

Sandbach Choral Society

Committee meeting Tues November 23rd 2021 6pm Wheelock

1. Present

Mags Daly, Linda Norris, Pat Arnold, Margaret Smith, Julie Barker, Frank Barker, Sandy Boyle, Kelvin Leslie, Stephen Newlove

2. Apologies

None

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

Website – enquiries on-going

Recruitment - Article has appeared in U3A newsletter.

- Stephen Davies will ask if any of his choir would be interested in joining,
- Negotiations ongoing with Sandbach Directory. Advertisement or article for January

edition to be submitted by Dec 9th

- Linda to make enquiries re town notice boards **Linda**
- Makers Market already has singers booked and to appear there we would have to register the choir as a stall holder. Decided not to pursue this option

4. Programme for Christmas concert

Stephen has sent a suggested programme which was accepted. No additional material is needed as the concert will be a single 1 to 1.5 hour session. Andrew will play a piano solo. Stephen will perform a vocal solo and there will be 3 readings, Matthew 2 v1-12, The Night Before Christmas and Help Wanted. Running order with numbers of verses of audience participation carols to be circulated. Verses to be verbally confirmed at tonight's rehearsal.

Pat and Linda to liaise on typing, formatting and printing of programmes, posters and handbills.

Linda/Pat

5. Planning for Christmas concert

a) Margaret and Linda have spoken to Jayne Barber at Sandbach Town Hall. A microphone will be supplied. It was unclear if this would need to be used with Town Hall PA Further enquiry to be made.

Linda

b) Julie and Frank will provide PA.

Frank/Julie

c) Andrew will take the new organ home tonight to practise on it. He will be asked to keep it and bring it to the Town Hall on Dec 15th

Andrew/ Margaret

d) Pat will transport the podium

Pat

e) Programmes including hymn sheets to be provided by Linda and Pat (see above). Information about the Easter concert, Stainer's Crucifixion, to be included with programme.

Linda/Pat

f) Mince pies on arrival can be served from the kitchen. We will not be charged for kitchen hire.

Bin to be provided by Town Hall for debris from refreshments.

g) Linda has received replies from Fiona Bruce MP and from the Mayor of Cheshire East, neither of whom can attend. Reply from Mayor of Sandbach awaited.

h) Sandy will buy raffle tickets, collect raffle prizes and bring buckets for money and raffle draw.

Sandy

Margaret to supply Christmas Hamper

Members to be asked tonight to supply prizes

Margaret

Pat has a contact who will supply a small hamper of scented candles

Pat

i) Julie and Frank will work on the seating plan, possibly 3 rows as we now have only 33 regular attenders who are likely to be singing in the concert

Julie/ Frank

Attendance sheet for concert to be provided tonight.

Ena

j) Pat to provide clicker to check audience numbers and buckets with St Luke's logo for retiring collection. Red and Linda's husband to rattle buckets at exit doors **Pat**

k) Stephen is unable to attend rehearsals on Nov 30th or Dec 7th. Julie will run these rehearsals **Julie**
The Wheelock hall is available on Sat Dec 4th for an additional rehearsal but at least two men are unavailable so it was decided not to go ahead with this. There will be a preconcert rehearsal in the Town Hall on Dec 15th starting at 5.30.

l) Uniform will be all black some glitter and red for women, Black DJ, white shirt, red bow tie for men.

6. Change of venue, dates for future concerts

Margaret and Linda have consulted the Town Hall who hold around £700 of society money paid in deposits and carried forward because of Covid. Our plan was to have concerts on Sundays because the hire cost is cheaper. Unfortunately, the Town Hall is booked each Sunday throughout the year with only June 19th being available. This will be booked for the Summer concert. At present we do not have a venue for the Easter concert. Linda will approach the Town Hall again to see if there are Saturdays available around the end of March or early April, avoiding April 9th and 10th when Stephen is unavailable. If that fails we will look at St Peter's Church Hall, Elworth or St Mary's. A venue needs to be found with some urgency so that information about the Easter concert can be included in the Christmas concert programme **Linda**

7. Dream of Gerontius

Nantwich Choral Society has asked us to join in this with other choirs in November. We agreed we would do this in place of a separate November concert. **Margaret**
Altrincham's production of Gerontius will now take place 2024 at RNCM

8. Publicity

We have no publicity officer at present. Volunteer to be sought to take on this role. Margaret to ask at rehearsal tonight. Margaret also mentioned looking at prices for a sailboard advertiser to go outside venues where a concert is taking place as there is now a reluctance to allow banners. Red will be asked to take new photographs at the Christmas for our indoor publicity display. **Margaret**

9. AOB

a) Quiz night to be arranged in February. Linda to enquire about availability of St Mary's hall on Feb 4th, 11th or 18th. **Linda**

Same quiz setting team to be asked if they are available. **Margaret**

b) Julie raised the matter of a possible increase in Subs now that our numbers have reduced. Pat reported that we have a healthy bank balance at present because of subs donated by members last year when no concerts were possible. It was agreed that subs should stay at current level at present.

10. Date of next meeting

Tues Jan 18th 6pm Wheelock

