



**S. MICHAEL'S  
COLLEGE SOCIETY  
MAGAZINE**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**



**ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SOCIETY  
2021 MAGAZINE CONTENTS**

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## Editorial

This is my second magazine and I have enjoyed preparing it as I did last year's. The most important news is that we will meet in person this Michaelmas, even if with a reduced program to ensure the possibility of social distancing. More on this in the President's Message. The programme is on page 33 and if you are planning on attending in person, please let Tim know to assist in the planning and logistics.

Following on last year's article on Sydney Nicholson, we have one on John Stainer, who was the first organist of St. Michael's at the age of 16 and who retained an interest in the college throughout his life.

Frederick Joyce's *Life of Sir F. A. G. Ouseley* continues to be a source of interesting historical information – this year a description of the inauguration and consecration service of the chapel at the very first Michaelmas at St. Michael's.

Of more recent date are David Wells-Coles' memories of Cricket at St. Michael's.

I would like to thank our secretary Tim Coles for his hard work keeping our member's list up to date and Michael Hart and Jenson Jones for their photographic contributions. These are in black and white in the paper edition of the magazine but can be seen in colour on the internet version on the SMCS website.

*Chris Higman*

## President's Message

As many of us have probably long-since accepted 2021 has, as the result of COVID-19, brought many of the same unwelcome challenges as 2020. While I was confident at this point last year we would not be meeting in September 2020, I probably assumed that the forecast for a Michaelmas gathering this year would by now be both clear and positive. If I did, my report for the year would have concluded, as it always used to: 'could have done better'!



Yes, we have made the decision that we should indeed meet in September but the picture is sufficiently murky that we have also agreed it should be for lunch rather than dinner. More on the plan within but in summary: lunch in a roomier setting; AGM in person but with online access if some prefer; evensong; a chance to tour the site of the College; a photograph of members able to make it; and a recital to mark Lucian Nethsingha's contribution to the College.

I am delighted we still have a magazine this year despite those challenges; we remain in Chris Higman's debt for editing it for his second (I hope not final) year. Perhaps unsurprisingly, distance has brought us more up to date with technology in several respects. Not only is the Society's magazine available to the great majority online, but last year's AGM allowed several to attend from a distance. This latter aspect is especially important and welcome, and numbers for the AGM were pretty much as in other years but the contributions to the debate from various parts of the globe were more varied and hugely valuable.

At the AGM you decided to go ahead with the proposal to fund a fitting legacy for the Society and the timing was perhaps apposite. With the backdrop of uncertainty following the closure of King's College St Michael's and the fact that our membership is inevitably and inexorably falling, now - you

determined - was the time to put our collective shoulder behind something lasting to capture the value added for over one hundred years by our Society. That something was a new set of blowers – the lungs of the organ in the St Michael's parish church – to help see the instrument through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and to bring renewed life and utility to the building as a whole as part of the PCC's plan to update the historic venue. Your magnificent responses very rapidly brought in the required sum. The total is enough to do as we aimed in securing new blowers but it also means the PCC can proceed with confidence on the project of renewal which might otherwise have foundered. I look forward to a formal 'unveiling' of the new blowers next year when they have been sourced and fitted. The PCC's Treasurer's letter to acknowledge the Society's contribution is reproduced in this edition. Well done, everyone!

**Christopher Coles**

President

## In Memoriam

### Lucian Nethsingha

*The sad news of Lucian Nethsingha's death reached us in February. The following obituary is reproduced from the Church Times, 12 March 2021*

LUCIAN NETHSINGHA was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1936, and grew up in the country that he always referred to as Ceylon.

At St Thomas' College, he was picked out for his outstanding talent by the chaplain and choirmaster, Canon Roy Lin, who, having been chaplain of King's College, Cambridge, encouraged Lucian's parents to let Lucian continue his studies in



**Lucian Nethsingha at the 2015 SMCS Dinner**

England. Lucian had won the Gold Medals for piano from both Trinity College (1952) and the Associated Board (1953), and, armed with these, he arrived in England in 1954, aged just 18.

