

June 2017  
Cheltenham  
United Kingdom

Mr Dean, members of the cathedral staff, Makana Choir School officials, choristers (older and younger), ladies and gentlemen. Phew! That's the formal bit out of the way!

Being asked to 'Send a message' to an assembly at an AGM feels strangely daunting; perhaps because, as yet, my feet are not on the ground with you and we have not grown together.

Should I make this a kind of epistle, 'Beloved, Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As yet I am not with you but stay faithful and when I am among you...' or (as my old tutor used to say when there was an admonition on its way), 'With my school master's hat on', 'I look forward to taking over the choir and the training of its choristers. There will be initiatives which I intend to implement...'

Well, either/neither, a little of both; we will have to see. But what better way than to greet each other in the Name of Our Lord? This is what we are about and our aim, primary function and duty is to use our abilities (talents), improve them by training and sing the praises of God. This is all very exciting; I hope it is to you.

When I arrive I hope, very soon, to meet as many of you as possible, staff, singers, parents and supporters. All of you have an important role in this endeavour and it is my firm hope that we support each other and work for the development of the choir school and its outreach. How do we achieve this? I am sure that you are already working to this end. I will observe and think. Changes may be advantageous and a little experimentation here and there can provide benefits for us all. No more detail on that for now, it may be pointless!

To have the resource of a choir school is a marvellous thing. Staff, parents and supporters, Thank you. Choristers, thank you too: you are the ones primarily benefitting from this. As I am sure you are told many times at school, the more you put in, the more you will get out. There is no reason why Grahamstown Cathedral cannot have a first class and renowned choir but it does take time, commitment and work. It is also a partnership so that those necessary applications of time commitment and work are demanded as much from me as they are of all of you. I will do it: I expect the same (Oooo! There's the first hard warning! ☺).

Visa application is pending. It is very difficult to get precise information from large bureaucracies. My hope is that it will not be too long! I do very much look forward to arriving in, what I have been told is, a very beautiful country and town. Also to meet so many 'pending' friends and with much before us.

My warmest good wishes,

Cameron Luke  
Director of Music designate.