

Issue 43 Q1 2018

Message from the Chairman

This is my last edition of Alban Notes as Chairman/Editor as I shall be relinquishing my position at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 16th June. In the meantime, I'm pleased to be able to share some good news with our members.

Important dates for your diary

Exquire has been invited to sing the Service of Choral Eucharist in the Cathedral on Thursday 31st May to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi. Abbey Singers, who are all ECA members, will sing as part of the choir and the service will include Darke in F Communion Service and O Sacrum Convivium by Thomas Tallis. On this occasion Exquire will be conducted by Organ Scholar, Marnus Greyling with Chris Muhley playing the organ for us!



Malcolm Bury
Chairman since 2007

This is an important opportunity – obtaining dates in the Cathedral diary is quite difficult with many competing choirs requesting dates and I should be grateful if you would sign up NOW to sing with the choir. All voice parts are still required although more sopranos and altos would be beneficial. Please contact the chairman at malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org as soon as possible if you are available to sing at this service.

London Get Together

Committee member, Nic Gibbon, has organised a London Get Together at the [Jugged Hare SW1](#) (near Victoria) on **Thursday, 26th April at 6.30**. It will be in a private area of the pub and go on for as long as people are still there (until closing time anyway!). Purely informal, no agenda and, being the first gathering, it is a chance to gauge support for further events.

Luccombe Choral Visit 2018

Many of our members will be familiar with the tradition of Choir Camp, held each year in a hamlet on Exmoor known as Luccombe in Somerset. The 50th and final camp was held in 2008, the tradition started by our president, Peter Hurford in 1958. Naturally our members who joined the Cathedral Choir after 2008 and members from the Abbey Girls Choir will not be so familiar with 'Choir Camp'.

The Very Reverend Cuthbert Thicknesse was Dean of St. Albans from 1936 until his retirement in 1955 and chose to retire to Luccombe. In 1958 the Master of Music, Peter Hurford founded camp in Luccombe using tents being army surplus from WW2, some of which survived until 2008!

During camp the boys and Lay Clerks spent a week touring some of the most beautiful countryside available and sang Sunday services at St. Mary's, the local parish church as a 'thank you' to the villagers for putting up with them!

Since 2008 there have been a few re-unions in the 'field' by ex-choristers and lay clerks who have enjoyed meeting up, sharing memories, a pint or three of Exmoor ale, and singing evensong at St. Marys Church.

This year we would like to visit Luccombe from **Friday 27th to Sunday 29th July** and welcome all members of the ECA and their families to participate. There will be no tent inspection, no compulsory walks, no spam sandwiches, just plenty of fresh air and opportunity to walk in the countryside. A service may be attended by all, with an opportunity to sing if desired. Jeremy Meager has offered to play the organ and David Ireson to conduct.

Facilities are basic in the field for those who wish to camp; i.e. plenty of grass to pitch a tent or caravan, a stream, areas of shade and fresh water from the only nearby house! Toilets are available 24hrs a day at the village hall. There are several B&Bs and hotels nearby.

Should you wish to join like minded ECA members and families for the weekend please e-mail Richard Lilley (1980srep@stalbanseca.org). All are welcome, the more the merrier, however any members under the age of 18 must be supervised by a parent/guardian as we are unable to take responsibility for minors. I hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you soon.

New Committee Members

We are delighted that two 'younger' ECA members agreed to be co-opted to the management committee.



Nick Coleman – Cathedral Choir Representative 1970s

Nick was born in London and grew up in St Albans, singing in the cathedral choir from 1979-83 under Stephen Darlington. After completing A-Levels at Verulam School and a gap-year in Egypt he went on to study Literature at Essex University and Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Nick is a keen amateur singer and has sung in choirs in Moscow and Hong Kong during his career as a journalist. Now resident in London, he is a trustee of the City Chamber Choir. He was a long-time enthusiast of Choir Camp, and has sung at numerous ExQuire reunion events.



Paolo Baroni – Cathedral Choir Representative 1990s

Paolo was born in Belfast but grew up in St Albans. He joined the Abbey choir in Colin Walsh's reign and left during Barry Rose's reign and was a Woollam Scholar.

Paolo studied graduated in Music at University of York where he won the Concerto Prize. He also developed an ongoing interest in electronic dance music and its production. Paolo still plays the cello and has performed Dvorak, Elgar and Kabelevsky cello concertos with orchestra and also Kol Nidrei, by Bruch, and studied with Stefan Popov. He currently leads the cellos at Fulham Symphony Orchestra.

Eventually returning to singing he joined the City of London Chamber choir and more recently the Carillon Chamber Choir in St Albans. He also enjoys painting and photography in his remaining spare time.

Choir News

Abbey Girls Choir - Sweden Tour 14th to 18th February 2018

During the February half-term holiday the Abbey Girls Choir visited Sweden on a five day tour. On 14th February, the girls met in The Deanery, then to Heathrow for a flight to Stockholm. On arrival, they were taken by coach to Linköping to meet their host families.

Vadstena Abbey Church

Thursday was a 'rest day' albeit with a short morning rehearsal before a tour of Linköping Cathedral and a bus trip to a soft play centre at Busfrabiken.

On Friday evening the Abbey Girls Choir gave a concert at Vadstena Abbey Church which was preceded by a 'Short Youth Mass'. They were conducted by their director, Tom Winpenny with Marnus Greyling playing the organ.