Just a few days later, having recovered from a three-week voyage and seasickness, he was auditioned for a place at the Royal College of Music to study organ. He was accepted and was there for the next three years. One of his tutors for composition was Herbert Howells, who described him as one of his most musical pupils. This remarkable student then won a place at King's College, Cambridge, to read music.

On graduation in 1959, he moved to St Michael's, Tenbury, where he enhanced an already fine reputation for the best in church music.

While at Tenbury, he married Jane at the London church where they had met, and so started the marriage that was to be the mainstay of his life. They shared the Christian faith in which both had been raised, and their personalities complemented each other in a very positive way. Three years later, their son, Andrew, was born, followed by their daughter, Alison, five years later.

In 1973, Lucian gave the Dean and Chapter an unusually easy decision when he applied to the Cathedral at Exeter. They never regretted their decision to appoint him Organist and Master of Choristers, and he stayed there until retirement in 1999.

The post carries with it diocesan duties, and, each year, the Diocesan Choral Festival meant he spent much time travelling to parish churches around the diocese to rehearse their choirs. He was enthusiastically received, and the festival flourished.

He also conducted the Exeter Choral Society for their annual concerts. This large chorus and orchestra of amateurs and the weekly rehearsals before concerts were especially demanding for any conductor, but, in the end, the results were good and attracted large audiences.

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra invited him to conduct them for concerts in the cathedral, and, for Lucian, these meant a detailed study of Beethoven's First and Ninth Symphonies; for he was always well prepared for all he did. It was, however, the choir that was central to his work, and he chose carefully the back row of the choir at Exeter, a combination of lay vicars, older permanent members, and choral scholars, members of the university who stay for the duration of their courses.

Over the years, he built up a camaraderie and team spirit which was tangible. He expected the best and a high level of commitment, and they responded. With the boys, he established a discipline that they witness to as having lasted a lifetime. Every service had to be as well sung as they could

make it, including every weekday evensong with often a very small congregation. I heard him tell the boys "You are singing for God not the congregation." His own commitment to each and every service gave them an inspiring example.

The result was a level of excellence which was there throughout his time; conducting the choir with only limited gestures, he could control this superb sound with often the movement of a single finger.

In my nearly 20 years at the cathedral, and including tours abroad with the choir, I never heard a negative comment on the music, and I heard many positive ones, including from the Queen, who, after the Royal Maundy Service at Exeter in 1983, particularly praised the music. Church music can be very moving and, occasionally, a piece will transform into a window into heaven. When Lucian was around, the occasions seemed more frequent. At one recording session, a choirman rebuked a choirboy whom he saw crying. The reply was: "But, sir, it was so beautiful."

After his retirement, he maintained the links and came to the Easter Monday choir reunions, which were always well attended.

He and Jane returned to Cambridge and St Benet's, which had played a part in their earlier life. They enjoyed their family, but still found time for some foreign travel. When Jane died after a prolonged illness in 2015, he had to live without his most precious friend; thanks to the support of his family, however, he maintained an active life until his death, with her dressing gown on the bed in the hospice, surrounded by the family he was so justly proud of.

He died on 12 February, aged 84, and leaves his son, Andrew, with his wife, Lucy, his daughter, Alison, and his grandchildren, Emily, Peter, and Helena.



## **Sir John Sykes**

Sir John Sykes, 10th Baronet (1942-2020), died peacefully at home in Marlborough at the age of 78 in October 2020. He was an Old Boy of St Michael's from 1952-1955. Professionally he had been a partner with Max Unwin (SMC 1953-1957) in a firm of Swindon solicitors. John supported local charities in Marlborough for many years.



*The Merchant's House (Marlborough) writes on its website:*

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Sir John Sykes passed away on 15th October.

