



Minutes of AGM held at St Michael the Archangel, Alcombe .

7.00pm Tuesday 21st May 2024.

The Chairman welcomed members to the AGM, and thanked Penny for dealing so efficiently with the AGM information sent out to members. He also thanked Jane Jones & Gill Ogier for providing the refreshments.

1. Apologies for Absence received from the following members-

Rosemary Boaz, Angela Morecroft, Marcus Capel, Tina Salter, Peter Thompson, Lynda Heley-Flatley, Andy King, Sue Jacks, David Burrell, Joan Ireland, Beverly Richards de Sanchez.

2. Minutes of last AGM were taken as read. Malcolm Bleasby proposed they be accepted, seconded by Val Stuart and agreed by the Meeting. The Chairman thanked Tina for producing an accurate record of business.

3. Matters arising. The Society's policy documents were updated and accepted by members at the EGM in September. The Charity Commission prefer modifications of Constitutions to be submitted on line, but this was impossible with the amount of changes made, so the Chairman had submitted the revised Constitution as a hard copy, with no acknowledgement so far. The Spring Concert was held on 13 April.

4. The President. Daphne's report was read out by Penny (copy attached).

5. Reports.

Musical Director. Marcus was not present at the Meeting but his report was read out by the Chairman (copy attached).

Treasurer. Unfortunately Jennie was absent due to sickness, but her Report was read out by Val (copy attached). She thanked Jennie for all her hard work in preparing the accounts, and also thanked Simon Strong for signing them off.

Secretary. Penny read out her report (copy attached). She was thanked by the Chairman for all her work over the year.

Making Music. Val read her report (copy attached), and then gave a synopsis of who Making Music were and what they can do for us; there is a lot of information on their website which is easily accessible.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman read out his report (copy attached).

All reports were proposed by Rwth Hunt and seconded by Barbara Robinson, and agreed by the meeting.

6. Election of Officers.

Members will note that it is against Charity Commission rules for anyone receiving payments for services to be elected to the committee of trustees. However, the Chairman assured members that he hoped Marcus & Angela would continue in their current roles and attend committee meetings as advisors and guests. The officers standing for election are:

Treasurer	Proposed	Val Stuart	Seconded	Jane Jones
Secretary	“	Vicky Borland	“	Sally Jackson
Librarian	“	Malcolm Bleasby	“	Barbara Robinson.

Other committee members, Tina Salter, Jill Strong, and David Beach were elected en-bloc.

Proposed by Ros Owen and seconded by Unity Speakman. All agreed by the Meeting.

Making Music Rep Val Stuart is an unelected member and remains on the committee ad infinitum.

The Chairman is appointed by the Committee at their September Meeting – David Beach will remain in office until then.

We still have vacancies on the committee. Anyone interested is asked to contact the Secretary for information. However, we are always happy to have Members help the Society without serving on the Committee, ie with refreshment at concerts.

7. Subscriptions.

It is proposed the raise the yearly subscription from £75 to £80 to help cover ever increasing costs. Proposed by Audrey Beach, seconded by Vicky Borland and agreed by the Meeting.

8. The date of the next AGM is Tuesday 20th May 2025, 7pm in the church hall.

9. Any other Business.

The Chairman mentioned that some Committee members may decide that the time is right to move on but conscious that a lot of knowledge could be lost. He suggested that perhaps volunteers could shadow both Jill and Audrey to see what they both do, without necessarily being on the Committee. Both gave a brief out-line of their roles, and said they were willing to chat to interested individuals.

The proposed social event on 3rd September is cancelled due to various reasons. Another event may be possible to re-organise sometime in the future.

The Chairman advised that it would suit both Marcus and Angela to start rehearsals later, ie 7.15 or 7.30pm, but still expect to finish around 9pm. After discussion it was agreed by all present to start rehearsals at 7.15pm next term.

There being no further business for discussion the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Chairman to sign

President's Report 2024

Good evening everyone.

Firstly, I wish to offer my apologies for not being able to be with you all this evening and secondly I repeat that I am honoured to be the President of Minehead Choral Society. Even after another year I still have not worked out **why** I was asked, however I have again felt privileged to serve as your president for the past year.

