

Faringdon Singers Committee Meeting

Tuesday 22nd September 2026 – 7.45pm

Meeting hosted via Zoom

1. Apologies – Ieuan Jones

2. Previous Meeting notes & AGM – matters arising

Carried over from April Committee meeting – AOB

- Clare will look at more Gjeilo music for future concerts.
 - See notes from April 2026 for more detail
 - QR code on the back burner – didn't ask the audience
 - Autumn Term – 51 members at the first rehearsal, but Andy Lole has decided to wait until next term.

3. Feedback – Summer Concert in Longcot

- When we eventually got into the church... Clare expressed it was lovely and good to be back in the Longcot venue with an appreciative audience and people enjoyed it.
- Alison enjoyed having the clarinet players there and they enjoyed being there too.
- Huge thanks to Vicky for all of the hard work and time for this concert

4. Finance

- End of our Financial Year - 31st Aug
- Accrued £1,300 additional for the year
- There will be additional expenses now
- Subscriptions in at this point 42%
- Current cash in bank £6k
- All outgoings paid and up to date
- Someone from the group asked that we are not just accruing cash for the sake of it – Bran advised we need a buffer.
- Sjoerd advised in the past, we have survived on a minimal buffer. But, now we are hiring a new accompanist. How much do we need if we didn't do any concerts etc for 1 year?
- No unexpected expenses so it doesn't need to be substantial.
- Sjoerd suggests a buffer of £4k.
- Clare advised the library we have is lovely but on the old side – we have potential to invest in new sets which we can use many times.
- Sjoerd advised if the composer of our stock music has been dead for 70 years, and was printed more than 25 years ago, we are legally allowed to print copies.
- The new music this term cost us £600
- Clare advised the music by Quartel wasn't available to hire, so felt it was good to buy and then other choirs can hire this out as part of Making Music.
- The recent newer pieces have been popular with the choir and audiences

5. Christmas Concert – Blessed Hugh – checklist

- Sunday 6th December 2026
- Thursday before - practice in the church
- No need to discuss this one as the Christmas Concert organising is on autopilot
- Linda advised Hilary has asked about getting students to assist with solos for larger, more complicated works.
- Clare has recently chosen music that can incorporate soloists from the choir
- We have used instrumentalist soloist – soloists are expensive, even students.
- Will explore this in the Spring term – mindful of budget
- All happy with soloists now and again
- Laurence suggests reaching out to Oxford College Choir for a potential ‘collaboration’. Laurence has contacts there to explore.
- Clare asked what people thought about readings? Bran said this would be a good idea and gives others an opportunity to do something that might not be able to do a solo.
- Clare will look for additional material for this but mindful not to have too many
- Sjoerd expresses the individual musical / instrumental pieces are well received and people do come for the music.

6. Looking ahead – Into 2027

- Spring Concert - 20th March
- A couple of offers have been received from local churches
- Alison asks if we would like it in St Mary’s in Buckland again for MND
- Karen suggests a few have expressed that we do a bigger work again
- Clare happy that we can be ambitious but have to be mindful of space and quality of organ when choosing the location
- Linda suggests St Mary’s in Uffington
- To be decided
- Fyfield would like us back, but only for the more lighthearted Summer concert

7. AOB:

a. Performing license for amateur choirs/Insurance

- Clare advised they will let us know what we owe for royalties
- They encourage choirs not to charge to lend the music, but there will be expenses, post etc
- Bran went to a Making Music Webinar – there is an offer for having 25% off usual costs on Boosey & Hawkes but music needs to be chosen by the end of Nov 26.

b. Terence Taxis

- No need for the time being - as Tim is able to drive.
- Sjoerd checked in with Lorna and Tim about Terrance - agreed to help him attend as long as possible.

c. Welcome Laurence!

- Sjoerd welcomed Laurence as our shiny new accompanist 😊

d. Summer Concert date – w/e 10/11th July

- Weekend 3rd /4th July suggested but there are a few event clashes in Faringdon.
- Provisional date - w/e 10/11th July - host church to choose the day
- That is also Folly Fest – could leverage on this
- Do not have a venue yet – Maybe All Saints

e. Summer Social – Lyn & David’s garden? Or -something else?

- Lyn & David happy to have us again
- We might want to do something - as in entertainment
- Linda and Alison say it was a lovely evening, and it is nice that it is in Faringdon

f. AGM

- Thursday 7th October before rehearsal
- MD, chairman and treasurer reports to be shared beforehand
- All agreed they will be happy to stay on the committee
- Sjoerd expressed it would be good to address the gender balance on the committee. Another tenor or bass?

Close 8.44pm