John had had several health problems in recent years, but he dealt with them with great fortitude and the strength from Sue and his family. He enjoyed recent days and was in good form. The end was peaceful.

John was a major part of The Merchant's House Trust from the beginning of the project in 1991. His passion and enthusiasm was infectious and he enlisted help from everyone he met. His belief in saving and restoring such an iconic 17th century building has been rewarded. He was Chair of the Trust for 25 years and since then became President.

John will be greatly missed by all who knew him and it has been an honour to work with him and our thoughts and condolences are with Sue and the family at this sad time.

*The Marlborough Literary Festival writes on its website:*

John was one of the founders of the Marlborough Literature Festival and has served on its committee ever since, attending our most recent Zoom meeting earlier this month. As with so many projects in the town with which he was involved, the LitFest benefited enormously from John's wise guidance, enthusiasm, good humour and commitment to the local community. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Sue and their family at this time.

Jan Williamson, ex-Chair and one of the founder members of Marlborough LitFest, said: “John’s death is a great loss for LitFest. He played an important role in helping to set up the festival, and his continuing steady support on the committee has been a rock over the years. He combined his deep interest in literature with his lawyer’s mind and attention to detail.

### **Hamish Preston**

Hamish Preston (1938-1944) died in January 2021. He was Advisor for Music Education in Berkshire Schools and as such received recognition for “revolutionizing music teaching in Berkshire, not an easy task as music at that time was not a popular subject in schools... He wanted all children to be involved in music making, and he set out to bring about new ways of



teaching, involving youngsters in listening, composing & performing music... As a music adviser he was ahead of his time but determined to see his vision of classroom music come to fruition and he persevered with passion against considerable opposition until he eventually achieved his purpose.”

Hamish was an engaged member of the Church of St. John and St. Stephen in Reading. He had a passion not only for music, but also for politics and people, which was characterized by a deep faith. This he brought together in his project “Engaging the powers” putting his thoughts into a series of papers published on his own website with the same name ([www.engagingthepowews.org](http://www.engagingthepowews.org)).

### **Paul Griffin**

Paul Griffin (1943-1950) dies in April 2021 in Ludlow. He had been Chairman of the Trustees of the Sibdon Church Trust dedicated to preserving the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Craven Arms.

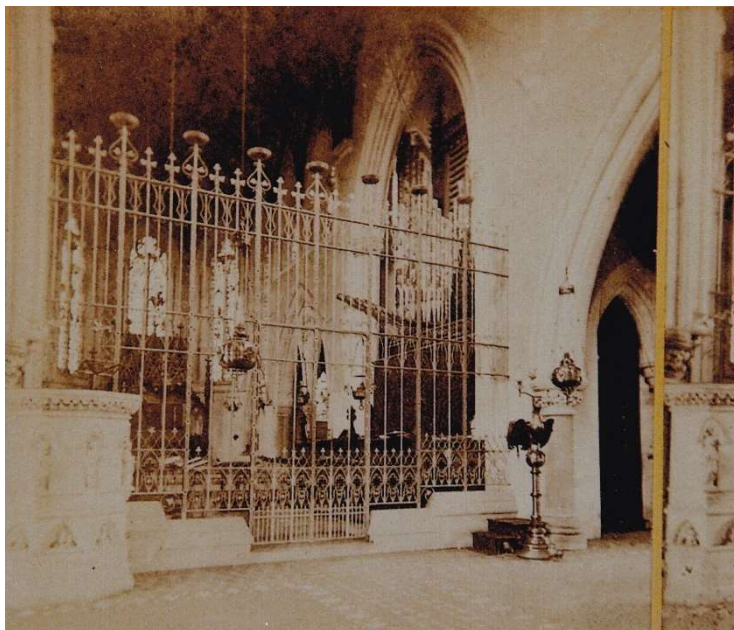
## **First Michaelmas at St. Michael's**

F.W. Joyce's 1896 *The Life of Sir F. A. G. Ouseley* contains much interesting background on St. Michael's. The following is a description of the inauguration in 1856.