After our Summer break, we started our Autumn term at the beginning of September and it was good to see everyone again. We spent enjoyable Tuesday evenings rehearsing for our November concert which was held at our usual venue, Minehead Methodist Church. This was our 'In House' concert of Christmas Music with Charpentier "Messe de Minuit", Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols, John Rutter Carols and, always popular, Carols for audience participation. Unfortunately our numbers were depleted through illness, myself included, but I understand that it was a wonderful evening and as always well received. A huge thank you to David Joysey for joining us and singing the Baritone solo in the Vaughan Williams and it was good to have our old friend Sue Donavon playing the organ for the community carols.

After the Christmas holiday we met again in January to start rehearsing for our Spring concert, which this year included an old favourite of ours and the audience, Faure's Requiem and Howard Goodall's Eternal Light, a beautiful work, new to some of us, and an extremely emotional piece. For our performance it was so good to be accompanied, once more, by the Taunton Sinfonietta, led by Mary Eade. They always make our concerts even more special and enjoyable and how wonderful to have Stephanie Berner and Jamie Rock (flying in from France) return as our soloists and we are indeed fortunate to have the opportunity of singing with an orchestra and professional soloists. It was great to see such a large audience and from the feedback I know how much they enjoyed the evening. We received some wonderful accolades and one of the comments I heard was how well the tenors and basses came through and it was certainly good to have more singers in those sections. We also welcomed other new members to the Society and I hope they have enjoyed their first year with us.

We have a super Choral Society and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Chairman and committee for all their hard work behind the scenes enabling us to enjoy, not only our concerts, but also of being able to enjoy and benefit from being part of Minehead Choral Society. Of course we have to give huge thanks to our musical dynamic duo, Marcus and Angela. We are certainly blessed with such a talented pair. There are times when our M.D. has to miss rehearsals due to his busy work schedule, or he is swanning around with H.R.H! In fact I believe he is at the palace today resulting in him being unable to be with you tonight..... well what can I say!!! When Marcus is absent we are then extremely fortunate that Angela who is not only a brilliant accompanist (I swear she has a hidden hand somewhere)!, is also a great conductor and teacher and takes us through our paces. On a personal level I have learnt so much from both of them and those who sing with me in Friends in Harmony are often hearing and probably get bored of....." we will sing this 'a la Marcus' or we will do a 'Marcus pull back here' and yes I do his actions as well!! Angela does not escape because when sustaining a long note I use her taking off in an aeroplane example. They all **always know** exactly what I mean so thank you both!!

Marcus often says I have been instrumental in some of the paths his life has taken, not least when the vacancy arose and I put his name forward for Musical Director of the Minehead Choral Society.....(*pause*).....so 'yes'..... sorry folks it's me you have to blame!!!

Seriously though I think we all lucky to belong to such a great and friendly Choral Society . Our rehearsals are always fun where" yes" we work hard but we learn such a lot often tackling some challenging and tricky music all resulting in our fabulous concerts at the end of each term.

Every week (well most weeks!) our enjoyable rehearsals are led by our energetic..., enthusiastic..., and encouraging M.D..... you see I can be complimentary. (*slight pause*)

Actually I thought I had better redress the balance because if not with Marcus and his royal connections I might be thrown in the Tower!

Since joining the Society in 1984..... I remind you all that I joined as a child member!,.....I have sung in some wonderful concerts with a huge variety of music and I am pleased to say that we have some exciting concerts planned. I look forward to re-visiting some old favourites and tackling some new works.

I would like to finish by re-iterating my thanks to everyone who makes our choir what it isand that is **all** of us.

I am sad that I cannot be with you all tonight,..... sad about missing the meeting of course but..... 'fiddlesticks' I am missing the wine and nibbles again!!

Have a good evening, have a good Summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

Daffers

Musical Director Report May 2024

Thank you all for another very successful year. I enjoy all the fun and friendship we have together as we create some truly remarkable and memorable performances.

I was pleased with our performance of Charpentier's Mess De Minuit, the lovely light choral mass balanced Rutter's carols beautifully. The second half worked very effectively, giving our audience an opportunity to join us in lustily-sung carols. The whole performance felt well-rehearsed and comfortable. The opportunity to sing very well-known pieces with a little bit of challenge with a more unfamiliar work was a good balance. As always, I am indebted to Angela for her consistent rehearsal accompaniment (and directorship), together with her sensitive and effective performance playing. The addition of the flute alongside the piano gave a different and welcome change of texture and dynamic which enhanced the accompaniment. I would be keen to repeat the use of complementary instruments where appropriate for those concerts where we don't have an orchestra. Many thanks to David Joycey for his solo work in the Fantasia and to Nicole Willis for the additional flute work.

