



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

# ALBAN NOTES

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

*Issue 7 (2009) sponsored by John Meager, former tenor lay-clerk 1975-87*

## ECA Fund-Raising Concert - Postponed -

Dear friends and colleagues,

In the last Alban Notes we gave advance notice of a major fund-raising concert in the Abbey on 19<sup>th</sup> September. This is now the date for the enthronement of our new Bishop of St. Albans, The Right Reverend Alan Smith and therefore our concert has been postponed.

Given that there are no other available dates in the Abbey this year, and clearly the Abbey is our preferred venue, the committee is now reviewing all the options for the concert, and indeed other fund-raising activities and a further announcement will be made shortly.

Meanwhile, please note that the Annual General Meeting will take place in the Crypt on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00 a.m. A further notice will be issued. This date provides an opportunity to have lunch together locally, attend Choral Evensong, and also attend the IOF opening concert by the Bach Choir in the evening.

**Malcolm Bury - Chairman**

### The Abbey Singers

One of Andrew Lucas' many successes at St. Albans was the formation of The Abbey Singers in 1999. This group comprises former treble and soprano choristers who have left the Cathedral Choir or Abbey Girls' Choir either because voices have broken or they have reached the maximum age. There are currently around 24 'on the books' and they meet every Thursday in term time under the excellent direction of Tom Winpenny to rehearse for their quarterly service of Choral Evensong.

This provides an important opportunity for those young people who still wish to be associated with the Cathedral Choirs and Andrew is to be commended for his foresight and efforts.

The photograph was taken after the service of Choral Evensong on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2008.

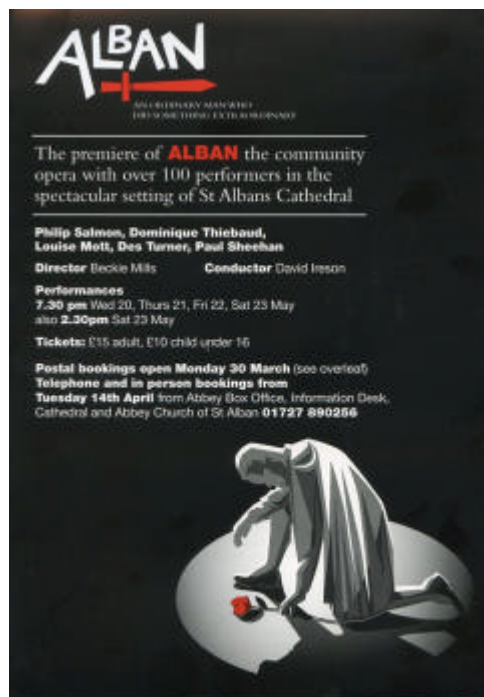
### New Members

**James Sawyer** treble 1973 – 1978 (affectionately known as The Mad Axeman of Luccombe)

**The Reverend David Broad** treble 1970 – 1975.

**Ken & Ursula Hunt** Associate Members. Their sons David and Nigel were trebles in the 1960s. David, now sadly deceased, was the Chairman of the Former Choristers' Association in the 90s.

**The Reverend Howard Bigg** – Precentor 1976 – 1977



Alban is a doctor, a family man living in Roman occupied Verulamium. One night there is a knock on his door. Alban's decision that fateful night begins a chain reaction which ends in the founding of a city and a cathedral.

Telephone and in-person bookings open Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at the Abbey Box Office – 01727 890256



*Photograph by David Kelsall*

## End of an Era

It is with considerable regret that we advise members that the traditional annual choir camp will no longer take place in its current form. After extensive consultations the Dean and Chapter has decided that because of the lack of succession in camp leadership and staffing, coupled with the constraints of HSE and Child Protection legislation, it can no longer support the camp. Possibly this will be a great disappointment to those who have enjoyed and, indeed, helped to run the camps over the 50 years it existed but assurances have been given that suitable alternatives for current and future choristers will be found.



