THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

ALBAN NOTES

St Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers Association
THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN
Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers Associations

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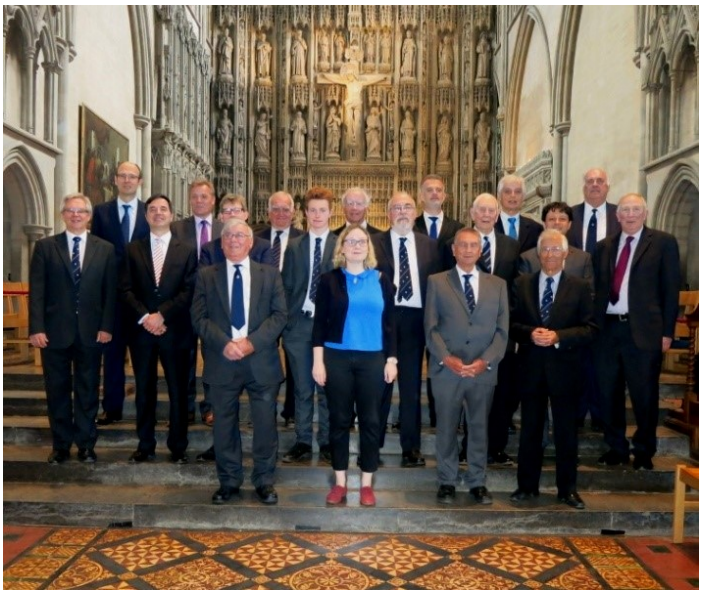
Message from the Chairman

A very happy New Year to you all. I hope you all have a safe and healthy year.

Looking back briefly at our activities and achievements in 2017 I am most grateful for the support I have received from the committee and our members.



Exquire

Evensong in Luccombe

There have been some ups and downs – the main 'ups' being Exquire singing Choral Eucharist in June with Andrew Parnell conducting and Nick Freestone playing the organ, and the visit to Luccombe where we just about 'survived' a very wet weekend thanks mainly to Tony de Rivaz and his very large tent and Richard Lilley for bringing his caravan to the field. A small group also sang the service of Evensong which was much appreciated by the folk in the village.

Pat Hurford

Sadly there was a 'down' with the death of one of our Honorary Life Members, Pat Hurford. Pat was an enthusiastic supporter of the ECA and she will be missed for her wisdom and sense of humour.

2018 will be a year of change and challenge and I should like to take this opportunity to advise members that after 11 years as Chairman, I shall be standing down at the next AGM. With the rapid developments in social media technology (Twitter, Instagram etc which seem to be replacing email and even Facebook) and the increasing legislative complexities that organisations such as ours will face in future years (e.g. new Data Protection legislation) it's time for a younger person to take on the role and expand our events and activities that will interest later generations.

2018 Members' Year Book

The 2018 edition of the Members' Year Book is now being drafted. In order to ensure that your entry is accurate and complete would you please go to the 'member-records' section on the ECA website (link - *ECA Member Records*) and let us know if there is anything that is incorrect or missing. We expect the Year Book to be available at the next reunion/AGM.

Members' News

We welcome former choristers **Paolo Baroni** and **Nick Coleman** as a co-opted members of the management committee (pending election at the AGM), and also former chorister **Matthew Cox** who was valedicted last term.

Abbey Singers

On Saturday, 23rd December, Abbey Singers joined the Cathedral Lay Clerks for the Service of Choral Evensong. This was a 'first' for them and the resulting sound was magnificent.

The Abbey Singers are now conducted by the Organ Scholar, Marnus Greyling but on this occasion the choir was directed by the Master of the Music, Andrew Lucas. Music for the service included

The Abbey Singers with the Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir (Saturday men), Andrew Lucas and Marnus Greyling

The Third Service by Philip Moore and Dominus Deus by Dutch organist and composer, Pieter van Dijk.

2018 Planning

The committee is now planning our activities for 2018 which, hopefully, will appeal to all generations. *Exquire* has been invited to sing Choral Eucharist for the Feast of Corpus Christi on ***Thursday 31st May*** and we will be contacting members to ask them to sign up in the near future. We do appreciate that this may be a school half-term holiday for some and also pre-exam time for many of our younger members, but securing dates in the Cathedral diary is not always easy.

Our Annual General Meeting and biennial reunion will now be held on Saturday 16th June and Choral Evensong will be followed by a reception. The agenda and committee nomination forms will be sent out in due course. We also hope to be able to sing alongside the Cathedral Choir, if there are enough singers, as we have done in earlier years.

Other activities in 2018 are now being explored including pursuing a previously proposed idea of a 'London Chapter' with an initial mid-week social event after working hours in a central London pub. Committee member, Nic Gibbon volunteered to manage this event and is endeavouring to identify a suitable venue and date which will be advised early in the Spring.

It was also suggested that a Saturday Pub Lunch in or near St Albans, followed by attendance at Choral Evensong, may also provide a welcome social opportunity. Several years ago there was a veterans' lunch at Redbourn which was very well supported and we should like to build on this and attract more of our younger members.

Luccombe 2018

2018 is also the 60th anniversary of Choir Camp and a suggestion has been made that there should be a 'final' organised visit back to Luccombe to mark this occasion and to acknowledge the death of Pat Hurford who is well remembered by folk in the village. Watch this space!