

From The Chairman

Welcome to a "Bumper Edition" of Alban Notes. There's a lot of news and some important attachments to which I hope you will respond.

Firstly I should like to pay tribute to former chorister Barry Smith who died recently after a short illness.

Barry, the brother of Associate Member and former choir mum, Pam Kell, was a chorister and 'corner boy' from 1940 to 1945 and sang under the direction of Dr Albert Tysoe.

He attended the inaugural reunion of the ECA in 2007 and since that time has been a significant contributor to the Cathedral Choir archive being established by the ECA, especially remembering the names of his fellow choristers in the various choir photographs.



Forthcoming Events:

Attached are a number of important invitations and notices:

ECA Concert - "Give unto the Lord"

The first attachment is an advance notice and invitation to sing in our second major ECA Concert entitled "**Give unto the Lord**" which will be performed in the Nave on **Saturday 22nd September 2012**. The choral programme will feature some well known English works: *Give unto the Lord* by Elgar, *Blest pair of Sirens* by Parry, *The Old Hundredth* and *Five Mystical Songs* by Vaughan Williams, with Stephen Charlesworth as baritone soloist. The Abbey Girls Choir, Abbey Singers and Exquire will join to be conducted by ECA Co-Founder, David Ireson, with Tom Winpenny playing the organ and directing the Abbey Girls' items. Guest solo performers include Andrew Parnell, Rogers Covey-Crump, Claire Innes-Hopkins, Rebecca Muhley, Emma Watts and Emily Knight.

ECA members have only a few opportunities to sing in the Cathedral so please sign up NOW to sing with Exquire. Please complete and return the slip as soon as possible.

The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations – 2013 Festival

The second attachment is an advance notice of the 2013 Annual Festival of the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations which is being hosted by our Ex-Choristers' Association.

The attachment gives a broad outline of the Festival Programme but more importantly there is an **Advance Priority Booking Form** for those coming from outside St. Albans and who require accommodation at the Comfort Hotel. Members are advised to take this opportunity to make a provisional booking of their accommodation in order to ensure availability.

AGM, Reunion & Service of Choral Evensong

Finally, all members are asked to note the date of this year's **AGM, Reunion & Service of Choral Evensong** on **Saturday 7th July 2012**. The last reunion in 2010 was a little disappointing with fewer numbers attending so please put this date in your diary.

The **2012 ECA Year Book** will be available at the reunion, free of charge, but thereafter at a small cost to cover the ever increasing cost of postage. If you wish to ensure that your entry is complete and accurate, (i.e. Name, Voice Part, Awards/Choristerships, General Location, Years of Service) please send an email with these details to info@stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk before 30th April.

Members' News

Good News! **Maureen Adams**, former choir mum and wife of John, has been co-opted on to the management team as Honorary Secretary. Thank you! Maureen.



Another item of good news is that **Tom Winpenny** has accepted the management team's invitation to become an **Honorary Member** in recognition of the support and encouragement he has given, and is continuing to give to the Association and for his exemplary service as Assistant Master of the Music and Director of the Abbey Girls Choir and Abbey Singers.

When the Association was originally established all former Assistant Masters of the Music and Directors of the Abbey Girls Choir became Honorary Members. However the team felt that there was greater merit in inviting Tom to be an Honorary Member at this time to show our appreciation, rather than waiting until the future event when it would have become automatic.

Cathedral Choirs' Activities



Photograph by The Revd Jonathan Lloyd

The Cathedral Choir has concentrated on its scheduled services, including the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Carols and rounded off 2011 with a very enjoyable annual choir party.

The Abbey Girls Choir was also kept busy singing for the St Albans Bereavement Network Service in November and in a concert with St Albans Chamber Choir at St Saviour's Church in December.

The highlight, however, was the February half-term tour to Denmark.

Abbey Singers

We can be justly proud of our Abbey Singers and their growing reputation.

Their latest appearance was Choral Evensong on 20th December last year.

Despite their relatively fewer numbers they produced a super sound singing the canticles by *Wood in E flat no. 2* and the Anthem *Ecce Concipies* by Hand.

They will be joining the Cathedral Choirs for the Summer Concert of music by Mozart and will also be performing in the September concert by the Ex-Choristers' Association.