I was thrilled with our Spring performance – truly one of our best productions ever. The Faure Requiem was delivered with drama and pathos whilst retaining all the lightness, musicality

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023-24

Firstly, thank you for coming out tonight on such a lovely evening, and welcome to this year's AGM.

I always enjoy the start of a new term, rehearsing new and/or well loved music for our oncoming concert. And last September was no exception. I think we all thoroughly enjoyed singing Charpentier "Messe de Minuit" (eventually), Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols and of course John Rutter's sublime Carols. And, with Marcus's guidance and patience, Angela's unfailing accompaniment, the evening of our concert dawned. And what a special night it was – despite the smaller choir numbers due to last minute illness, I believe we well & truly did ourselves proud, and certainly the audience was very appreciative! I have it on good authority that at least one ex member had tears in their eyes after the Rutter Carols. And of course, our own David Joysey's lovely baritone solo in the Fantasia, plus the delicate playing of the flautist Nicole Willis (I hope she can join us on another occasion) made it all the more memorable.

Despite the cold & wet we all made it back January to start the process again. And although I knew I could not be with you for the actual concert due to a previous commitment, I loved singing two favourites with you, the Faure & Goodall, for the first part of the term. The afternoon rehearsal of the concert was the first time I had heard you sing for a couple of months, and I was very moved by both pieces. I'm glad Marcus's voice had returned a bit – I gather his hand signals were very impressive in the previous rehearsal! And how wonderful to have Stephanie Berner and our old friend Jamie Rock (in terms of singing with us, not age!!), return as our soloists. It was also lovely to welcome back a slightly reduced Taunton Sinfonietta, to accompany us once more with their usual aplomb. I hope our association with them lasts a good while longer!

The Choral Society continues to prosper musically but our numbers are still down compared to previous years. However it is lovely to have several new faces in the Society, and I hope you have enjoyed singing with us so far, and will continue to do so for a long time. Please spread the word about the Choral Society – we really do need to entice new members to join us (bribe as much as you can), where else locally would anyone be able to sing such diverse music with two concerts a year, often with top class soloists and the Orchestra!

I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking my colleagues in the Committee for all the work they continue to do to support the Society, and also to thank those outside the Committee and Society – our front of house team, our helpers in the Methodist Church with teas & coffees, Ian Gabb from ISOK who prints all our posters and programmes, and of course our family and friends who support us in so many ways. Finally, a big thank you to you, our Members, for making it all worthwhile, for without you there would be no Minehead Choral Society!

Treasurer's report.

I really enjoyed Choral this year, both rehearsing and meeting new members through the year, and of course singing in the concerts. Both concerts were thoroughly enjoyable to sing

and were well attended too, which is always nice to see. Our membership is now up to 50, a long way from the pre covid heights, but an improvement on last year.

For the first year ever, every member paid by BACS – so thanks to you all for making that change, it makes the accounting so much easier for me.

So, to the bottom line....

I have included the concert accounts as a separate page, so you can see the difference in costs between a lower cost, piano, flute and amateur local soloist concert, and a much more expensive small orchestra with 2 professional soloists concert.

The total audience for our Christmas music concert was 85, with the Faure requiem and Goodall Eternal Light at 118, our largest audience since Covid.

As you can clearly see the Faure/Goodall concert was about £2,600 more expensive to put on than the Christmas concert. It made a loss of £2143.93 where the Christmas concert did make a modest profit of £141.17. The Faure/Goodall concert took more income than the Christmas concert, even taking into account the programme advertising income that was all collected for the year in the first term and so is accounted for with the Christmas concert. That extra income was due to the increased ticket cost for the orchestra concerts and the increased audience numbers.

Overall, our bank balance is down by about £1,900, which leaves our balance very close to the £5,000 that we have chosen to leave as our lower limit to start each new year.

This leaves us with little to play with if we want another orchestra concert this year, which we do!

