

Chair's Update

May 2025



In my last update I asked you to hold the date for our **2025 AGM on the 5th October**. I can confirm that this is now a firm date and the AGM will be hosted by **Lincoln Cathedral**. We are very grateful to the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral for agreeing to host this event and to the Fellowship of Lincoln Cathedral Old Choristers, whose Annual Commemoration and Act of Remembrance will also take place. We very much look forward to seeing as many representatives from Associations as are able to be there. Here's the proposed programme for the gathering in Lincoln on Sunday 5th October:

12.00	Informal lunch in Cathedral Café
13.45	AGM
14.45	Rehearsal for Evensong for those wishing to sing
15.45	Choral Evensong followed by reception hosted by the Dean

For those intending to travel to Lincoln on Saturday 4th, there may be the opportunity to meet for an informal supper and everyone is invited to attend Choral Eucharist at 10.30 on Sunday morning.

Full details will sent out shortly, together with booking information under a separate email.

The Executive Committee met on 20th March. In addition to formalising the offer from Lincoln to host the 2025 AGM, our other, primary subject for discussion was the continuation of the Federation, following on from our meeting in November.

We have been suggesting for some time that, as there is a lack of interest for running full weekend Festival style gatherings, a "one-day" event, based around our AGM and, hopefully including a Choral Evensong, would be a perfectly acceptable alternative. Lincoln have provided us with a template that could be followed by others and the event need not have more than a minimal impact on the hosting cathedral/church. If the event is to include our AGM, the only thing we ask is that a suitable room is provided (the Federation is happy to meet any cost of doing so) in which the AGM can be held.

I am delighted to say that three Executive Committee members have been able to offer to host events of this nature over the next three years. The 2026 AGM will be held in Norwich, 2027 in St Alban's and 2028 & 2029 in either Westminster Abbey or Rochester. It would be really helpful if other Associations could come forward and offer to host an event to complete, say, the next 5 years.

It was suggested at last year's AGM in Llandaff that, rather than have someone who was elected Chair of the Federation for a period of 5 years, as has been the norm in recent times, a representative from the Association hosting the AGM could hold the

post for the year in which they are hosting. It will be proposed at this year's AGM that the representative from Norwich, who will be the host next year, is elected Chair, as I step down at the end of my 5 year tenure.

As I have said in previous updates, both Alastair Pollard, our Honorary Secretary, and I are stepping down from our current positions, which we have held for the past 10 years. We may have sorted the Chair issue but the incoming Chair will have to find a willing hand to take on the Secretarial role. Even if this comes from within the existing committee we still need additional resources (i.e. people) to join the committee. We understand what a challenge it is to find people to fulfil such roles these days but, if you know anyone who might be interested in joining the FCOCA Executive Committee, do, please, point them in our direction. I am very pleased to say that we have had someone volunteer to edit and publish the annual magazine, *Once a Chorister*, which will continue to be an on-line document. We will let you know the arrangements for submitting articles/copy for this year's edition but do provide your committee and music department with advance warning that copy will be required by the end of October.

Nick Hodges
Chair



You are receiving this newsletter because either we have you on our database as the contact person for your Association or we have had some contact with you. I would like to continue to write to you but if you do not wish to receive further communications from me, please reply to the email to which this newsletter was appended with REMOVE in the subject line. Contributions to any discussions mentioned in the newsletter may be sent to me, Nick Hodges, at the email address shown: or to the Honorary Secretary at secretary@fcoca.org.uk.

Email: chairman@fcoca.org.uk