

NEWS



Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

Ely Festival 2022

The Ely festival last year was a great success, despite being overshadowed by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2. One of the highlights was a very moving service of Compline on the Friday evening. Full details of the AGM and Festival weekend can be found in Once a Chorister 2022 magazine on our website www.fcoca.org.uk The Executive Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank John Marshall and the Ely former choristers for their efforts, patience, and determination for a wonderful festival.

Warwick Festival: 15th – 17th September 2023

We are looking forward to the 2023 Festival in September: 15th – 17th September. Everything is in hand and progressing well. Online booking (with a paper option available) is expected to be available in May 2023. Warwick have worked hard to keep the costs down in these difficult economic times and the expected cost for the weekend activities is around £100 per head (including banquet but not accommodation).

Llandaff Festival: 20th – 22nd September 2024

We are pleased to announce that the 2024 Festival will take place at Llandaff Cathedral (in Cardiff South Wales). The Cathedral stands on one of the oldest Christian sites in the British Isles. Worship and prayer have been offered here since the middle of the sixth century. The Director of Music, Stephen Moore, told us that a new Music Foundation has been set up to support and develop music at Llandaff Cathedral. Nick and Alastair have been working closely with Stephen and Elizabeth Atherton (Music Foundation Executive) to set up the 2024 Festival. One of its aims is to engage with former choristers, both those who have left the choirs recently and those who have a connection which is more long standing. The Foundation has applied to re-join The Federation, and the proposal was carried unanimously at our last committee meeting.

Committee meetings

The Executive Committee met with various association representatives at the AGM on Saturday 10th September last year during the Festival weekend in Ely, and again virtually using Zoom on 1st March this year. We hope to meet again, but this time in person in Leamington, in July this year.

Safeguarding

We now have a Safeguarding Policy, and Ayrton Westwood has been appointed as our Safeguarding Officer.

Vacant committee positions

We need more committee members NOW!

Many of our current committee members are getting on a bit, and we would love some younger members come and join us, if only to observe what we do and offer a different perspective on life. If you then feel so inclined to get more involved, you can shadow one of the committee members before deciding if you would like to take on a specific role. In particular, we need a Vice-Chair, a Development Lead, and someone to handle our Website and Social Media presence.

The current Chair (Nick) and Secretary (Alastair) have given lots of notice of their intention to stand down from the committee in 2025. They are key roles and so we need to find willing replacements. We will be contacting all our association members asking for volunteers.

Once A Chorister 2022 magazine

The 2022 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, or simply an article that you think our readers may find interesting? Do you have a special memory of your time as a chorister? Have you visited a special or unusual place?

Please send to Secretary@fcoca.org.uk before the end of October 2023.

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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