The dedication of the new church and college was to be to St. Michael and All Angels, and accordingly preparations were made for a grand Consecration Service on Michaelmas Day, September 29, 1856. The day fell on a Monday that year. Though the morning was cold and wet, the weather gradually improved, and a fine day succeeded. The event caused the greatest interest for many miles round. Every lodging in Tenbury and its neighbourhood was engaged. The roads were lined with carriages and "carriage- folk," from far and near; so that only a limited number of those who came could gain admission to the church itself. Some of the London musicians who were present made their first acquaintance with Herefordshire mud. The choir was, of course, a mixed one, gathered from various sources; but it comprised representatives from several of the chief musical centres in England. There were fourteen trebles, including C. J. Corfe, now bishop in Korea, and Arthur S. Sullivan, the now celebrated composer, who was then one of the "children" of the Chapel Royal at St. James's Palace; four altos, including Sir F. Ouseley himself; twelve tenors, of whom one was Mr. J. Hampton, the present Warden of St. Michael's, and fifteen basses. A long procession of clergy and laity was marshalled by Colonel Rushout (afterwards Lord Northwick). At 11:30 am Bishop Hampden met the Founder, signed the consecration deed of the Church, and consecrated also the beautiful set of vessels, presented by Miss Georgiana Rushout of Burford, for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The prayers were intoned by Sir Frederick, and the Lessons were read by the vicar and curate of Tenbury. Dr. George J. Elvey, the organist of H.M. Chapel Royal, St. George's, Windsor, presided at the organ. The service was "Rogers in D." The anthems were Boyce's "I have surely built Thee an House," Elvey's "O praise the Lord of Heaven," and Goss's "Praise the

Lord.” In the middle movement of the latter, Arthur Sullivan sang the treble, and the principal bass parts were taken by Mr. H. Barnby, of Armagh Cathedral choir, and afterwards of Windsor. Bishop Hampden preached the sermon from Ephesians iii. 10 and 11. There were between three hundred and four hundred communicants. Afterwards the churchyard was also consecrated in due form, the whole time of the various functions extending over four hours. A luncheon then followed in the scarcely finished library of the now growing college; and the day ended with the first of those many evening services which have since been offered up from the “Old Wood” Church of St. Michael and All Angels.



**A pre-1916 view of the chancel. Note the *en chamade* (horizontal) pipes on the organ.**

## **Sir John Stainer**

John Stainer was born in London in 1840. He was the son of a musical parish schoolmaster and became a choirboy of St. Paul's Cathedral where Sir John Goss was organist.

### **St. Michael's (1856-1860)**

In 1856 Ouseley was in St. Paul's where he heard the sixteen-year-old Stainer deputizing for Goss and promptly invited him to become the first organist at St. Michael's. Although Stainer was not much older than the choristers, he was put in charge of them. One of the senior choristers was John Hampton, who came with Ouseley from St. Barnabas, Pimlico, and Langley and who was later to become Warden (1889)



and a Fellow (1916). One of Stainer's duties was to give piano lessons to the boys for two hours a day. Stainer found great interest in Sir Frederick's extensive library focussed on the history of music and Ouseley acted as Stainer's mentor.

### **Oxford (1860-1872)**

Stainer left St. Michael's in 1860 to become organist at Magdalen College, Oxford. Under Ouseley's guidance, Stainer became the youngest ever successful candidate for the Bachelor of Music degree at Oxford. He gained his BA in 1864 and his MA two years later.

After Stainer had obtained his doctorate, Ouseley enrolled him as an examiner for Oxford musical degrees. In this capacity Stainer met and later became friends with Hubert Parry. He examined William Pole and Frederick Bridge and became involved in organ and music tuition and wider musical activities. He had considerable influence on sacred music in Oxford and

his reputation spread beyond the city. He was employed to play solo organ works at weekly concerts at Crystal Palace and took part regularly in the Three Choirs Festival.

