

News



Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations



Do you like the new branding and logo? This will be run out over our website and social media, and all documents.

[Have you booked your place at the 2022 Ely Festival?](#)

The Federation Festival is almost upon us. It takes place in Ely on 9th to 11th September.

The Dean of Ely Cathedral and President of the Society of Ely Choristers Mark Bonney, Edmund Aldhouse Director of the Music, and the Ely Cathedral Choristers' Society invite you to the FCOCA Festival in Ely in 2022, and are looking forward to meeting you in the City of Ely.

Full details can be found on our website www.fcoca.org.uk but the **deadline for bookings is 19th August**. It will be great to meet up with friends and former choristers from all over the country. For further information please contact John Marshall on 01353 664927 or jandmarshall68@yahoo.co.uk

You are invited to join for Evensong, a reception and Compline on the Friday; an organ recital, tours, 2 AGMs (Ely and Federation), sing at Evensong and join in the festivities of the Banquet in the Monastic Barn on Saturday; and a choice of 2 services (early and not-so early) and a farewell reception on Sunday.

The Executive Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank the Ely former choristers for their efforts, patience, and determination in these difficult times.

[Money, Money, Money](#)

Money makes the world go round; so says the musical Cabaret. Unfortunately, the Federation is running out of money and each year we run at a deficit. Our major expense is insurance, so the Executive committee are urgently looking at a safe place to store our Chair's chain of office, and reviewing what level of public liability and trustee insurance we need. Let us know what you think.

Committee meetings

This year the Executive Committee met virtually using Zoom on 19th March and 19th July 2022. We will meet in Ely at the AGM on Saturday 10th September 2022, held during our Annual Festival weekend. After that we hope to meet in October or November.

2022 AGM – During Ely Festival on Saturday 10th September at 15:15

The 2022 AGM will take place during the Ely Festival. We would prefer to hold the AGM as a separate event at a different location from the Festival, but we have really struggled with associations willing to host such an event. There's not a lot to organise - all we need is a room to hold the meeting, and we would like your choir to be available on the day to sing Evensong. You can arrange other activities or not as you wish.

The agenda this year (2022) will include Insurance, Finances, merchandise (such as ties and pin badges). An formal agenda and all reports will be available prior to the meeting.

Plans are well advanced for the 2023 Festival to be held in Warwick on 15th to 17th September. The 2023 Festival will form part of St Mary's and the choir's 900th anniversary. Put the date in your diary so you don't forget or arrange a holiday that clashes with the date!

What do members want from the federation?

Nick Hodges, our Chair, has continued his pledge to speak to all current (about 50) member associations, to gain an understanding of the challenges facing our members and to discuss what the Federation could be doing to help. After more very constructive meetings, comments include the challenges of encouraging others to get involved, getting younger members and former girl choristers involved (who often don't like formality and like things to be more family orientated), and share information at national level and cross organisation. More meetings are already in the diary. Feedback has already led to proposals to update our branding and documentation, changes to our website and social media presence, as well as inform us on how we should project ourselves to the outside world.

Once A Chorister 2022 magazine

The 2021 edition of Once a Chorister magazine was published to our website in November last year. Do you have any news about your own church, Cathedral or Association. Please send to Secretary@fcoca.org.uk before the end of October 2022.

Call all budding web designers and Social Media experts ...

Could you help us redesign and manage our website and social media output? If so, please get in touch.
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