To that end, we are proposing to increase subs by £5 this year, after last year's subs freeze.

We would also like to offer our members a choice of payment options. Either pay the proposed £80 in September for the full year, or split the payments into 2 instalments of £43, the first in September and the second in January – slightly more expensive overall, but spreading the load over 2 terms, for those who find £80 too much to find in one month.

The quick mathematicians of you will have noticed that even with an increase of £5 per head we will not be able to afford another orchestra concert this year.

In order to remain self-funding, we would either have to have more orchestra free concerts, which we are keen to avoid, increase subs per person significantly, which we don't want to do, or increase our membership by approximately 30 members, which we would be keen to do, but might take longer than we want. Please, do encourage anyone who might be interested to come along, every extra person helps!

So to ensure we still retain the option to do Marcus's planned Mozart Requiem in the spring, Val and I have applied for a couple of local grants totally £2,500 and will continue to apply through the year to different national funds, if our applications fail, until we succeed in getting the funding we need.

If anyone knows of any local funds that we could apply to, other than the Minehead Council and the Somerset Council grants, then please let us know. Also, if anyone would like to become a friend of Minehead Choral, a donation of £20 or more would also be very welcome! The more friends the merrier!

Until we hear about our grants, we will have to keep our fingers crossed, I am sure we are all keen to perform with the orchestra again in the spring as it lifts us, making the singing of the concerts so more amazing, and makes the listening to the concerts more fabulous too.

Thanks for a great year!

Concert Accounts 2023-24

Income

Item	Winter Concert	Spring Concert
	Evening of Christmas Music	Faure Requiem, Howard Goodall Eternal light.
Admission ticket sales	£780.00	£1,348.00
Programme sales	£90.00	£115.00
Programme advertising	£270.00	£0.00
Total Income	£1,140.00	£1,463.00

Expenditure

Item		
Soloists, orchestra (incl orchestra scores)	£120.00	£2,666.50
Concert venue	£330.00	£385.00
Programme printing	£233.00	£234.00
Posters and banners	£191.16	£188.06
Presents for Soloists / button holes	£32.99	£34.00
Concert refreshments	£35.00	£43.30
MATA Commission	£14.62	£13.00
Performing rights	£42.06	£42.07
Total expenditure	£998.83	£3,605.93

Total concert income	£1,140.00	£1,463.00
Total concert expenditure	£998.83	£3,605.93
Profit/loss for concert	£141.17	-£2,142.93

Performing rights is payable next year. Amount is estimate based on last year's fees.

Making Music Report 2024

Making Music is the association that supports leisure time musicians in the UK. There are 4,000 music groups in the membership comprising of 228,000 musicians.

Making Music has many resources online which we are able to access. They also work on our behalf by campaigning and have just been successful in obtaining a 50% reduction on Performing Rights fees.

We are able to purchase our insurance from them and this is especially designed for groups such as ours.

Chairman's Report 2024

Firstly I would like to thank all the members who have contributed to our success this year and obviously the Committee members whose reports we have already heard. An efficient Secretary and Treasurer are essential to any organisation and we are lucky in that respect. This is particularly noticeable around the time of concerts, but it's not always obvious who does what. For example, amongst everything else, Penny designs the concert posters and organises for their printing. Audrey has not presented a report, but members will know how efficient she has been in obtaining, distributing and returning the music we rely on. We do face the possibility though, that cuts in local government spending could affect our ability to borrow music from the Yeovil Library in the future.

Also less apparent to members will be that Jill organises that we have an orchestra and that they have music to play from. And Val has been working hard, with Jenny, on preparing submissions in the hope we might attract grants to support our activities.

I would also like to thank Tina in her absence for the efficient preparing of committee meeting minutes, and for masterminding the refreshments at concerts.

We should also thank Emily & Elizabeth for continuing to accommodate the Society's stock of music, and friends and partners who have helped on front of house duties at concerts or providing food for our concerts.

For my own part it has been a busy year. For example, dealing with revising our policies, including for the first time a Safeguarding policy. We should acknowledge here the availability of suitable documents provided by Making Music. I have also had the responsibility of editing the Concert programme, including obtaining advertisements - Daphne has helped to get Porlock traders to support us in the way. Likewise, in organising publicity in different ways such as posters aiming to attract new members, press announcements and banners.