Stainer was also conductor of the Magdalen Madrigal Society, which gave concerts in the College Hall, and the Magdalen Vagabonds, which performed during vacations. The latter gave concerts in various towns and cities and raised money for church restoration. Among his musical friends in Oxford was Langdon Colborne, who had been his successor at St. Michael's.

During this time, he would visit St. Michael's for the annual Commemoration service, renewing his friendship with Arthur Sullivan, who had sung at the inauguration service for the college in 1856.

### **St. Pauls (1872-1888)**

In 1871, Goss resigned as organist of St Paul's Cathedral and Stainer was appointed to the position early in 1872, not least because of Ouseley's support. By this time, he had been married for seven years and had five children with another due shortly. The organ was in the process of being rebuilt, by the organ builder Henry Willis.

Also in 1871, Stainer was asked to help revise Hymns Ancient and Modern. He engaged in this task with great enthusiasm and during August of that year the editorial group retreated to Monkland near Leominster sorting out the tunes to be included and those to be discarded.

At St Paul's, he soon set about reinvigorating the choir. With the support of William Sparrow Simpson as Succentor, standards continued to be raised, and St Paul's Cathedral became the focus of religious ceremony in the capital, including state occasions, ceremonial events, memorial services and important funerals.

Further appointments followed. Stainer became an honorary fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 1877 and an examiner for the Doctor of Music degree at Cambridge and London Universities. He accepted the post of Musical Director of the Madrigal Society of London. He was particularly honoured to

be asked to be a juror at the French Exhibition in Paris in 1878, where he was joined by Sullivan and the French organist Charles-Marie Widor.

In 1882, Stainer was offered the post of Inspector of Music in Schools and Colleges, a position he took with great seriousness. He worked towards raising standards in music teaching and toured the country, visiting schools and colleges and examining candidates. In his work both at St. Paul's and elsewhere he followed Ouseley's ideals of improving musical standards throughout the country.

Stainer conducted the first performance of his oratorio St Mary Magdalen at the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester in 1883 and it was repeated at Hereford in 1891.

Following a childhood accident, Stainer had lost the use of one eye. In 1875 he sustained a (temporary) injury to his other eye while playing tennis at St. Michael's. Problems with his eyesight were a major reason for his decision to retire from St Paul's Cathedral in June 1888, while still in his forties. Later in that month it was announced that both he and Charles Hallé were to receive knighthoods. For Stainer this was important as a recognition of the whole profession.

### **Oxford (1889-1899)**

Stainer took over as Heather Professor at Oxford following Ouseley's death in 1889. He conducted pioneering research into early music, notably the output of Netherlandish Renaissance composer Guillaume Dufay, then scarcely known even among experts. He also wrote a number of textbooks including Harmony and Composition, and for organists The Organ.

### **Retirement and Legacy**

It was after his retirement from St. Paul's, in 1894 that he was made a fellow of SMC. He and his wife travelled frequently in this period, and it was on a trip to Verona in 1901 that he died of a heart attack aged sixty.

During his lifetime Stainer was recognized as an organist, an academic, an educationalist and as a composer. Even though today we tend to think of him in this latter role, it was probably

not that strand of his professional life that he considered most important. He retained his position as Chief Inspector of Music at the Ministry of Education until his death.

Throughout his career Stainer composed church service music, anthems, cantatas, and hymn-tunes some of which remain in use today. He had 32 tunes in the 1924 edition of Hymns Ancient & Modern that was still being used in the 1950's and 11 in the 2000 edition of the Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New. The best known are probably Love Divine, All for Jesus and Cross of Jesus. We also owe him the now traditional settings of favourite Christmas carols like Good King Wenceslas and The First Nowell.

