

## Minutes of Trustee Meeting on Thursday 15 May 2023 by Zoom

**Present:** Philip Bellshaw (PB) (chair), Paul Spicer (PS), Graham Stroud (GS), Barbara Hathaway (BH), Hilary Boszko (HB), Corinna Gregory (CG), Eike Ritter (ER), Ela Claridge (EC), Kate Crocker (KC), Heather Gay (HG)

		<b>Action</b>
1.	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Pauline Hygate (PH), Julia Sadler (JS)	
2.	<b>Minutes of meeting held on 9 March 2023:</b> agreed	
3.	<b>Actions and matters arising from the minutes</b> See below	
4.	<b>Decisions taken since the last meeting</b> Following a trial rehearsal at the church hall of St Joseph and St Helen, Cotteridge, it had been decided by email vote to move rehearsals there from September 2023 for a first period of one term.	
5.	<b>Concerts in June 2023</b> CG reported that she would visit St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth, to check the space and to see whether staging would be required. KC felt that one level of staging might be needed. KC noted that the Shakespeare pub had been booked as a green room, subject to some members of the choir eating there. She felt that the pub menus (attached) were perhaps too elaborate for the break between rehearsal and concert, but noted that the landlady would be willing to provide a buffet meal for approx. £13.50 per head. It was felt that this would be preferable and easier to manage. CG will do a Google poll of choir members. KC reported that she had obtained a drinks licence for the Bridgnorth concert, so intends to serve wine and soft drinks in the interval. CG had nothing to report on the CBSO Centre concert. All seems to be OK.	CG          CG  KC
6.	<b>Finance update:</b> PB thanked PH (in absentia) for the finance report (attached), circulated before the meeting. There were no comments.	
7.	<b>Fundraising update:</b> KC had presented a written update (attached). She was thanked for her work and congratulated on the donation from the Saintbury Trust.	
8.	<b>Marketing update:</b> HB had presented a written update (attached). She noted that advertising for the June concerts	

	<p>was starting imminently and adverts on social media would start immediately. JS had sent some comments in writing, as she was unable to be at the meeting. PB passed these to HB to look into.</p> <p>HB has images for the next concert in November 2023 and also for the St Matthew Passion concert in March 2024. She hoped that the sponsor of the St Matthew Passion could be asked to approve the images. PB will ask the sponsor if they will make themselves known.</p>	<p>HB</p> <p>PB</p>
9.	<p><b>Move from Newman House:</b></p> <p><b>a. Store clearance at Newman House (NH)</b></p> <p>BH reported that NH was being cleared very quickly and that the choir should aim to get as much as possible out of the storeroom asap. She had circulated two lists of the contents of the storeroom (attached) – one a detailed inventory of the spare music stored there. She noted that, before the choir moved to NH, all the contents of the storeroom had been stored in choir members' houses. The general feeling was that we should be as brutal and unsentimental as possible when deciding whether to throw items away. The big question mark was over the music and whether any of it would be likely to be used in the near future. The general consensus was to ask a dealer to dispose of the music for the choir. It was suggested that the Conservatoire be approached for advice, as they had gone down this route in the recent past. PS insisted that he decide what to dispose of and what to retain. He suggested approaching Travis and Emery (music dealers in London).</p> <p><b>b. General plan for St Joseph and St Helen (SJSH)</b></p> <p>BH noted that only a very limited amount of storage space was available at SJSH and that moving items from there for each rehearsal would be problematic in winter, since it would involve negotiating an outside staircase. She proposed buying a collapsible podium that could be brought by car and also used for concerts, but reported that these are not cheap, at £690 + VAT + delivery. She offered to send round a photo.</p> <p><b>c. Piano/keyboard for SJSH</b></p> <p>PB said that the piano needed tuning and some remedial work. PS noted that the electronic keyboard used for the trial rehearsal would not support the choir sufficiently. HB suggested contacting Robin's Piano Services in Cradley Heath to check the piano over. This was agreed.</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>All</p> <p>HB</p>
10.	<p><b>Rest of 2023/24 schedule</b></p> <p>CG had circulated a draft schedule with a number of points requiring discussion/decision highlighted (attached). HB asked that ticket prices for all concerts be fixed for publicity purposes. HG offered to make a written proposal for ticket prices. She also reminded the committee that a new ticket secretary needed to be found soon. ER reported that Catherine Evans was considering volunteering. PB noted that it was a job that could be shared by two people.</p> <p><b>a. November 2023 concert</b></p> <p>PS confirmed that the main St Paul's organ will be used</p> <p><b>b. Nine lessons and carols</b></p> <p>PS confirmed that Paul Carr will play organ and accompany rehearsals. KC asked that the timing be confirmed. It was noted that the service would start at 15.30.</p> <p><b>c. St Matthew Passion, March 2024</b></p> <p>CG reported that the soloists and the Tewkesbury choristers were booked. PS is liaising with Lichfield Cathedral. However, he had not yet heard from Martin Perkins concerning the</p>	<p>HG</p> <p>PS</p>

