

Minutes of the CCC Committee Meeting - Tuesday 7 July 2026

Present:

Marie Brewer, Ian Abrey, Chris Sanders, Mary McCarthy Harris, Jane Wilde

Resignation of Calum and recruitment of new Musical Director

We discussed how repertoire should be chosen going forward (as this had recently been very last minute) and concluded that this should be left until we have a new musical director in place. They should have a plan for the full year ahead.

We also discussed the current make-up of the choir and whether voice tests should be introduced, but again concluded that this should be discussed with our new director.

However, we realised this was a good moment for stock-taking and that the choir as a whole should be consulted about what kind of choir they want to be part of, whether they want to be challenged with new and more complex music, what kind of repertoire they want to sing etc. Marie will send round an email the choir to this effect, but we decide we should simultaneously start the recruitment process.

Channels we could use are Association of British Choral Directors, word of mouth, Jeanette Ager, Making Music website, various appropriate Facebook groups etc. Jane to edit the ad we used last time to get the ball rolling. **JW**

We agreed that the process we'd had last time around had worked very well and that we should go through the same again. In view of the choir's predilection for Bach, we could, for example, ask the candidates to conduct us in a chorus from St. John Passion as well as choose something from the ESM book.

Chris to update the list of questions posed to candidates at interview. **CS**

Marie will ask Calum his honest opinion as to whether he wants to conduct the Christmas Concert or would prefer to be relieved of this obligation. David Wordsworth has said that he would be interested in covering for this, if Calum wishes to leave the choir now. **MB**

If Calum does want to leave after the summer concert, Mary will buy a bottle of good Scots malt whisky as a gift from the choir, which Marie will present at the end of the concert. **MMc/MB**

Committee

Phil Almond has volunteered to take on the role of booking musicians - we agreed to invite him to be a member of the committee. **MB**

Christmas Concert venue

We decided that Dean's Hall was not a viable option as they were not co-operative about the date. We will stick with St. Peter's for the time being, although it is very cold. Mary to speak to the church to see if they will agree to put on the heating earlier (we are prepared to pay extra!). **MMc**

Christmas Concert soloists

The following have been booked: Olivia Bell (sop), Phil Conway-Brown (tenor), Maximilian Catalano (bass). We will offer them £300. **MB/IA**

Website

Marie reported on the progress of the new website which Carolyn Beard is working on. She is doing a good job - currently a work in progress.

Spring Concert Programme

Chris thought people would be keen to sing some Bach and suggested St. John Passion.

Recruitment of singers

This is one of the priorities of the new simplified website. We agreed to offer no-fee membership and free music to under-35s.

Mary agreed to approach schools re recruitment.

Chris suggested a smaller group from within the choir could be available to sing for charity at local functions - which would be a kind of outreach. Jane mentioned that a similar local choir, Chiltern Choir, which rehearses in Chorleywood, did something similar. Chris will add this to a list of points to be raised with musical director candidates (are they interested in doing extra small concerts of this nature?).

Communication

We finished with a wide-ranging discussion about inter-committee communication and committee to choir communication.

Minutes JW