

## Members' News

We welcome six new members following their valediction in July: from the Cathedral Choir **Barnabas Elbourn** and from the Abbey Girls Choir **Imogen Bernays, Olivia Hardy, Amelia James, Alice Hilder Jarvis and Cecelia Young**. We look forward to seeing them at our future events.

With so many bad things happening in the world at this time it is heartening to be able to report some good news about our members. Congratulations to the following members who graduated this summer: **Libby Godlee MA (Hons.) Cantab; Helen Charlston BA (Hons.) Cantab; Antonia Beardsall BA (Hons.) Cantab.**, and to **Caspar Singh** who began his music studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.



## Ex-Abbey Girl 'Ties-the-Knot'



We send our warmest congratulations to **Hannah Semple**, who married Bret Baatz on 2<sup>nd</sup> August in the Cathedral at the High Altar. Lots of musicians were there, including the Parish Singers, the Parish Orchestra, Carillon Choir and some members of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain as well as Tom (Hannah's brother) who played the trumpet during the introit, Parry's "I was Glad".



## 2014 Members Year Book

The 2014 ECA Members' Year Book is now available and can be obtained from the chairman at [malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org](mailto:malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org).

We are grateful for the generous sponsorship of the Year Book by Peter and Susan Jeffs which will allow us to issue a limited number of copies **free of charge** so it is advisable to submit your order as soon as possible.

This year's book is different from previous editions in that it features profiles of some of our younger members who are, or have been, pursuing music scholarships and careers.

There is a very encouraging message from our Patron, Dr Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans.

There are also updated profiles for our President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Members and members of the recently elected Management Committee together with a detailed history of the various Old - Former - and Ex-Choristers' Associations.

As in previous editions, there is a complete listing of ECA members, by category, including an acknowledgment of those deceased members who gave service to the Cathedral Choir.

## St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association



The Inaugural Reunion – July 2007

## Members' Year Book 2014



## Abbey Girls Choir on Tour

During May half term, the Abbey Girls Choir embarked on a short tour to Dublin. Precentor, Fr Paul Arbuthnot, acted as guide and arranged for the choir to sing in three prestigious venues.

On the Saturday, the choir sang a lunchtime recital at Christ Church Cathedral, an associated parish of the Friends of the Abbey and where Fr Paul was ordained. The medieval building was immaculately refurbished in the nineteenth century and has a particularly beautiful acoustic. The programme for the concert included works by Duruflé, Mendelssohn and Leighton's *Easter Sequence*. Michael Papadopoulos, our Organ Scholar, accompanied on the Cathedral's renowned Kenneth Jones organ, and played a sparkling solo - *Praeludium* by Buxtehude.

On the Sunday the choir sang services at St Patrick's Cathedral (the national cathedral, as opposed to a diocesan cathedral), just down the road from Christ Church. Here they joined forces with the St Patrick's girl choristers and lay vicars for Eucharist and Evensong. Fr Paul has strong links with St Patrick's, having been an alto choral scholar and lay vicar and also Chancellor's Vicar before his move to St Albans. The girls sang works by Mozart, Howells, Phillips and the stirring Ascensiontide anthem *Viri Galilei* by Patrick Gowers. The girls were then treated to a delicious lunch, hosted by the St Patrick's choristers in the Cathedral Choir School.

Monday's lunchtime concert took place at the 18<sup>th</sup> century St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, in the heart of Dublin's main shopping district where again the girls gave a first-class performance with the programme concluding with arrangements of *Moon River* and *Just the way you look tonight*. The afternoon was spent indulging in retail therapy at Dundrum, Ireland's largest shopping centre, before returning to Wagamama in central Dublin for dinner.

The girls were a credit to the Cathedral throughout the tour, and the consistently high standard of their singing continued throughout the term.



Southwark, Guildford & St Albans Girls choirs being conducted by Katherine Dienes-Williams

In June, the Abbey Girls Choir was privileged to take part in a concert at Southwark Cathedral as part of the prestigious City of London Festival. The concert, entitled 'Choral Revolution' showcased the role of cathedral girl choristers. St Albans Cathedral was one of the first cathedrals to introduce girl choristers, founding the Abbey Girls Choir in 1996.

The girl choristers of Southwark and Guildford Cathedrals joined St Albans for this enjoyable concert which included works by Langlais, Fauré, Leighton and a specially-commissioned work by Judith Bingham, entitled *Les Saintes Maries de la Mer*.

The combined sound of around 70 girl choristers singing together made a tremendous impression and once again the Abbey Girls Choir performed extremely well to a large and appreciative audience.



## Exquire at Music in Bloom

In September, ECA members sang as Exquire for an hour at *Music in Bloom*.



Under the direction of **David Ireson** they sang a short programme of madrigals, anthems and hymns related to the themes of the flower arrangements.

Unfortunately, the event was disrupted **twice** by the fire alarms with

everyone being evacuated from the Abbey, many to the Abbey Orchard where Exquire gave an impromptu 'concert' of some of the madrigals.

## Once a Chorister Magazine

The 2014 issue of the 'Once a Chorister' magazine 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.**

