



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

# ALBAN NOTES

Published by the St. Albans Cathedral  
Ex-Choristers' Association  
<http://www.stalbanseca.org/>



Issue 28 (Q2 2014)

*Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers Associations*

June 2014

## URGENT - HONORARY SECRETARY REQUIRED

Despite a request for a volunteer (male or female) via our website the position of Honorary Secretary is still vacant. If you are willing to fulfil this role, which is not onerous, please contact the Chairman at [malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org](mailto:malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org)

This issue of Alban Notes looks back at what has happened over the last few months but more importantly to the future and to the activities being planned for the rest of the year.

In April we held the ECA Annual General Meeting which, sadly, was attended only by 11 members and most of those were committee members; and there were 17 apologies.

Other than the Chairman's Report which is available on the ECA website and the Honorary Treasurer's Report and financial statement, both of which are available on request the other agenda items were:

### Election of Officers.

Sadly, Cathedral Choir Representative, John Adams and Honorary Secretary Maureen Adams stood down from the committee and both were thanked for their long and excellent commitment and service. Peter Jeffs (see below) had offered his services to the committee and was duly elected.



### Peter Jeffs – Cathedral Choir Representative

Peter started singing in St Julian's Church Choir in St Albans before joining the Abbey Choir in Autumn 1959 where he became a Woollams Scholar before leaving in April 1964. Graduating in Physics at Newcastle University he settled in Leeds to pursue a career in engineering and finance before running an education charity in Yorkshire & Humberside.

Throughout his life he has sung in church choirs, a madrigal group and Leeds G&S Society. He currently sings with Guiseley Parish Church which has visited St Albans on a number of occasions to sing during choir holidays

### An amendment to the ECA Constitution regarding Membership

Concerns had been raised in Committee regarding the nature of Associate Membership of the ECA and had led to extensive discussions. The category had originally been devised in order to maintain contact with those who had given support to the ECA, or those with whom we wished to keep in touch. The membership does receive benefit both in kind and goodwill from many people who have not been directly involved as musicians. However, it was felt that the notion of 'Membership' should be exclusive to those who had themselves served in the Cathedral Choirs and Music Departments, and that 'Associate Membership' should be replaced by 'Friends of the ECA'. They would not be members, as such, but would continue to receive communications and be invited to events, but would not be entitled to vote at any meeting. Others not eligible for inclusion could ask to be on a mailing list giving information about public events. The following proposal to replace the current Constitution clauses on Membership with the following was submitted to attending members and carried unanimously.

**Membership** of the St Albans Ex-Choristers Association is the exclusive right of those who have been privileged to take part as musicians in the service of the Cathedral. This includes ex boy/girl choristers, lay clerks, MOMs and AMOMs, organists/scholars and Precentors.

**Friends of the ECA:** People having a direct relation with the Cathedral Choirs may be placed on this list by invitation and with the approval of the ECA Committee and will receive all ECA communications and be invited to ECA events. They will not have voting rights.

**Ordinary Mailings:** People whom we wish to attend our public concerts or events, or who ask for such information.

### Affiliation to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations (FCOCA)

Two committee members raised the issue of our relationship with the FCOCA and asked about the advantages or otherwise of membership. Some discussion took place and this item was referred to a future committee meeting and is an ongoing issue under discussion.

On a similar note, The **Federation**, at the recent AGM, voted to amend its Constitution such that only "child choristers of affiliated associations" are eligible to become the Chairman. Our local ECA Chairman, Malcolm Bury, who was a Regional Representative on the Executive Committee, had argued vigorously that this was an ill-conceived, regressive and discriminatory amendment at a time when volunteers were difficult to attract, not only at the national level but also the local level. Given that this fundamental amendment could adversely impact his future contribution to the FCOCA Malcolm stood down from the executive committee.

### Dr Barry Rose OBE - 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

**Barry Rose**, former Master of the Music and a Vice President of our Ex-Choristers Association celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 24<sup>th</sup> May. To mark this event a Service of Choral Evensong was held in the Cathedral on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June. This celebration was attended by over 170 guests, including former friends and colleagues from Guildford Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral and over 70 singers joined with the Cathedral Choir to sing the canticles, Walmisley in D Minor Magnificat and Stanford in B Flat Nunc Dimittis and also the anthem Ave Maria by Biebl which Barry conducted.

The service was followed by a reception in the retro-choir and a dinner in Cafe Rouge which was attended by 90 guests.



Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir and guest singers being rehearsed by Barry Rose.



Barry with Lee Ward and Nigel McLintock who had travelled from Brazil and Belfast respectively with Andrew Parnell and Richard Tanner

## Forthcoming Events

### Exquire & Music in Bloom



Would you like to sing with Exquire at this wonderful flower festival on the morning of Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> September. Under the direction of David Ireson we are planning for a small group of singers to perform some light music for one hour from 11.00. There will be only one rehearsal at a time to be advised. Invitations will be sent out shortly but in the meantime if you are interested in singing, or playing an instrument as an interlude, then please contact the chairman at [malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org](mailto:malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org) as soon as possible.

### Once a Chorister Magazine



The 2014 issue of the magazine *Once a Chorister* is now available from the Chairman.

This issue features annual reports from the ECA and the Master of the Music and photographs from last year's festival.

A limited number of copies are available at £4.00 each.