



# ALBAN NOTES

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## From the Chairman

As we begin a new year I wish all our members and their families a very Happy and Healthy 2017. The Association has enjoyed another reasonably successful year and there are some interesting opportunities in 2017; there are also some challenges to be tackled and committee roles to be filled if we are to maintain a robust organisation.

## Two dates for your diaries

### Sunday 4th June 2017 – Choral Eucharist sung by *ExQuire*

Following a very successful and enjoyable Service of Choral Eucharist in June this year *ExQuire* has been invited to sing at another Eucharist on Sunday 4th June 2017.

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July – Luccombe Camp

The ECA will be re-visiting Luccombe late in July for the weekend and members are invited to camp in the field or stay in a B&B and to attend Choral Evensong on Sunday. There will be the usual walks, including Dunkery Beacon. Our younger members under 18 will need to be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian.

**Members will be contacted shortly with full details and asked to sing or support these events. Please remember that the success of these events depends primarily on members' participation.**

I should like to congratulate the Abbey Singers for some excellent singing at the Service of Choral Evensong on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and their conductor, Nick Freestone. The *Magnificat and Nunc dimittis* in F by John Blow and the anthem *Quem pastores laudavere* by James Bassi were beautifully sung.



Photograph: Malcolm Bury

**Precentor, The Rev'd Berkeley Zych, Abbey Singers, Nicholas Freestone and Chris Muhley**

Members will recall that the Abbey Singers, established by Andrew Lucas in 1999, are predominately former choristers of the Cathedral Choir and Abbey Girls Choir and as such they are members of the Ex-Choristers' Association, albeit that they sing independently of the ECA. This has provided these young singers with an opportunity to continue singing to a high standard in a friendly and informal context after they have 'retired.'

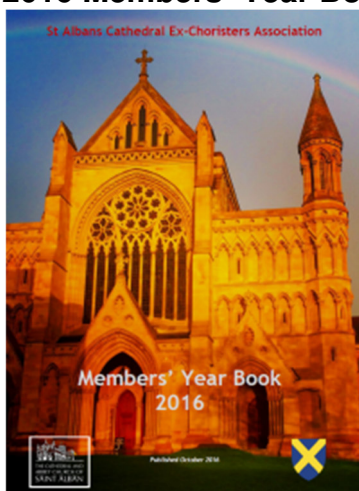
### Cathedral Choir News

In December, the Cathedral Choir once again participated in the John Rutter Christmas Concert alongside The Bach Choir and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the Royal Albert Hall and again in the Birmingham Symphony Hall for *Rutterfest* part two. The choristers were on fine form and *Count Dracula* bathed in green light (sadly no photo!!) was also a highlight.



Photograph: Nicholas Freestone

### 2016 Members' Year Book - Reminder



A few hard copies of the 2016 Members' Year Book are still available as souvenirs to members free of charge (except for £2.50 postage) and the book is also available as a download from the Association's website.

Dr Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans and Patron of the Association in his message to Members complimented them on maintaining an active and successful programme of activities.

The 2016 Year Book also includes short features on former choristers John Bate, Dr George Corbett, Michael Gough, Ivor Setterfield and former lay clerk, Peter Pearson. A section has also been included which outlines the history of the various 'incarnations' of the Ex-Choristers Association and its activities over the more recent decades.

Photograph: The Rev'd Canon Richard Watson, Sub-Dean

### The Choirs and Musicians of St Albans Cathedral

If you have not already done so please think about purchasing this book. It records the early development of music within the Monastery up to its dissolution, its time as a Parish Church until it became a Cathedral in 1877. The subsequent chapters feature the activities and achievements of successive Organists and Masters of the Music with the Cathedral and Abbey Girls Choirs up to 2014 and there is also a chapter on the history of the various Old Choristers Associations.

Published by Rhinegold Publishing Ltd at the RRP of £12.99 the book is available via the Ex-Choristers' Association website where an Order Form is available or from the Cathedral Shop

