

From the Chairman

A very Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a wonderful Christmastide. As usual, the term culminated with an abundance of choral music from Cathedral Choir and Abbey Girls Choir. Over **6000** people attended "Carols on the hour" on Saturday 20th December and, as usual, capacity congregations attended the two 'Festival of Lessons and Carols' on Sunday and Monday 21st and 22nd December and Evensong on Christmas Eve when the Abbey Girls Choir sang John Rutter's 'Dancing Day'. All this in addition to the regular weekday and weekend services and the services on Christmas Day!



Abbey Singers with their Director, Tom Winpenny

The regular choirs got some respite in Christmas week when the Abbey Singers, who are our younger ECA members, sang the service of Choral Evensong on Tuesday 23rd December. Under the direction of Tom Winpenny they sang the Magnificat quinti toni by *Praetorius* and Nunc dimittis tertii toni by *Palestrina* and the anthem Emmanuel by *Philip Moore* which was written "For Andrew Lucas and the Choir of St Alban's Abbey for the installation of the Dean of St Albans".

ECA families make music

Two musical families were well represented at a concert on 6th December at St Mary's, Hendon conducted by Richard Morrison. The programme included Mozart's Requiem and Handel's Dixit Dominus and featured ex-Abbey Girl Choristers, Sarah Young, Freya Young and Jess Price, ex-Chorister Chris Price and (current) Cathedral Lay Clerk Tony Price. They were joined by Marie Price playing clarinet and Sarah and Freya's Dad, John, playing trumpet. Jess, Sarah and Tony also sang solos.

It is heartening to see our ex-Choristers participating in top class musical events.



Member's News - Former Chorister Weds



We send our warmest congratulations to former chorister Nick Crawley and Claire Lim on their marriage at St Ethelreda's Ancient Chapel of the Bishops of Ely in London.

Nick, who is featured in the 2014 Members' Year book was a chorister from 1987 -1993 with Colin Walsh and Barry Rose and also a Woollam Scholar and Head Chorister.

Having completed his studies at the **Royal Academy of Music** where he obtained his MA he has pursued his musical career as an opera and oratorio soloist both in the UK and in Europe.

ECA Planning Meeting

The management committee will be meeting in February to discuss our activities for 2015 and 2016. If you have any suggestions or items you wish to put on the agenda please contact the Chairman either directly or via the Association's website or Facebook page.

Membership Data Verification

The ECA's membership database has now been in existence for seven years and is a vital mechanism for maintaining contact with members. It is updated as soon as we learn of changes to a members' status - for example, marriage, email address, postal address, contact telephone numbers, music scholarships, university graduation etc. - so if you change your contact details or status it is important you let us know.

General Publications

Copies of the **2014 ECA Members' Year Book** are still available from the chairman, free of charge, at malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org.

Also the 2014 issue of the '**Once a Chorister**' magazine is still available from the Chairman. This issue features annual reports from the ECA and the Master of the Music and photographs from the previous year's festival. **A limited number of copies are available at £4.00.**