Vadstena Abbey is one of the most famous churches in Sweden, and it has a very resonant acoustic. It is situated right next to a lake, and it was founded in 1350 by St Bridget, who established the Bridgettine Order of nuns in the adjacent convent. Nuns still live and work in the convent and pray in the Abbey Church. Their distinctive nun's habit includes the 'Crown of the Five Holy Wounds' – the red stones represent the five wounds of Christ on the cross.



Vreta Kloster Church

On the Saturday the girls sang Evensong at Vreta Kloster Church. They also had a rehearsal (and lunch) with Linköping Cathedral choristers in preparation for the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist.

Vreta Kloster Church is one of the oldest churches in Sweden. It was formerly the Abbey Church of a Benedictine (and later Cistercian) nunnery. Such was its prestige that a number of Swedish monarchs were buried in the Church – you can view their tombs in the side chapels.

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Linköping Cathedral

Linköping is the seventh largest city in Sweden and it is the capital of Östergötland County. The present cathedral is around 800 years old, and it is the seat of the Bishop of Linköping. All the venues in which we will be singing are in the bishop's diocese of Linköping.

For around 20 years Linköping Diocese and St Albans Diocese have had very close links, so Linköping



Cathedral is effectively twinned with St Albans Cathedral.

One of the largest cathedrals in Sweden, Linköping Cathedral is famous for its tall spire, its imposing gothic architecture, its famous paintings and renowned organ. Sweden has a very strong tradition of choral music and the Cathedral has many different choirs.

Easter Services on the BBC

Easter Sunday this year was a very busy day for the Cathedral Choir, Abbey Girls Choir and Abbey Singers with two BBC broadcasts from the cathedral.

An early start was required for the Abbey Singers and Cathedral Lay Clerks who sang Choral Eucharist at 8.10 a.m. with a rather more leisurely Choral Evensong at 3.00pm sung by the Cathedral Choir and Abbey Girls Choir combined.

The broadcasts were produced by another ex-chorister, **Ben Collingwood** (1986 to 1990).



Ben Collingwood (c) with Tom Winpenny and Marnus Greyling at the rehearsal for the Sunday Eucharist on Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday Choral Eucharist

Live broadcast on BBC Radio 4 sung by the Abbey Singers and Cathedral Lay Clerks

Directed by Tom Winpenny (AMOM) with Marnus Greyling (Organ Scholar) on organ.

Introit: Surrexit Christus hodie. Alleluia! - Samuel Scheidt

Setting: Truro Eucharist - David Briggs

Gradual: This joyful Eastertide - arr. Philip Ledger with Gospel acclamation by John Scott

Motet: Rise up, my love, my fair one - Healey Willan

Voluntary: Festival Toccata - Percy Fletcher

Easter Sunday Evensong

Live broadcast on BBC Radio 3 sung by the Cathedral Choir and the Abbey Girls Choir

Directed by Andrew Lucas (MOM) with Tom Winpenny (AMOM) on organ.

Introit: O sons and daughters let us sing - Walford Davies

Preces & Responses - Smith

Canticles: Stanford in A

Anthem: Let all the world - Kenneth Leighton

Voluntary: Final from Symphonie no. 5 in A op. 47 - Vierne

The services are available on the BBC iPlayer Radio until **30th April** via the following links:

[Easter Day Choral Eucharist](#)

[Easter Day Choral Evensong](#)

St Albans Young Musicians Competition 2018



Chris Price

with accompanist, Julian Trevelyan.

A good day for St Albans Cathedral ex-choristers and current choristers.

Ex-Chorister winners were **Louisa Kataria**, as part of a saxophone ensemble which won the Secondary Ensemble category, **George Throup** who won the Secondary Piano/Organ category (on organ) and **Chris Price**, accompanied by **Julian Trevelyan**, who won the Secondary Solo Wind/Brass category playing tuba.

Young winners from the Abbey Girls Choir included **Sedona da Silva**, a probationer, who won the Primary Piano Solo category with a stunning performance of Chopin Waltz in B minor and **Cecily Maxwell** who won the Solo Primary Wind/Brass category playing a Beethoven Bagatelle on the bassoon.

The competition is organised and sponsored by the St Albans Cathedral Music Trust. Further information is available here - stalbansymc.org.uk.

More Competition Success...

Ex-Abbey Girl Chorister and committee member, **Helen Charlston** won first prize in the prestigious [Handel Singing Competition](#) (part of the London Handel Festival). The final was held on Tuesday 10 April at St George's, Hanover Square in London.

The Handel Singing Competition was inaugurated in 2002 and has grown to become a major international singing event, attracting some 150 applicants from all over the world each year. Ian Partridge and James Bowman were the first adjudicators, and past finalists include Iestyn Davies, Ruby Hughes, Lucy Crowe, Tim Mead, Sophie Junker, Anna Starushkevych and Grace Davidson. This year, the chair of the adjudicating panel was the distinguished tenor, John Mark Ainsley.

ECA Website - Facebook - Twitter

We hope you are familiar with our website (StAlbansECA.org) and [Facebook page](#) which have been around for some time. A recent addition to our social media profile is that of our very own Twitter account. Please feel free to follow, like, re-tweet and comment, or just keep up to date [@StAlbansECA](#).

Date for the Diary...

Biennial Reunion & Annual General Meeting

Saturday 16th June 2018

followed by a reception to meet the newly elected Chairman & Committee

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