

Biennial Reunion



This year's reunion will take place in the Abbey on the afternoon of Saturday 26th June and will follow the format of previous reunions, with the AGM, the Service of Choral Evensong, and a reception afterwards where members can catch up with former friends and choir colleagues and meet new ones.

The focus of the service this year will be a celebration of the formation of the Cathedral Choir in 1877, when John Stocks Booth (pictured left) became the first Cathedral Organist, and also of the Abbey Girls' Choir in 1996.

Our Ex-Chorister's Association has existed since 2007 and has enjoyed some successes; we now have over 300 names on the roll, we publish Alban Notes quarterly, maintain our own website and we are affiliated to the national Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations.

Two projects currently underway are the physical and electronic archive of the Cathedral and Abbey Girls' Choirs and a sound archive of recordings. Rogers Covey-Crump, John Adams, Alan Herbert and Malcolm Bury are working on this project. In this way the Association is continuing to play a role in the musical heritage at the Cathedral.

Attached/enclosed are a Reunion Invitation Letter and a Reply Form which should be returned to the Chairman **by no later than Friday 28th April**.

Once again, the Association will be publishing a Members' Year Book so please visit the membership page on our website at <http://www.stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk/> or contact the Chairman to a) check that your entry details are correct and b) browse the listings to see if you can identify any missing names.

"A Musical Happening"

Arrangements are now underway for the ECA's "Musical Happening" in the Abbey on **18th September**. We will be contacting members to garner your support for this very important event and to enlist your participation in some form of musical activity! The aims are to raise some funds, acknowledge President Peter and Pat Hurford's 80 years and have a lot of fun at the same time so **watch this space!!**

The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

Members with a wide interest in English Choral traditions may know that the national Federation of Old Choristers' Associations celebrates its centenary this year and a Festival will be held in Westminster Abbey on the 24th to 26th September. Further details will be available in the next newsletter. In the meantime, if you have internet access you may like to visit the FCOCA website at <http://www.onceachorister.org/> and the Association pages where you can see our St. Albans entry.

The Federation publishes an annual magazine called "Once a Chorister" and this year includes a report from St. Albans up to December 2009 (with a photo of the Abbey Girls' Choir and Tom Winpenny) which focuses on the events of the Association and the Cathedral and Abbey Girls Choirs during the year. "Once a Chorister" will be available from the Chairman at £4 early in May and copies of the St. Albans report can be made available on request.

The High Sheriff's Three Choirs Concert

Saturday 15th May 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR, OXFORD
ST ALBANS ABBEY GIRLS CHOIR, ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Conductors: Stephen Darlington, Andrew Lucas, Tom Winpenny

PROGRAMME

Joint Choirs: Eternal Light: A Requiem - Howard Goodall

INTERVAL

Joint Choirs:

St Albans Cathedral Choir:

Organ Solo:

Te Deum - John Rutter

Take him earth, for cherishing - Herbert Howells

March: A History of the English-Speaking Peoples

William Walton arranged Winpenny

Christ Church Cathedral Choir:

Abbey Girls Choir:

Organ solo:

Joint Choirs:

Where does the uttered music go? - William Walton

Laudi alla Vergine Maria - Giuseppe Verdi

Flourish for an Occasion - William Harris

I was glad – C. Hubert H. Parry

Ticket enquiries to the Abbey Box Office

Congratulations to the Abbey Girls' Choir

The Abbey Girls' Choir held their "Auction of Promises" on 13th March and an amazing amount of over £9,000 was raised which goes towards the cost of their tour to the USA after Easter. A big **WELL DONE** to Lay Clerk Tony Price and all those involved in making sure the Girls' Choir have this opportunity.

Guess Who????

From time to time in future newsletters there will be a section on former members of the cathedral choirs – "who are they" and "where are they now". A number of our former choristers have had some amazing successes and achievements but would you recognise them from their photographs – then and now!!



Who is this young chorister, pictured left? Email the Chairman if you think you know!!

He was a chorister at a well known Oxford College Chapel and now enjoys an international career as a singer. Answer in next quarter's Alban Notes.

New members

We welcome the following new members to the association:

- Lee Ward who was Organ Scholar from 1991 – 92. Lee is now the Director of Music at The London Oratory School and at London's Hampstead Parish Church.
- David Radcliffe, former treble & head chorister (1960 – 1966)
- Nigel Nethersole former treble & head chorister (1962-1966)
- Dr Jago Morrison, former treble (1977 – 1980)
- Roland Deller, former alto lay clerk (2006 – 2009)

Lost Contacts:

We seem to have lost contact with the following members: Edward Rycroft, George Corbett. If you know where they are and/or have a contact for them please let us know.

Finally, if you are receiving your copy of Alban Notes via the post but have access to email and the Internet please do let us have your address via info@stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk – it will help reduce our administration costs.