	<p>rehearsal on the day before the concert.</p> <p>HB noted that (a) venue(s) still need to be found for the two Saturday rehearsals. Choir members will also need to be reminded that these are not optional rehearsals.</p> <p><b>d. Summer 2024 concerts</b></p> <p>PS said that the possibility of a recording needed to be decided asap as this would fix the concert programme. PB proposed that a planning subgroup meeting be held very shortly.</p> <p>CG informed the committee that St Paul's was free for the November 2024 concert. She also noted that, for the B Minor Mass in March 2025, the Musical and Amicable orchestra was available, as was Roderick Williams.</p>	<p>All BH</p> <p>PB, PS</p>
11.	<p><b>Approach from Bournville Parish Church</b></p> <p>BH informed the committee that the organ in the church had been fully restored and wondered whether it would be a good venue for the Summer 2025 concert. She will check whether the date would suit the church and also check if it would coincide with the Bournville Festival, which would be noisy.</p>	BH
12.	<p><b>Social events</b></p> <p><b>a. Garden party, 9 July 2023</b></p> <p>With the departure of Jane Eminson, there is a need to find a volunteer to coordinate the food preparation. PS will ask Helen Grew if she would take on this role.</p> <p><b>b. Fish and chip supper, Autumn 2023</b></p> <p>GS reported that he had contacted the Dad's Lane Fish Bar about a booking for 25 November 2023, however they do not accept block bookings on Thursdays, Fridays or Saturdays. It was suggested that a Tuesday could be acceptable, perhaps in January 2024. This will need to be put to the choir members before going ahead.</p> <p><b>c. Choir dinner</b></p> <p>The possibility of holding future choir dinners each New Year from 2025 should also be put to the choir, perhaps after the informal supper in January 2024. It was noted that there was a marked lack of enthusiasm the last time that this had been suggested, probably due to the cost and cancellation conditions imposed by the Edgbaston Golf Club. PS noted that it was also becoming increasingly difficult to attract speakers.</p> <p>Concerning the proposed fundraising organ recitals on 20 and 21 October. It was proposed that details should be finalised in a short Zoom meeting asap (also dealing with details of the garden party).</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p>
13.	<p><b>Choir tour:</b></p> <p>Not discussed. PB will arrange a meeting of the tour subgroup.</p>	PB
14.	<p><b>Archives and other items returned from Michael Palmer:</b></p> <p>EC introduced her proposal for setting up the archive of concert programmes and asked for the committee's comments. There was unanimous approval of her proposal. EC will also look at the material currently being stored in a garage and come forward with proposals to deal with it. It was agreed to set up a separate subgroup.</p>	EC
15.	<p><b>Correspondence received:</b></p> <p>None.</p>	

16.	<p><b>Any other business:</b>          BH asked that thought be given to possible venues for future Saturday rehearsals.          GS reminded the committee that the choir Handbook should be reviewed in July 2023. In particular, the section on archiving would need to be rewritten. He offered to come forward with a proposal.</p>	<p>All          GS</p>
17.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b>          Thursday, 14 September 2023 at 17:30 by Zoom.</p>	<p>GS/EC</p>