Two of his larger-scale choral works enjoyed a high degree of popularity at the time, The Daughter of Jarius (1878) and the Crucifixion (1887). The former is less well-known today although there is a 2014 recording by the Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam on youtube . The latter continues to be performed in many churches during passion-tide. The chorus God So Loved the World is sung as an anthem and is included on Roger Judd's 1979 Abbey Records Collection by the Choir of St. Michael's.



The brass memorial in St. Michael's Church with a quotation from George Herbert's poem 'Employment' was donated by J.F.R. Stainer in 1906.



## Cricket at St Michael's in the 1950s

### David Wells-Cole

I was at St Michael's from 1953 to 1959, and I remember the main cricket pitch being an iconic part of our sporting life. First of all its situation was (and still is) so dramatic, with the college buildings and the chapel towering over it at the top of the steep grassy bank, and the trees all around, which at the far end obscured the murky depths of the quarry pool.

Then there was the charming pavilion, which I believe was donated to the college by the President of M.C.C., Sir Pelham Warner. Sadly, this little gem of a pavilion has now gone, but my accompanying



picture shows how neatly it tucked into the bank at the northern side of the ground. The scoreboard or 'telegraph' or 'tallywag' as it was sometimes known was a simple black board on which metal numbers were hung. This system all changed when Dick Stride arrived as Warden. From Dover College he brought Mr Friend as a sort of Clerk of Works and general handyman. The latter soon built a wonderful new scoreboard with a continuous loop of numbers that could be operated by a wheel at the side. These could be used to show individual batsmen's scores as well as the total. There was also a small board showing the



name of the batting side which was hung at the bottom. I have somehow acquired this board, and I believe it is the only remnant of the splendid original construction, which can be seen on the left in the photo of the pavilion.

Of course, the cricket pitch was used for other events, mainly for Sports Day races and field events such as high-jump and long-jump. I think it might also have been used for the Cubs'

chariot races, in which we were dragged along on wooden frames made of four stout sticks lashed together.

Our cricketing opponents in those days were Penryn, Moffat's, Abberley Hall, Lickey Hills. There may have been others, but these are the schools I remember. Of course, we also played a Fathers' XI at the end of the summer term. My brother, who arrived at the college in 1951 and became captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, remembers playing against a big-hitting batsman, John Jameson of Moffat's, who went on to play for Warwickshire and four Tests for England.

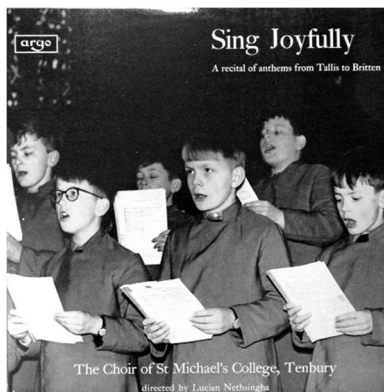
I managed to get into the first XI for my last two summers, despite not being particularly good at either batting or bowling. Ironically, the match I remember most was not at this ground but over at Abberley. They always seemed to be stronger than us, but this time (probably 1958) we bowled them out for 19, thanks to an inspired spell of spin bowling by Chris Higman, who I think took 7 wickets. This being prep-school cricket, we struggled to win with 20 for 6. The other side of the coin came back at home when we were bowled out for 5 (or was it even 3?) by Moffat's, who had a fearsome fast bowler called Brassine. Dick Stride was not amused.

When I left St Michael's my mother wanted to present a trophy to the college. After consulting Dick Stride it was decided that it would be awarded to the best fielder in the XI. This cup (*photo attached*) is now back in my possession, a cherished memento of cricketing days at St Michael's.



## The Archive of Recorded Church Music

The Archive of Recorded Church Music is seeking your help in acquiring a St Michael's College Tenbury uniform, blazer, cap and tie, to add to its ever-growing collection of choir artifacts. The Archive already contains fifty recordings from St Michael's, consisting of commercial, private, radio broadcasts and BBC Choral Evensongs, together with numerous photographs, which, together with the rest of the Archive, will be preserved for future generations.



