

Welcome to the 40th edition of Alban Notes

The first Newsletter was issued in November 2007 with the headline "The re-incarnation of the Ex-Choristers Association". Ten years ago we were celebrating the life of former chorister and lay clerk, Ron Gough, and it was therefore most fitting that we welcomed back to St Albans his son Michael, also a former chorister and lay clerk, who was visiting the UK from Australia. Michael was able to sing with *Exquire* at the Reunion Choral Eucharist.

ECA Reunion Choral Eucharist & Annual General Meeting

On Sunday 4th June 2017, the Ex-Choristers' Association held a reunion with *Exquire*, singing the Service of Choral Eucharist. The choir was conducted by Andrew Parnell and Organ Scholar, Nick Freestone very kindly played the organ for us. The music included the *Leicester Communion Service* by Herbert Sumsion and *Behold, now praise the Lord* by William Harris.



Photograph – Luanda Bury

Exquire

Former Choristers (missing Laura Hicks), Lay Clerks and Friends of the ECA
Andrew Parnell and Nicholas Freestone

The Annual General Meeting was held in The Deanery after the service with drinks and snacks kindly served by Paul and Moira Dean. A copy of the Chairman's Report is available on the ECA website and a copy of the Honorary Treasurer's Report is available to members on request.

Members' News

Congratulations

We send our best wishes and congratulations to former Abbey Girl Chorister, and a founder member, Olivia (Libby) Godlee on her marriage to Peter Knight. Libby was a member of the ECA Committee.



Mr & Mrs Peter and Olivia Knight

Obituaries

Alan Thrussell, a chorister from 1928 to 1935 and a former Head Teacher at Fleetville School died on the 3rd April and his funeral was held at St Michael's Church. Alan was a Woolam Scholar and Head Chorister. He was a very keen member of the Association in Basil Saville's day and used to attend most of the Federation and local events.

Dennis Yates, an alto Lay Clerk from 1955 to 1960 and former Diocesan Administrator in St Albans died on 23rd May. A Requiem Mass was held on 10th July in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral and his ashes were buried in the North Churchyard.

Lost Contacts

Sadly, we have lost email contact with the following members: Thomas U Evans, Roland Deller, Olivia Hardy, Oliver Lewis-Barclay, Justin Lee, Julian Stace, Zoe Bittleston, Julia Parkhouse, Susannah Brook and Sophy Lawrence. If you have a contact email address for them please let the chairman know.

Luccombe Weekend - Friday 28th to Sunday 30th July



Reminder

Details are on the ECA website and you should have received an email and return slip. A few folk have already signed up but we must be sure of an ATB quorum for the Sunday Choral Evensong. Please support this event as it may be the last occasion when this can be organised.

If you wish to participate please contact the Chairman (malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org).

Cathedral Choir news



Catedral de Santa María de Segovia

Over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, the Cathedral Choir visited Madrid, singing concerts in Madrid itself at the Parroquia de Santa Teresa y Santa Isabel, in the Catedral de Santa María in Segovia and in the Catedral Magistral de Alcalá de Henares. On the Sunday, the choir provided the music for Mass at the Real Iglesia de San Andrés Apóstol in Madrid.

All the concerts were well attended and enthusiastically received.

The programme was in three parts, taking music from different eras and following the church season from Lent, through Easter to the Ascension.

Ave Maria	Robert Parsons
Missa Ascendens Christus	Tomas Luis de Victoria
O nata lux	Thomas Tallis
Laudibus in Sanctis	William Byrd
O vos omnes	Pablo Casals
Crucifixus pro nobis	Antonio Lotti
Rise up, my love	Healey Willan
Coelos ascendit hodie	Charles Stanford
O salutaris hostia	Edward Elgar
Ave verum corpus	Edward Elgar
Lux aurumque	Eric Whitacre
Three Spirituals	trad. arr. Michael Tippett

Abbey Girls Choir - BBC Broadcast Evensong

On Wednesday 21st June, the Eve of the Feast of St Alban, the Abbey Girls Choir and Cathedral Lay Clerks, directed by Tom Winpenny, broadcast the Service of Choral Evensong for BBC Radio 3.



Photograph - Juliet McGrory

The music for the service was:

Introit:	<i>Suscepimus Deus</i> by Alec Roth
Preces & Responses:	Philip Radcliffe (<i>Cantor - Oliver Martin-Smith</i>)
Psalms:	3, 11, 126 (chants by Hopkins, Hurford, Garrett)
Office Hymn:	True, merciful and brave the saint whose name we celebrate (<i>Farley Castle</i>)
Canticles:	Howells in G
Anthem:	<i>Lo, God is here</i> by Philip Moore (<i>Soloists - Phoebe Wakefield, Katie Ripley, Lucy Walton</i>)
Final Hymn:	Ye that know the Lord is gracious (<i>Hyfrydol</i>)
The Alban Responses:	Stephen Darlington (<i>Cantor - William Houghton</i>)
Voluntary:	<i>Incantation pour un jour saint</i> by Jean Langlais (<i>Organist - Nicholas Freestone, Organ Scholar</i>)