

FREE CHURCH CHOIRS
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2019
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

1. Rev. Dr. Mary Cotes, Chair of the Free Church Choirs welcomed the choirs and singers to the Festival. There were no apologies for absence.
2. Dr. Adrian Prisk announced that Mary was standing down as Chair of the F.C.C. and thanked her for all she has done over the years and the great support she has given to the Free Church Choirs. Revd. Simon Carver who is the minister of Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St. Albans was recommended as the new Chair and this was proposed and seconded and all voted in favour.

Mary thanked Dr. Adrian Prisk and Mrs. Maggie Prisk for all the hard work they do as Treasurers and the committee are very grateful for their support. The meeting unanimously voted in favour of them continuing in their roles as Treasurers.

Mary then announced that Liz Crisp was standing down as Secretary and thanked her for all she had done over the past 11 years. April Gear was recommended by the committee as the next secretary. This was proposed, seconded and unanimously voted in favour.
3. The members of the committee were re - elected.
4. Mrs Janet Nelsey was reappointed as the examiner of the accounts
5. Adrian then gave the Treasurers report. A deficit at the last two festivals had been absorbed by reserves. For this festival the costs have been reduced and hopefully the set of figures will look more healthy. Adrian sent out the statement of financial activities to all on the email list but hard copies were available. A copy of the statement is attached to these minutes.

Adrian then reported that the committee have looked at the possibility of charity registration. However our two yearly cycle produces an average turnover below the required threshold. We have been able to register with HMRC to claim Gift Aid

on the subscription part of the book purchase. As a result we were advised to add a clause covering the disposal of any remaining funds in event the Free Church Choirs had to close. We have inserted a clause 15 to cover this eventuality and changed the wording of Union and Society to Organisation. This was passed unanimously.

6. The Southern Region report was given by Andrew Winton.

In October last year, Peter Williams led a one day work shop called "Vocal Acrobatics" There were 30 participants who exercised bodies as well as voices. During this summer there were 5 rehearsals in Ickenham, 1 in Camberley and 1 in New Malden. Peter was in top gear as he took everyone through the anthems at breakneck speed.

This coming January we are invited to join the Hillingdon Choral Society for a session called "How to Handle Handel". In September or October a Saturday workshop is planned.

The Midland region met twice to rehearse together the anthems for this Festival. Next year it is hoped to hold a workshop in Coventry and details will be available in the new year. At the A.G.M. all the officers of the committee were re-elected.

8. Mary closed the meeting with prayer.

Signed.....

Date.....