THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

ALBAN NOTES

Published by the St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association

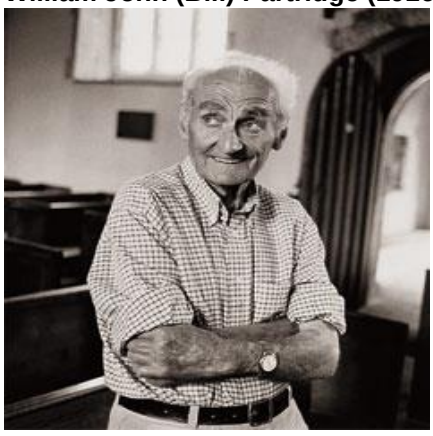
Issue 22 (Q1 2013)

Welcome to the first issue of Alban Notes in 2013.This will be a year to remember with the return, after more than 25 years, of the **Annual Festival of the Federation of Cathedral Choristers' Associations** on the weekend of **20th to 22nd September**. It is hoped that around 100 delegates, including our ECA members, will participate in the festival and a special package is being put together to encourage our Abbey Singers and younger members to attend. The programme includes a welcome reception in the Abbot's Kitchen on the Friday evening which will be followed by Compline. There are social events on Saturday morning for visitors to St Albans with Choral Evensong in the afternoon. The main social event is a banquet in the Town Hall on Saturday Evening with guest speaker Dr Simon Lindley, Master of the Music at Leeds Parish Church and former Assistant Master of the Music at St Albans. On Sunday delegates attend the morning service in the Cathedral followed by an optional farewell lunch.

A Priority Accommodation Booking Form for the Comfort Hotel was attached/sent out with the last issue of Alban Notes and again is attached to this issue. The cost of a Full Festival Ticket, including Hotel Accommodation for two nights, the Welcome Reception and Banquet will be in the order of £250. **ECA members living outside St Albans are strongly advised to submit their Priority Booking Form as soon as possible to ensure accommodation is reserved.**

Festival Booking Forms, detailing the various optional packages will be sent out shortly

William John (Bill) Partridge (1916 – 2013)



As many of you will already know (Farmer) Bill Partridge died on the 5th January, at the grand age of 97.

Bill Partridge had a difficult childhood. He was nine when his mother died and of his four brothers, three died young. He had ambitions, but missed a lot of school through TB. At 14 he started looking after his father, doing the cooking and cleaning and shooting rabbits. When war came along he went into the army and in 1944 he was commissioned in the field, wounded the same day, and awarded the Military Medal.

Bill returned to East Luccombe Farm and worked for his father until he was finally taken into partnership. He ran the family farm and feed business until he handed over to his daughter Roz.

Bill maintained strong wartime friendships, was a member of the Rotary Club, and vice-chairman of the Parochial Church Council.

Peter Hurford as a student used the organ at Luccombe for practice and Bill would pump the bellows for him.

Former members of the Cathedral Choir owe Bill and his family a tremendous debt of gratitude for allowing the annual choir camp to be held in fields on East Luccombe Farm for 50 years. Many of us have very fond memories of those camps and the walks over Exmoor. Bill always an attentive and appreciative figure during the camping week and at the services sung by the choir in St Mary's Church.

Members' News

Sadly for us, Moira Dean has relinquished her position as the Dean's Personal Assistant to take up the role of Church Manager at St. Peter's Church. Happily though, Moira and Paul will continue to worship at the Abbey and Moira will remain on the ECA Committee.

Justin Miller - Organ Scholar 2012-2013

Justin Miller joined us in the autumn term as Organ Scholar. Justin was born in Michigan, USA, and completed degrees at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and The Cleveland Institute of Music in Cleveland, Ohio. An active choral accompanist, Justin has collaborated with many American ensembles, including the Westminster Schola Cantorum and the Westminster Symphonic Choir

Recital performances include St. Thomas Church, New York City; The Cathedral of All Saints, Albany, New York; Park Congregational Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan; and St Peter's Church, Morristown, New Jersey.

During 2009-2010 he held the organ scholarship at Blackburn Cathedral. Prior to his appointment at St Albans Cathedral, he was Director of Music and Organist at Christ Episcopal Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio, where he conducted the church's two choirs and administered their concert series.

The Fayrfax Lay Clerk

Music in worship is at the very heart of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban. Our musical tradition began with the chanting of the monks when St Albans was England's senior Benedictine monastery. It continued with the founding of the Cathedral Choir of boys and men when the Abbey became a Cathedral in 1877 and has developed even further with the addition of the Abbey Girls Choir in 1996.

Today these two choirs sing on a daily basis during term time and make regular broadcasts and recordings. They are regarded as amongst the finest choirs in the country and enjoy an international reputation.

It is with the inspired and dedicated leadership of the Cathedral's music staff that the choirs have attained such extraordinarily high standards.

Photograph: Colin Innes-Hopkins

Andrew Lucas, David Ireson, Roger Mullis, Hazel Ireson and The Dean.

Endowing a chorister or Lay Clerk helps to secure and build on the Cathedral's musical heritage and the most recent endowment was the "Fayrfax Lay Clerk" gifted by former Cathedral Choir Lay Clerk, David Ireson and his wife Hazel and held by Decani Alto, Roger Mullis.

Luccombe trip

Members who attended the 2012 Annual General Meeting will recall that there was a suggestion that a long weekend trip to Luccombe this coming summer might be appreciated by those who previously enjoyed Choir Camp and walking on Exmoor.

We are now trying to find a suitable date. Members will need to make their own accommodation arrangements but we will all meet in Luccombe and Porlock for "walks and an occasional libation" and also sing one of the Sunday services in St Mary's Church. A separate circular will be sent out as plans are crystallised.

The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

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Annual Festival at St Albans

St Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association

has much pleasure in inviting you to the

83rd Annual Festival

of

The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

St. Albans Cathedral

from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September 2013

Provisional Programme

Friday 20th September:

14.00 Onwards: Arrival at Comfort Hotel, Holywell Hill
16.00 Tea at the Cathedral
17.00 Choral Evensong – Abbey Girls Choir
19.00 Welcome by the Dean - Drinks and Buffet
21.15 Compline

Saturday 21st September

Morning to mid-afternoon (One or more of the following events – lunch own arrangements):

City Walkabout / Historic Verulamium / Verulamium Museum
Cathedral Tour & Talk / Photographic Exhibition

15.00 Rehearsal for Choral Evensong - Quire
16.00 Choral Evensong with the Cathedral Choir – Quire
17.30 Organ Demonstration
20.00 Reception and Festival Dinner (Venue: Town Hall)

Sunday 22nd September

08.00 Eucharist (said - Optional)
09:30 Parish Eucharist - Nave (Parish Choir - Optional)
11.15 Choral Eucharist - Quire
12.30 Lunch (Optional) - Refectory /Local Hostelry/Hotel

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Accommodation Advance Priority Booking:

To Malcolm G. Bury, 23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB, please reserve the following accommodation at the Comfort Hotel.

Surname..... Christian names: .....

Address:.....

Post Code..... Home Telephone No .....

Email Address .....

Accommodation / No. of Guests : Single ..... Twin ..... Double .....