Photograph: Malcolm Bury



Miggi

en route to a cuppa at Horner

Miggi Sharp is retiring from being Mistress of the Robes for the Cathedral Choir after over 20 years' devoted service. She has been wonderfully loyal and her work has been done self-effacingly and unobtrusively. Miggi was a keen supporter of Choir Camp and has been on every Cathedral Choir tour in that period. She is loved by all the choristers and lay clerks for her brilliant wit and company. On tour she has always been fantastic with the younger boys and up for almost anything they can cope with, e.g. always the first to go on the scariest of the rides at theme parks.

If you sang in the Cathedral Choir, either as a Cathedral Chorister or Lay Clerk during the period 1991 to 2012, and would like to show your appreciation to Miggi you are invited to send your cheque, made payable to [Cathedral & Abbey Church of St Alban](#), to Gemma Saunders, Music Department Secretary, St Albans Cathedral, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, Herts AL1 1BY.

An Invitation to Sing

All Honorary Members, Members and Associate Members are invited to join with the Abbey Girls Choir, Abbey Singers and Exquire, the ECA's own choral group. Please complete and return the form below as soon as possible to the Chairman - by post to 23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB or by email to malcolmgb@btinternet.com

Give Unto The Lord

A musical celebration for the Jubilee
22nd September 2012

Give unto the Lord – Sir Edward Elgar
The Old Hundredth - Vaughan Williams
Five Mystical Songs - Vaughan Williams
Blest Pair of Sirens – C Hubert Parry

St Albans Abbey Girls Choir – Abbey Singers – Exquire
Conductor : David Ireson - Organ : Tom Winpenny

Guest Performers

Andrew Parnell (Organ) – Rogers Covey-Crump (Tenor)
Stephen Charlesworth (Baritone) - Claire Innes-Hopkins (Organ)
Hannah Watts (Flute) - Rebecca Muhley (Soprano)
Emily Knight (Oboe) – Tom Semple (Trumpet)

To: **Malcolm G. Bury, 23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB**
Email to malcolmgb@btinternet.com (Cut & Paste)

I should like to sing with Exquire at the ECA concert on 22nd September.

Name		Voice Part:
Address		Post Code:
Telephone No	Email address	



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL EX-CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

Patron: The Very Reverend Jeffrey John DD
The Dean of St Albans.
President: Dr Peter Hurford OBE



ADVANCE NOTICE

The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations' Annual Festival St Albans Cathedral - Friday 20th to Sunday 23rd September 2013

The Federation comprises some 55 Affiliated Associations from Cathedrals and collegiate choral foundations in the UK and overseas, including St Albans. The last and only time the festival was held in St Albans was in 1987; it was well attended and a great success.

The Ex-Choristers' Association will once again host the annual festival weekend in September 2013. This weekend was chosen because college and university autumn terms will not have started and hopefully the programme will be attractive for our younger members.

Provisional Programme

Friday 20th September:

14.00 onwards: Residents arrive at allocated hotel. Tea at the Cathedral from 16.00
17.00 Choral Evensong – Abbey Girls Choir
19.00 Welcome by the Dean - Drinks & Buffet (Abbot's Kitchen)
21.15 Compline - Lady Chapel

Saturday 21st September

Morning to mid-afternoon (One or more of the following events – lunch own arrangements):

“City Walkabout” - Historic Verulamium / Verulamium Museum
Organ Museum / Demonstration - Cathedral Tour & Talk - Photographic Exhibition

15.00 Rehearsal for Choral Evensong - Quire
16.00 Choral Evensong with the Cathedral Choir – Quire
17.30 Organ Demonstration
20.00 Festival Dinner (St Albans Town Hall)

Sunday 22nd September

08.00 *Holy Communion (Said - Optional)*
09:30 *Parish Eucharist - Nave (Parish Singers - Optional)*
11.15 Choral Eucharist & Sermon - Quire
12.30 Lunch (Optional) - Refectory /Local Hostelry/Hotel

A number of ‘packages’ are being designed to cater for those coming from cathedrals around the UK and requiring accommodation, local ECA members who wish to attend all or some of the events, and also a special package for our young members.

Below is an Advance Priority Booking Form and those requiring accommodation for the weekend are strongly advised to submit the form NOW so that a provisional reservation can be made at the nearby Comfort Hotel.

Advance Priority Booking:

Please complete and return this slip to **Malcolm G. Bury, 23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB** or by email to malcolmgmb@btinternet.com who will send you your festival booking forms as soon as they are printed.

Surname..... Christian Names.....

Address..... Post Code.....

Home Telephone No..... Email Address.....

Accommodation required: Double Room..... Twin Room..... Single Room.....