

Lincoln AGM – Sunday 5th October 2025

It has not been possible to arrange a full Festival for 2025, but we have been invited to Lincoln Cathedral to hold our AGM and attend Evensong on the same day as the local association holds their gathering. Further details will be published on our website www.fcoca.org.uk The Executive Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank John Parry and the Lincoln team for facilitating our AGM.

Draft running order includes: Eucharist at 10:30 am, Lunch with Lincoln OC and ladies, Once a Chorister AGM or tour of the Cathedral followed by a rehearsal for Evensong for those who wish to sing. Evensong and Act of Remembrance at 3:30 pm, Drinks reception afterwards in Deanery.

Some former choristers are considering staying overnight in and around Lincoln so they can attend the Sunday morning service, and maybe have an informal meal together on the Saturday evening.

Llandaff Festival: 20th – 22nd September 2024

We had a very successful Festival last year in Llandaff. The Director of Music, Stephen Moore and the whole team there from Cathedral, Choir and School did a wonderful job in arranging and hosting the 3-day event. Full details can be found in the latest Once a Chorister Magazine 2024, on our website www.fcoca.org.uk

Committee meetings

Since the AGM, held in Llandaff in 2024, the Executive Committee met on 23rd November 2024 and 20th March 2025. We are next due to meet on 25th June 2025. We hope to see many of you, in person, in Lincoln at the AGM on Sunday 5th October.

Cathedral Music Trust Spring Gathering 2025

I was pleased to join members of CMT for their Spring Gathering in the North-East of England. We started at Newcastle's Anglican Cathedral. An interesting note is that the aisles of this cathedral are wider than the nave. Attendees were invited to attend a concert given by The Royal Sinfonia at The Glasshouse in Gateshead (formerly The Sage), just across the river.

The next day we took coaches to Hexham Abbey where we were superbly entertained by a concert of sacred Music from the combined choir (ladies, gentlemen, boys and girls), most of which was unaccompanied. The choir is so much more than a typical Parish Church Choir, and could equal or exceed many Cathedral choirs. The interesting note about the Abbey is that there is a North Aisle, but no South Aisle.

On the third day, attendees were entertained, fed and watered at Durham Cathedral, by Daniel Cook (Director of Music at Durham Cathedral) and the Cathedral Choir. Possibly the finest Cathedral in the land.

Vacant committee positions

We need more committee members NOW! In particular, we need a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Development Lead, and someone to handle our Website and Social Media presence.

The current Chair (Nick) and Secretary (Alastair) will be stepping down from their roles on the committee at the AGM to be held in Lincoln in October 2025. After much discussion, the committee agreed that the OC Association hosting our AGM would appoint a Chair to serve for that year. The 2026 AGM is to be held in Norwich, so Ayrton Westwood will act as Once a Chorister Chair for 2026. We have tentative offers to host our AGMs in 2027 and 2028.

Once A Chorister 2025 magazine

The 2024 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 2025, and I shall pass on to our new Magazine Editor.

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