

Minutes of General Meeting

Saturday 14th October 2023 at St Alban's Cathedral

1. Revd Janet Wootton, Chair of the Free Church Choirs welcomed the choirs and singers to the festival. There were no apologies for absence.
- 1a. The minutes from the last meeting on Saturday 21st May 2022 were presented. They were proposed by Adrian Prisk and seconded by Derek Atkinson and approved as correct.
2. Janet Wootton agreed to stand as chair to replace Simon Carver who stood down at the last festival in May 2022. Janet was proposed by Michael Dukes, seconded by Geoff Wainwright and gratefully agreed unanimously by the meeting.

Janet thanked Adrian Prisk and Maggie Prisk for their work as treasurers, the meeting unanimously voted in favour of them continuing in their roles as treasurers.

April Gear, Secretary was voted unanimously at this meeting to continue in the role.

3. The members of the committee were re-elected.
4. Mrs Janet Nelsey had been previously appointed as of Examiner of Accounts but couldn't fulfil the role this year, so they were instead inspected by Revd Peter Green. Adrian proposed for him to inspect the accounts going forward, Michael Dukes seconded, and the meeting unanimously agreed.
5. Adrian Prisk gave the treasurers report, these were the key points:-
 - There has been a small increase in anthem book costs to £13 (including postage)
 - The Lichfield festival accounts showed a deficit of £667 and reserves of £2,752 The budget for St Albans is showing a potential surplus of around £500.
 - Gift Aid envelopes are available for the offering for congregation and choir
 - Not many CDs were sold from the Lichfield festival in May 2022. The St Albans event is being recorded and will be sold on memory sticks for the cost of £8, order forms are in the order of service. Adrian will email to say when they will be available.
6. Free Church Choirs – Southern Region – Andrew Winton
There was no Southern region workshop in autumn 2022 due to the delayed timing of the 2022 festival in Lichfield. In the run up to today's festival, Peter held 5 rehearsals in Ickenham URC between June and October 2023 with encouraging numbers turning up.

Free Church Choirs - Midland Region - David Crick

A successful workshop was held on 28th September 2023 at Loughborough Trinity Methodist.

7. Before the meeting closed Janet advised that Mary Cotes who was supposed to be officiating this festival was not able to attend and she is very disappointed not to be joining us. Janet is going to take over and read Mary's words.

Janet closed the meeting with prayers