*Colin Brownlee from the Archive, adds:*

“I would be most grateful if any member can help with any part of the uniform. Please browse our website to discover more about the Archive and to view the catalogue of recordings from St Michael's ([www.recordedchurchmusic.org](http://www.recordedchurchmusic.org)). Contact via the email link on the website or telephone 01684 438576

The Archive is based at Newland, near Malvern and is similar to Tenbury in many ways, there was a residential choir school here from 1864-1945 – the boys sang daily services in the church and we know that Ouseley visited. Any of your members are always most welcome to visit and I shall show them around the grounds, the church, the Library, etc... and the Archive.”

## **Annual General Meeting 2020**

The meeting was held in the online on 26th September 2020 at 2:00 pm. The draft minutes follow:

In attendance were:

Chris Coles	Michael Hart
Tim Coles	David Richie
Tarquin Wiggins	Simon Holt
David Wells-Cole	Jenson Jones
William Jenkyns	John Pepper
Chris Higman	Charles Beresford
	Gavin Braithwaite

### **1. In Memoriam**

A moment's silence was held in memory of Members and Friends who had died in the past year, including:

John Austin	Paul Drummond
Chris Winn	Tom Acton (parent)

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Andrew Yarnold	Gerry Wells-Cole
Peter Beresford	John Page
Kevin Jacot	Andrew Jones
Roger Mortimer	Simon Goss
Tony Penn	

### **3. Minutes of 2019 AGM**

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were read out by the Secretary, Tim Coles and unanimously approved by those present. The president Christopher Coles authorised the signing of the minutes.

### **4. Matters arising**

The president Christopher Coles reported that the plan to meet the head of St Michael's had been overtaken by events.

### **5. President's Report**

Chris reported that the committee had met in March online due to Covid restrictions, and it was decided not to meet up for the

AGM this year - which, with hindsight, was the right thing to do. Hence, we were using Zoom for the AGM which offered real opportunities for future meetings.

Regarding the 2021 AGM, Chris said we would aim to meet up if restrictions allowed, and a 'bold decision' would be made in July, after a committee meeting in March.

He thanked Chris Higman for his brilliant effort in producing the Society's magazine. He had done a fantastic job under difficult circumstances and the president asked Chris Higman to carry on in the job. The committee had agreed that the Magazine would go out only to those who paid a subscription and would be available online to those who didn't.

Chris reported that the international College had closed, and he was not aware of any plans for its future.

Jenson Jones briefed members on what he knew, including that the tables had been removed from the dining hall.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Tarquin Wiggins, presented the accounts (attached separately).

He said the Society was not in a bad state of finance and he had had a few new standing orders through for subs.

Chris Higman added that the magazine costs for 2020 had been £237 + VAT for 100 printed.

The FCOCA subscription was still being paid and Charles Beresford would look into whether their magazine was available online and if so if the Society could review its subscription.

It was proposed by Chris Higman and seconded by David Wells-Cole that the accounts be adopted, and this was approved.

## **7. Secretary's Report**

No report

## **8. Website Report**

William Jenkyns reported that the website continued to be developed with more content needed.

Magazine Archive section needs to be populated - part of the Society's legacy.

Jenson Jones to look into perhaps getting the Dan Symonds catalogue published.

### **9. Magazine Report**

Chris Higman said he hoped to have more articles on members' memories next year, and some 'Where are they now' type articles, as well as items on the former Fellows of the college.

### **10. Election of Officers**

President - Chris Coles - re-elected. Proposed by Tim Coles, seconded by Charles Beresford. Agreed

Treasurer - Tarquin Wiggins - re-elected. Proposed by Tim Coles, seconded Charles Beresford. Agreed

### **11. Nominations of Friends**

PCC Treasurer Jonathan Rickett's name was put forward and this would be discussed at committee.

