

From the Chairman

Looking forward to 2011 and 2012 there are some exciting challenges ahead. Having achieved a degree of financial robustness the Management Committee is starting to look for opportunities to give something back to the Cathedral whilst having fun at the same time, both musically and socially.

I should like to think that in 2011 we can arrange one or two social events that will appeal to our younger members and those with families, as well as the "seniors", and we would like to hear from members as to what events might be supported – a quiz night in the refectory or local hostelry, a pub outing (over 18s), a choral 'bring it to sing it' evening or even a visit to a university where an ECA member is a choral scholar or lay clerk.

HELP !

The Committee will appreciate **YOUR** help in taking your Association forward in the way that Members would wish so we are asking for suggestions.

What sort of events would you like to see or take part in, musical and social?

Would you please help us by giving a few minutes to E-mail any thoughts or ideas. We will carefully consider all offerings. Thanks



Abbey Singers

Emily Almond
Charlotte Campbell
Helen Charlston
Tori Cox
Kate James
Cleo Newton
Chloe Woodmansterne
John Dean
Christopher Howarth
Jeremy Howarth
Samuel Lake
Fergus O'Neil
James O'Sullivan
Caspar Singh

Tom Winpenny (Director)

On Thursday 23rd December the Abbey Singers, under the direction of Tom Winpenny, sang the service of Choral Evensong in the Quire. It is very heartening to see our young former choristers continue to enjoy singing in the Cathedral.

Out with the old - in with the new (furniture!)

The nave choir stalls that were installed in the early 1970s have 'completed their service' at the Abbey and are to be replaced. New stalls will be dedicated by the Bishop on Sunday 15th May.

Members' News:

We welcome as new members **John Pettit** (Treble 1940-1945) and **Mrs Anne Robson**, wife of the late Tony Robson, as an Associate Member.

We congratulate former organ scholar, **Richard Tanner** (1992-93), who is moving from Blackburn Cathedral to take up a prestigious position as the Director of Chapel Music at Trinity Laban Conservatoire, in the Old Naval College, Greenwich.

Anthony (Tony) Robson Deceased

In February we bade farewell to former alto lay clerk Tony Robson who died after a short illness. Tony sang in the Cathedral Choir from 1967 to 1982 under Dr Peter Hurford, Simon Preston, and Dr Stephen Darlington. He was an extraordinary character; some might say a little eccentric. He will be remembered as a fine singer, a committed member of the Cathedral Choir and a great supporter of choir camp.

Notice to all Ex-Deputy Lay Clerks

Since the inception of the ECA we have been pleased to include you in our membership. However it is becoming apparent that many of you have moved on and may no longer wish to receive communications from the ECA. Several of you have not given us an email address which means we may be incurring unnecessary postage costs when we send out Alban Notes etc. In order to rationalise our extensive membership database and to minimise our costs we are asking you to take a positive step to confirm that you wish to remain on our mailing lists by emailing us at info@stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk by no later than 30th April 2011. Thanks.

Seniors' Lunches

Veterans, senior citizens, over-65s, golden oldies!! In December the first of what is likely to be a regular event took place at the Chequers Inn Redbourn when a group of former choristers and their wives met for lunch. This was an occasion when folk who had not seen each other for many years had the opportunity to meet and share a glass of wine or two and a few "war stories" from their era in the Cathedral Choir.



Left to right: Tony Deamer (Treble 1946-51), Mrs Margaret Deamer, Mrs Pam Kell (former choir mum), Mrs Sim Ward (hidden) Mrs Pat Hurford (former choir mum and wife of the Master of the Music), John Adams (Alto 1960-1980), Mrs Luanda Bury (Chairman's wife), Mrs Maureen Adams (former choir mum), Rogers Covey-Crump (Tenor 1961-72), Dr Peter Hurford (MoM 1958-78), Barry Smith (Treble 1940-45), Dr Peter Ward (Treble 1946-51), John Tournay (1943-69 Treble & Alto), Mrs Faith Tournay

Spring is here but remember the Winter 2010 – Cathedral Choristers having fun



Photo courtesy of Tony Price