

THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

ALBAN NOTES

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



Issue 32 (Q2 2015)

Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers Associations

From The Chairman

The Annual General Meeting of the Association took place on Sunday 19th April 2015. The Minutes of the Meeting and the Chairman's Report are available on the ECA Website.

The following officers had indicated their willingness to remain on the committee and were elected for the year to 31st March 2016: Malcolm Bury (Chairman), John Meager, (Honorary Treasurer), Tony Price (IT Manager), Moira Dean, Libby Godlee, Laura Hicks, Nicolas Gibbon, Trevor Jarvis and Peter Jeffs. A copy of the Honorary Treasurer's report may be obtained on request.

Important dates for the diary

In addition in Q4 this year we are planning to hold a 'gaudy-type' day for those who sang in the choir or were cathedral musicians during the years 1938 to 1988 and their spouses/partners. A very successful veteran's lunch (for the over 70s) was held a few years ago and we hope that many former choristers, lay clerks and musicians will participate in this special day. The format will include lunch at a local pub/restaurant, possibly with a speaker, after which we will attend Choral Evensong in the Cathedral. Further information and invitations will be sent out shortly.

5th June 2016 – Exquire Choral Eucharist – Biennial Re-union

The Cathedral Diary Planning Committee has very kindly agreed that Exquire (our ECA choir) may sing the service of Choral Eucharist on Sunday **5th June 2016** so please put this date in your diary **NOW**. **This will replace our normal biennial reunion service of Choral Evensong.** Invitations will be sent out early next year and we hope for a good response from former Cathedral Choristers and Abbey Girls, including current Abbey Singers, and Lay Clerks. The service will be followed by drinks and lunch (and possibly a very quick AGM). More details to follow.

25th June 2016 - AGC 20th Anniversary

This will be a social occasion for ECA members and we hope that many former Abbey Girl Choristers will participate on this special occasion.

Other News



We congratulate our Precentor, **Reverend Paul Arbuthnot** on his appointment as Minor Canon and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey. He will be installed on Sunday 13th September at Evensong at Westminster Abbey.

Before joining St Albans Cathedral in October 2012, Father Paul was Curate Assistant at St Paul's Church, Glenageary in the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough in the Church of Ireland.

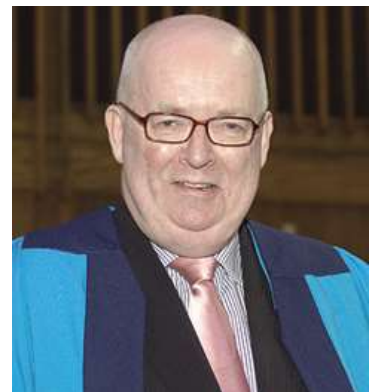
He was also Honorary Chancellor's Vicar at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Paul is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and has sung as a Cantoris Alto Lay Vicar, having begun his association with Saint Patrick's, as Alto Choral Scholar in September 2000.

We wish Paul and Emma the very best for their future.

We also extend congratulations to **Dr Simon Lindley** who recently achieved 40 years as Master of the Music at Leeds Minster, a superb accomplishment.

Simon was Assistant Organist from 1970 to 1975 serving with Peter Hurford as his first full time assistant.



Cathedral Choir News

During the May half-term holidays the Cathedral Choir toured Germany giving concerts in several places including Hildesheim where the original of the St Albans Psalter is kept. We hope to include photographs in the next issue.

At Evensong on Sunday 5th July a special Introit was sung by the Abbey Girls Choir and the Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir. Entitled *"Bless us, O Lord,"* and reflecting the words of *A Prayer for Choristers*, it was composed by Abbey Girl Chorister, Emily Price.

Who's Who!

From time to time we like to feature ex-choristers who have pursued successful or notable careers, specifically in the world of Cathedral Music. We also like to feature 'colourful characters' who are members or 'friends' of the Cathedral Choirs. One such person is Roger Mullis!



Roger has been an Alto Lay Clerk in the choir for over twenty years firstly "depping" in 1994 before joining the choir that September.

Roger was born on New Year's Day, 1964 in Portsmouth and was educated at Portsmouth Grammar School. He was auditioned for Portsmouth Cathedral Choir by then organist Christopher Gower but failed because he was told that he couldn't sing. Roger thinks he was just painfully shy but *'leaves readers to draw their own conclusions!'*

Roger played the piano from the age of 6 and took up the oboe at 12, much to the irritation of family and neighbours.

This did, however, lead to him sharing a dressing room with future Olympic athlete Roger Black for a school performance of *The Mikado*.

Roger studied law at Christ Church, Oxford. He was not a choral scholar (a pattern is emerging!), but took up singing in his first year, as a bass, in the Oxford Bach Choir under Christopher Robinson. He joined a college chapel choir, at which point he realised that his bass voice was a bit too rough for smaller choirs (as Andrew Lucas would no doubt confirm), so he decided to try alto, as a friend was singing it and it seemed fun.

After Oxford, he joined the University of London Church Choir and the Tudor Singers of London, which was conducted by Tim Blinks. Tim asked Roger to dep for him at St Albans, as a result of which *"Barry Rose eventually took me on as a lay clerk, despite a disastrous Saturday evensong in which I went hair-raisingly wrong in the Nunc Dimittis of Jackson in G, leading to Barry giving me a single ticket to Tower Bridge and telling me to throw myself off."*

Roger now 'deps around' in London, at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Cathedral amongst others, but says he would not swap them for the camaraderie and high spirits (and standards) at St Albans.

Roger, has toured France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and the USA on five occasions which were always very special, not least the most recent tour with the Abbey Girls Choir, in 2010, when they *"suffered the hardship of being trapped in Miami for a week"* as result of the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull.

By profession Roger is a Barrister and is a Chancery practitioner with Radcliffe Chambers.

Roger is well known for his sense of humour and witticisms which he regularly posts on Facebook. He can also be seen taking the occasional curry and libation with his colleague Oli Martin-Smith; both are Chelsea supporters but I guess you can't have everything ☺ (Ed.)

It is evident that Roger has many interesting facets to his life and why he is such a colourful character!!