

Raymond Hughes MBE



It is with sadness that we report that Raymond Hughes MBE, formerly our oldest ex-chorister, died on the 14th August, aged 95. Raymond sang in the cathedral choir in the 1920s under Willie Lewis Luttmann and appears on the 1924 choir photograph.

Raymond also took part in the first choir camps at Bow Brickhill. He was a keen organist and stood in as an assistant organist with George Straker during the period before the appointment of Cuthbert Osmond in 1930. Raymond was awarded the MBE for services to the Fire Brigade.

Raymond's family has very kindly agreed that Willie Luttmann's original manuscript of his Psalm 150 can be placed in the Abbey archives.

The 2009 Annual General Meeting

The 2009 Annual General Meeting was held in the Abbey Crypt on Saturday 11th July and the minutes of the meeting, together with the Chairman's Report and Financial Statement can be viewed on the website. Copies can be made available on request from the Honorary Secretary.

In summary the Chairman reported that:

- The 2008 Reunion in July had been a very successful event with around 120 former choristers, lay clerks and musicians taking part.
- The 50th Anniversary Choir Camp had been the last in its present form
- The ECA website had been upgraded but the eArchive section was still work-in-progress.
- Alban Notes had been published approximately every quarter with two editions being fully sponsored.

The chairman also reported two disappointments; the postponement of the major fund raising event in September due to the Abbey being required for the Enthronement of the Bishop of St. Albans, The Right Reverend Alan Smith, and the cancellation of the Summer BBQ due to a lack of response.

Honorary Treasurer, David Martin-Smith presented the financial statement for the year which showed a final balance in the bank of £222; printing and postage for Alban Notes is approximately £75 per issue so this will be sufficient to fund two of the four quarterly newsletters in 2009-10.

The Committee was re-elected but with Susannah Brook standing down. The Chairman expressed his concern that no other members had volunteered to join the committee and that future succession was becoming an issue. In response to an observation from John Adams the Chairman agreed to publish an outline of the committee's responsibilities in the next newsletter (this issue).

Other points of discussion focused on the possibility of obtaining charitable status, frequency of meetings, the relationship with the current Cathedral Choir,

The Music Department



In the summer we bade farewell to organ scholar Alex Woodrow who moved to Hexham Abbey as Assistant Organist. His replacement is Parker Ramsay from the King's School, Ely, and Organ Scholar elect of King's College, Cambridge for 2010. We wish Parker an enjoyable and rewarding year at St. Albans.

Congratulations to former organ scholar Richard Pinel on his appointment as Assistant Organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

Parker Ramsay

Congratulations also to former chorister and Abbey Singer, Tom Blackie, who has taken up a year's choral scholarship with David Lowe at Norwich Cathedral prior to going up to St. John's College Cambridge next year.

New Members

We welcome as new members of the association former choristers Jeremy Howarth, Toby Taylor, Alfie Bates, Fraser Hulbert and former Abbey Girl Choristers, Beth Eyre and Emily Almond.

We welcome **Rosie Cooke** to the committee. Rosie replaces Susannah Brook as a representative of the Abbey Girls' Choir.

Happy Announcements

Congratulations to former Abbey Girl chorister and committee member Susannah Brook who has become engaged to alto lay clerk Roland Deller. They plan to marry next year.

Some "Old Lags" who sang in the Cathedral Choir in the 1960 & 1970s welcomed Father Norton Challenor, a former bass lay clerk back to St. Albans in July. Father Norton now lives in Townsville, Queensland where he has a ministry with the Mission to Seafarers. A big **thank you** to The Dean for his generous hospitality.



Visit of Former Lay Clerk Father Norton Challenor

L-R David Ireson, Malcolm Bury, Denis Yates, Michael Milbourn, Felicity Milbourn, Fr Norton Challenor, The Dean, Rod Argent, John Adams, Tony Robson, Geoff Ward, Peter Pearson, Ann Robson, Maureen Adams, Kay Pearson, Cathy Argent

Committee Responsibilities

Chairman:

Leads the Association and is the principal representative at cathedral and external events.
Manages communications with members
Manages the Association's biennial reunions and fund-raising events
Manages the Association archive of the Cathedral Choir's activities
Liaises with The Dean and the President of the Association in respect of events

Honorary Treasurer

Manages the financial affairs of the Association
Acts as Deputy-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman

Honorary Secretary

Administers communications and the records of the Association, including minutes of meetings and the newsletters

IT Manager

Administers the Association website, including developments and improvements, and the link to the Cathedral Website and other organisation's websites
Administers the web-based Membership database
Administers Online Banking in conjunction with the Honorary Treasurer

General Representatives (Cathedral Choir)

Assists in identifying and locating former choristers and lay clerks and maintaining contact with them
Provides ideas for Association events and assisting in their implementation.

General Representatives (Abbey Girls' Choir)

Assists in maintaining contact with former members of the Abbey Girls' Choir
Provides ideas for Association events and assisting in their implementation.

Members will see these duties are not onerous or require frequent attendance at meetings (two per year) and other events and hopefully some of you will offer your services to help run the association.