

Whitehall Choir  
Minutes of the meeting held on  
21 September 2016 at 1830 hours  
St Peter's Eaton Square

**Present:** Jonathan Williams (Chair), Patrick Haighton (Treasurer), Kate Goulden (Soprano Rep), Richard Grafen (Webmaster), Mark Graver (Librarian), Martin Humphreys (Publicity Manager), Daniel Lambauer (Bass Rep), Jacky Erwtaman (pro tem Minutes Secretary).

**Apologies:** Paul Spicer (Music Director), Julie Dyg (Alto Rep), Penny Prior (Business Manager)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Minutes of last meeting: matters arising not on Agenda	<p>i) JW said that he had not had time to approach the Church about using their crockery. There had been other priorities on his time.</p> <p>ii) PH reported on the large amount of interesting information revealed in the completed questionnaires. The information was on a very large spreadsheet from which Gill Carruthers had extracted the essence: a tour every 2/3 years and the issue of having an unbalanced choir. <b>Agreed</b> to let the full choir see GC's summary after Committee had seen it; also then to pass it to Rayburn who were still owed a response.</p> <p>iii) <b>Agreed</b> the most effective method of communication with choir was through part reps. Also <b>agreed</b> to get minutes of Committee Meetings out more quickly. Two way communication to be encouraged.</p> <p>iv) PH reported that Deb Dowdall was working on an application to the Lottery Fund; and that there had been two expressions of interest in the free places offered on merit for advanced singers who could lead a section and would commit to the choir for a full year. Reduced subscription rates are also offered for younger members.</p> <p>JW said that it might be possible to get sponsorship for soloists by linking it to Education.</p> <p>v) Still considering options for filling the vacant positions of Secretary and Programme production.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>PC/JW</p> <p>All</p>
Choir future direction	<p>JW reported that Paul Spicer had given notice and this would be his last season. He would tell the choir 20/9 and invite PS to speak to the choir. The meeting suggested the issues PS should focus on so as to maintain morale. PS to speak to Ian Tindale before 20/9 rehearsal. JW had been handed the documents of the process the choir went through when PS was engaged. It was important now to identify clearly what the choir wanted in a new Musical Director and what the choir wanted to be: what kind of conductor, what kind of music. PS would be engaged in the recruitment process.</p> <p>Timetable: Advert issued by end September; closing date end 2016 Selection/audition process: January/February 2017 Announcement: March 2017 with view to a September 2017 start.</p> <p>MH offered to provide a structure for the interview and brief about the choir for the invitation to apply.</p>	<p>JW PS</p> <p>JW MH</p>
Finances: PH	<p>PH reported that the draft for the annual report would be available in the next couple of weeks. Overall, income was down by £2000 on last year. Ticket sales had been poor throughout the year and all concerts had had to be financially</p>	<p>PH</p>

	supported by subscriptions. The £15 ticket at St James's had barely covered the cost of hiring the Church. A £25 ticket price was needed to break even or find much cheaper venues. It was <b>agreed</b> to increase ticket prices to £20 for all concerts (other than at St John Smith Square) and maintain our current venues.	
Come & Sing Sat 8 October	Very important that everyone encouraged people to attend this important fund raiser.	All
St John's Smith Square Tuesday 22 November 2016	Penny Prior was handling tickets. JW tabled a draft flyer he had prepared for the concert and comments offered. The reflection image was <b>agreed</b> . MH had circulated the publicity plan which was <b>agreed</b> . PH would be dealing with the contract and orchestral scores.	PP JW MH PH
Christmas Concert: 13 December '16	Ian Tindale had proposed soloist with piano in place of readings: this was <b>agreed</b> . Ticket prices <b>agreed</b> £20	
Spring concert Tuesday 6 April 2017	Venue: St Margaret's Westminster. JW had emailed them but was still awaiting a response. This had highlighted the urgent need for someone to take over the management of venues asap. PH suggested visiting the Church. PS to confirm programme and music. Alternative to St Margaret: St Peter's Alternatives to St Peter's: St John's Waterloo, St James's Church, Sussex Gardens recommended by Ian Tindale.	JW PH  PS

The meeting ended at 2050 hours.