

CO Treasurer's Report AGM 2/11/21

Another abnormal and disrupted year on account of the lingering pandemic. This left us totally inactive in terms of any of our usual live performances. Instead we were limited to two shortish singing gatherings and one major new departure, a video recording filling the void left by our inability, for the second year in a row, to present our traditional Passiontide meditation of music and readings in Boxgrove Priory.

This latter event, as well as being a new departure, also presented quite a challenge to many of us, not least myself. With the excellent help and encouragement of our recording engineer Nic Moodie, our Music Director Peter Allwood's industry and determination and the resourcefulness of Rasma Bertz's photography, the eventual result was a great and undoubted success, moreover raising some £1000 for our regular chosen charity in association with Boxgrove events, Aldingbourne Trust.

Following on from this I must now report that Rathbone's, who had sponsored these events on three previous occasions and also contributed to the recording, have sadly decided to end this link in favour of making their donations to Aldingbourne direct. This will not damage us financially, as we had effectively been the 'middle-man' through whom these transactions had been made, not ultimately benefiting in any pecuniary way ourselves. Good news has arrived on the other hand in the form of a three-year sponsorship deal with horticulturalists Fargro worth a total of £1500, the first £500 instalment of which has already been received.

At this time last year I was bound to point that over half the bank balance comprised funds received in subs for planned concerts in March 2020, which in the end could not take place, meaning that that money would be carried forward to the next term in which we resumed full activity. I little expected then to be repeating the same information a full year later: at least now, to great relief amongst other emotions, we are finally active again, and those funds will form part of the equation relating to our forthcoming performance of Brahms' 'Ein Deutsches Requiem', dedicated to all those who have suffered during the pandemic. However that money does arguably give our healthy bank balance a slightly false perspective, as does the extra sum donated for the recording on top of that needed to cover its costs: this is being held in reserve with a view to helping young guest musicians, the likes of whom were hit harder than most by the pandemic.

Finally, as many of you will already be aware, this will be my last report as Treasurer of Chantry Quire: I am due to retire now, having occupied the post since the Quire's foundation 22 years ago. Much has changed in that intervening period (certainly the Treasurer's role has expanded immeasurably), but the pleasure in performing good, or sometimes great, choral music to a high standard remains constant and undiminished (even if my own personal level of performance may not be quite what it was!). I wish my successor designate all the very best in the role.