THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL EX-CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

Members' Newsletter

Issue 4, 2008

Patron of the Association

We are delighted to announce that The Very Reverend Dr. Jeffrey John, Dean of St. Albans, has accepted our invitation to become the Patron of the St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association. It is a privilege for us to have a Patron who is committed to supporting our aims and can offer advice and guidance to us in our activities both within and outside the Cathedral. We look forward to seeing Dr John at the forthcoming reunion and also to a long and happy association.

We now have two very strong mentors in Dr John and our President, Dr Hurford, whose support will help us ensure the sustainability of the Association.

Annual General Meeting

As already advised in the last Newsletter, the Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place in the Crypt at 1.45 p.m. on Saturday 5th July, immediately prior to the rehearsal for evensong. Nearly 30 members have expressed their intention to attend and this is very heartening.

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Chairman's Report
4. Honorary Treasurer's Report
5. Confirmation and Co-Option of Committee Members

6. Two special resolutions are to be presented:

Comment: It has been suggested that a reunion every year will not continue to attract interest and support from member into the future. In addition, the IOF is held every two years during the summer months and attracts the support from many directions, including members of the Ex-Choristers' association.

Proposal: It is proposed that ECA Reunions are held every two years w.e.f. 2008 with the next reunion being held in 2010.

Comment: The long term sustainability of the Ex-Choristers' Association is dependent on its ongoing financial status.

Proposal: It is proposed that the ECA hold and members support at least one fund raising event per calendar year.

Any Other Business & Questions from the floor

We hope to avoid having a formal voting process on these resolutions but if you wish to express your view on their acceptability please do so in writing (letter or e-mail) to the Chairman by no later than Thursday 3rd July.

The 2008 Reunion

After the AGM there will be a rehearsal in the Cathedral with the Cathedral Choir commencing at 3.00pm followed by tea in the crypt at 3.40. Over 100 members and their guests will attend Evensong, some 32 wishing to sing.

If you are not attending the AGM, but are singing at Evensong please be at the Cathedral by no later than 2.45 in order to be seated. Please follow the signs and directions by the stewards.

Immediately after Evensong all members should move swiftly to the Presbytery Steps for the photographs. Members and their guests will then be invited to the Dean's Garden for the Reception, or the Refectory if wet, where you will be able to register your attendance and collect your name tag.

During the reception members are invited to visit the 'lost boys & girls' table to view a number of photographs and members listings. It is hoped that we will be able to identify names to faces and even the whereabouts of 'missing' former colleagues. Maureen Adams & Miggie Sharp have very kindly offered to manage the registration process and the missing persons lists.

There is no charge for the reunion or the reception however, recognising that some of our members are better off financially than others, collection plates will be placed in prominent positions and we should be grateful for a donation to our funds.

50th Anniversary Choir Camp at Luccombe
Some 25 former choristers, lay clerks and music staff have signed up to attend the 50th Choir Camp at Luccombe. This is a tremendous response and the weekend, weather permitting, promises to be a great mixture of walks, music and fun.

2008 Directory
The 2008 directory will be printed and copies available at the Reunion, price £1. Members wishing to order a copy of the directory should do so by returning the attached order form, as soon as possible, together with a cheque for £2.00, made payable to St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association, to cover envelopes and postage to:

Mr Robert Staten, Honorary Secretary,
St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association,
19 Noredown Way,
Wootton Bassett,
Wiltshire. SN4 8BJ

Committee Vacancies
We feel confident that most of our members have appreciated the efforts that have gone into developing and maintaining the Association over the last twelve months however the Committee are few in number and there is still much to be done by way of organising events and ensuring a sustainable future. There are vacancies for the following committee positions:

> **Events Manager.** The primary responsibility is to manage our annual fund raising events, the first of which will now be in Q1-2009.
>
> **Three General Members** to represent the periods 1981-90; 1991-2000, and 2000 to date (John Adams currently represents the period 1960 to 1979.) The primary responsibility, apart from assisting in the general management of the Association, is to help locate former friends and colleagues from the various decades and develop and maintain contact with them.

If you are willing and able to take on one of these positions please let Malcolm Bury know by no later than 30th June. (See contacts below)

Music at St. Matthew's Church, Northampton
We have received an invitation from a former Lay Clerk to participate in a local fund-raising event by giving a recital, and possibly singing a Service of Choral Evensong, at St. Matthew's Church, Northampton early in 2009. We are therefore seeking a few potential soloists and around sixteen singers (SATB) to support this event. If you are interested in participating either as a soloist or as a choral group member please let Malcolm Bury know, either by e-mail to malcolmgb@btinternet.com; or by fax to 01296 630169, or by post to 23, Long Plough, Aston Clinton Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB by 31st July 2008.

This is an excellent opportunity for all former choristers and lay clerks who still enjoy singing to start preparing for our own annual musical fund-raising event which will also be held early next year. We look forward to hearing from you.

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2008 Ex-Choristers' Association Directory
Order Form

To: Mr Robert Staten, Honorary Secretary,
St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association,
19 Noredown Way,
Wootton Bassett,
Wiltshire. SN4 8BJ

Please send me …….. copy/copies of the St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association 2008 Directory at £2.00 per copy for which I enclose my cheque for £……. made payable to St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association.

Thank you.

Name: ……..

Address: ……..

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Postal Code: ……...