**Choir Camp circa 1959-60**

The Dean has very kindly offered the camping equipment to the Ex-Choristers' Association and Lay Clerks so that those members who would like to continue camping and maintain a link with Luccombe may try to do so. The logistics of this have not yet been assessed so if any members have any thoughts as to whether some form of periodic activity at Luccombe is practicable or desirable then please let us know at [info@stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk](mailto:info@stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk).

## DVD "The Final Choir Camp"

A DVD of the 50<sup>th</sup> and 'Final Choir Camp' has been made by John Adams. John is happy to make personal copies available to members of the Association and Cathedral Choir on the basis of a small donation to cover costs. Although it is not the same professional quality as that for the Reunion, it lasts about half an hour and within the framework of the lovely surrounding scenery it shows a weekend visitor's perspective. There is the Porlock Weir area where the older members will remember singing madrigals and other impromptu three-part renderings; it covers visits to the camp site and a very well played Last Post against a backdrop of Robin How; a trek up to Dunkery Beacon with the inevitable photo opportunity at the top; the return via Cloutsham with cream teas at Horner, then a little look in at choir practice and an evening barbeque in the camp field. On the Sunday, lunch at camp after Matins was a big occasion with the cutting of the camp 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake and presentation of a picture to Peter, speeches and votes of thanks, then the final winding up after Evensong with tea at the village hall and presentation of a picture to Bill Partridge for help and hospitality for all those years.

A few copies of the 2008 Reunion DVD are also still available on a similar basis; enquiries to the Chairman.

## Can you sponsor the Ex-Choristers' Association?

Members will be aware that it takes money to manage and administer the activities of the Association. Members, including those who are unable to take an active part in events, may like to support the Association by sponsoring an element of our expenditure.

We currently incur costs in a number of regular areas and below are suggested amounts that would meet these specific costs.

Alban Notes - Printing & Postage	£75.00 per issue
Website Maintenance and Administration	£100.00 per annum
Membership Directory (2010)	£200.00 per issue

If you are able to help in any way then please contact the chairman at [malcolmg@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolmg@btinternet.com) or at [info@stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk](mailto:info@stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk). Appropriate acknowledgement of all specific sponsorships received will be made in Alban Notes, on the website and in the Directory.



**Alban is a doctor, a family man, living in Roman occupied Verulamium when one night there is a knock on his door. Alban's decision that fateful night begins a chain reaction which ends in the founding of a city and a cathedral.**

**TELEPHONE AND IN PERSON BOOKINGS OPEN TUESDAY 14 APRIL**  
 at the Abbey Box Office,  
 Information Desk, Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, AL1 1BY  
 Monday to Saturday 10.30 am – 3.30 pm  
**01727 890256**

**POSTAL BOOKINGS OPEN ON MONDAY 30 MARCH.**  
 Please use the tear-off form below.

*Alban* is a newly commissioned community opera specially written by Tom Wiggall (composer) and John Mole (librettist) for the spectacular space of the Cathedral nave telling a dramatic, fast moving and inspiring story. Professionally staged and involving over 100 performers – soloists, adult and children's choruses and orchestra drawn from across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire – these 5 performances will leave an enduring memory of an ordinary man and his extraordinary fate.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Quantity £15 (Adult)</b>	<b>Quantity £10 (Child under 16)</b>	<b>Total (£)</b>
Wed 20 May at 7.30 pm			
Thurs 21 May at 7.30 pm			
Fri 22 May at 7.30 pm			
Sat 23 May at 2.30 pm			
Sat 23 May at 7.30 pm			

PLUS 50p postage **0.50**

**Total Cost £**

I enclose a cheque for £.....(including 50p postage) made payable to Abbey Musical Events. **Send to: Abbey Box Office, Information Desk, Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, Sumpter Yard, St Albans AL1 1BY.**

Name .....

Address .....

Post code .....

Tel: .....