### **12. SMCS Legacy**

The president updated members on ideas for a Society legacy. Initial thoughts had been for a statue or something similar, but now the thinking was to support the PCC with it's organ bellows appeal, which was aiming to raise £25,000. Chris thought this was a more realistic, immediate and measured way of providing a legacy for the Society, and he proposed that the Society should help the PCC with its fund-raising and seek to have a plaque to mark its efforts.

Members unanimously backed this way forward.

### **13. Donations**

After some discussion it was proposed by Tarquin Wiggins that a £500 donation be made to the PCC and £250 to the organ blowers appeal. Simon Holt kindly offered to also donate £250 to get the appeal off to a flying start.

### **14. Date for the 2021 Reunion**

TBC by committee

### **15. Any Other Business**

Jenson Jones suggested the Dean of Hereford be invited to our reunion as a speaker. The decision on this would be left to the President.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2.40pm.

## **Memories of St. Michael's**

We all have memories of our days at St. Michael's and it is good to hear about them. Last year only one reached us but space was reserved for this year for a "where are they now" section. Unfortunately, we only received one contribution, which will wait till next year when I hope it can be published with more alongside it.

So, thank you Peter, and for the rest of you all with the end of lockdown, be warned that I shall be chasing you from an early point in the year.

In the meantime, a photo of what I knew as Chapel dorm from a postcard supplied by Michael Hart.



## **‘Pulling out the Stops ‘**

### **An update on St Michaels Church and ‘that Organ’.**

After a year when so much has been put on hold, the place which you know as ‘The Chapel’ has cut a forlorn and empty figure. Services and the music program were suspended, and the school closed down leaving the College buildings empty.

Thankfully, even though the building has been asleep, the impetus to keep moving and improving has remained awake. This is thanks in no small measure to the efforts and energy of the St Michaels College Society. In the midst of all the uncertainty, you managed to raise a magnificent £21,663 for the new blowers for the Father Willis Organ. I would like to take a moment to record a heartfelt thankyou to you all for this extraordinary achievement.

The original plan was to have the new blowers fitted in July, ready to pull out the stops for the music program in the Autumn. Not surprisingly, nothing is quite back to normal yet and we received news in the Spring that the chosen blower supplier was closing down just before the order for the blowers was about to be placed. The restorers are weighing up the alternatives and by the end of the year, we hope that the new blowers will finally be in place.

In the meantime, a new humidifier is protecting the leather workings and our Organist Emeritus has been slipping into the Church ‘under the cover of daylight’ to keep the instrument fit and well exercised. Activity is gently returning to St Michaels, and we are looking forward to seeing the slumbering giant awake once more.

Thank you once again for the significant part you play in the life of St Michaels.

Jonathan Rickett.

(Treasurer St Michaels Parochial Church Council.)



## St. Michael's College Society 2021 Reunion Programme and Timings, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021

- 12:30 Buffet Lunch at Village Hall  
(partners welcome)
- 14:00 AGM in Village Hall
- thereafter Access to College grounds (TBC)
- 16:30 Sung evensong by Hereford Singers  
(followed by wreath-laying at Founders grave  
and group photo on Cloister lawn)
- 17:45 Recital to mark Lucian Nethsingha's  
contribution to St. Michael's College  
by Roger Judd and the Hereford Singers

Cost of buffet lunch: £12.50 per person. A variety of wines and soft drinks available separately from the bar.

Please pay by online bank transfer to the Society's account No: 00114729, Sort Code: 309852 with your name and "AGM 2021".

### RSVP to Tim Coles

Email: [tim-coles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tim-coles@hotmail.co.uk)

Post: 25 Church Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8BP

Stating:

Name, years at SMC

E-Mail address, postal address (*if different from list, pp.26-32*)

And whether you will be attending

- Buffet lunch with numbers**
- AGM**

In conclusion, two recent arial photos of the college taken by Jenson Jones' drone.

