary or chairman if they wish to attend. Note that you must register in advance to obtain connection details. secretary@fcoca.org.uk or chairman@fcoca.org.uk

2020 FESTIVAL (Chester)

The Festival due to be held at Chester on 11th – 13th September 2020 has unfortunately been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

2021 FESTIVAL & AGM (Ely)

The 2021 Festival is due to be held in Ely on 15th – 17th October 2021. The 2021 AGM will take place during the festival.

The 2023 Festival is due to be held in Warwick, and the 2023 AGM is likely to be held during the festival. An AGM need not be a protracted meeting, and so it should be possible to keep the duration down to a short time. 30 minutes or an hour at the most!

REGALIA INSURANCE

The biggest direct annual cost of The Federation is insurance. A benefit of FCOCA membership is that your association regalia can be insured at favourable rates. In order to ensure that we are paying the correct premium and the regalia is fully covered by our insurance, we are asking all members who have regalia to review the valuation and if possible get a formal valuation. This up to date valuation and any supporting documentation should be emailed to Treasurer@fcoca.org.uk and secretary@fcoca.org.uk For your information, we have recently obtained a formal insurance revaluation for the Chains of Office for the Federation Chairman and Secretary. We appreciate that some associations insure their regalia locally, possibly under the Choir School or Cathedral insurance policy. If this is the case, we would appreciate you letting us know. We don't want to pay for insurance that is not needed, or covered elsewhere.

2020 ONCE A CHORISTER MAGAZINE

I hope you enjoyed the 2019 Once a Chorister. If you have not had the chance to read it yet, please do so. It can be read or downloaded from our website at: www.fcoca.org.uk / Last News / Magazine or https://www.fcoca.org.uk/uploads/1/5/0/1/15016958/oac_2019_1.1.pdf

Alastair Pollard hopes to publish the new Once a Chorister magazine on our website in November 2020, and is looking for interesting information and articles to be included. Please email to him by the end of October 2020 Secretary@fcoca.org.uk Also, if you would like your association news to be published on our website, again please send to Secretary@fcoca.org.uk

FRIENDS OF CATHEDRAL MUSIC - FCM

Many cathedral and church choirs have struggled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Most group singing has ceased, services halted, and many organists and lay clerks have been furloughed. There have been some inventive ways of making and publishing music online on the Internet, be it local to a church or social media (e.g. Facebook and YouTube); but overall choirs have suffered greatly and some will not survive.

The Trustees of the Friends of Cathedral Music (FCM) have formed a new charity, the **Cathedral Music Trust**. The Trust will be a voice for cathedral music, upholding this integral part of the nation's cultural heritage by campaigning on behalf of cathedral music and musicians, supporting cathedral choirs and choristers in need, and encouraging the pursuit of excellence in choral and organ music. Harry Christophers, CBE, founder and conductor of The Sixteen, is the Trust's first President.

In partnership with The Ouseley Church Music Trust and the Choir Schools' Association, Friends of Cathedral Music has launched the **Cathedral Choirs' Emergency Fund** to support choirs silenced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

FCOCA and FCM have much in common and we shall continue to work closely with them in the future. Combining FCOCA events with FCM (Friends of Cathedral Music) has been suggested by several of our members.