

## Members' Newsletter

Issue: 3 – March 2008

### Annual Reunion Choral Evensong – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008



When Andrew Lucas spoke to you at the inaugural evensong last year he mentioned that there was no Ex-Choristers' Association; this is no longer the case and we now appear to be developing a thriving organisation.

This year's Reunion Choral Evensong will take place in St. Albans Cathedral on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> July and will be followed by a reception if weather permits in the Dean's garden, where you will be able to catch up with former friends and colleagues. Details will be available in June.

Earlier in the afternoon there will be a very short general meeting to review the Association's activities and plans and this is an opportunity for members to ask questions and make suggestions to the committee.

The task of collating responses from our members is administratively time-consuming and attached to this newsletter is a reply form which you should return to the Chairman, either by post or electronically if you wish to participate in this year's reunion. It would be helpful if, when replying, you could provide as much of the requested information as possible.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Luccombe Choir Camp - Ex-Choristers' Weekend 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2008

All members of the Ex-Choristers Association are invited to visit the 50<sup>th</sup> Choir Camp from the evening of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July until after tea on the evening of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July and may take advantage of one of the following packages.

Option 1. The Campers' Package (Max 2 nights – own tents in nearby field)

Option 2. The Non-Campers' Package (Own accommodation arrangements in the local area)

**1. The Campers' Package.** You will be able to camp in a nearby/adjacent field for a maximum of two nights (Friday and Saturday) and participate as follows. Transport to and from Luccombe is your responsibility:

#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

20:00: Short Welcome Meeting (Luccombe Farm)                      20:30: Service of Compline (Luccombe Church)

#### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>

08:30: Breakfast in the field (campers only)

10:45: Walk: Depart from field - need boots, etc – packed lunch provided - may be two variants, Webbers Post or Dunkery Beacon depending on fitness/abilities or just meeting us at the top by car is possible also.

16:00: Horner Corner Cream Tea;                      19:00: BBQ in field;                      20:30: Camp Fire

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

08:30: Breakfast in the field (campers only);                      11:00: Sung Eucharist (Attendance)

13:45: Lunch in field (buffet);                      16:00: Evensong (Attendance)

17:00 Tea in Luccombe (probably at the farm)                      18:00: Ex-choristers/Lay Clerks depart

**All-in cost for the Saturday & Sunday Camper's Package is £16 per person.**

## 2. The Non-Campers' Package

Transport and local accommodation are your own responsibility - you will be able to participate as follows on either or both days:

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>

10:45: Walk: Depart from field - Need boots, etc – packed lunch provided - may be two variants, Webbers Post or Dunkery Beacon depending on fitness/abilities or just meeting us at the top by car is possible also.

16:00: Horner Corner Cream Tea; 19:00: BBQ in field; 20:30: Camp Fire

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

11:00: Sung Eucharist (Attendance)

13:45: Lunch in field (buffet)

16:00: Evensong (Attendance)

17:00: Tea in Luccombe (probably at the farm)

**All-in cost for the Saturday & Sunday Non-Camping Package is £11 per person. (Sunday lunch only £6)**

If you are driving your own car and are able to offer a return lift to anyone from your home area, or St. Albans, to Luccombe, please indicate accordingly on the Reply Form.

**If you wish to participate in the 50th Choir Camp and take advantage of one of the above packages please tick the appropriate box and return the form, together with your cheque made payable to St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association, to Malcolm Bury, Chairman .... by no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008.**

## Other News:



We are delighted to announce that Mr. Simon Preston OBE, Hon FRCO, MA, Mus B has accepted Honorary Membership of the Ex-Choristers' Association. In addition to his notable achievements at Kings College Cambridge, Westminster Abbey, Christ Church Oxford and as an international organ recitalist, Simon spent a year at St. Albans in 1968 as Master of the Music whilst Peter Hurford was on a Sabbatical in the USA. We look forward to welcoming him back to St. Albans in the future.

## ECA Choir (St Albans Ex-Cathedra ??)

A number of our members have suggested that a small choral group of ex-choristers and lay clerks should be formed to put on a concert in or around the St. Albans area maybe once a year in aid of Association funds. A few folk have already volunteered but clearly there must be a balanced critical mass of former Abbey Girls, Choristers and Lay Clerks if such a group is to work.

Andrew Parnell has very kindly agreed to conduct such a group, subject to professional commitments. If you are interested in singing in such a concert, or helping in the formation of this group, would you please contact the Chairman **before 30<sup>th</sup> April** either by email at malcolmgb@btinternet.com or by telephone at 01296 630169, or by post to 23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB.

## Website eArchive

Did you know that there was a choir camp in the 1920s? There was, at Bow Brickhill near Milton Keynes where the boys camped in three railway carriages owned by Sydney Nicholson, Master of the Music at Westminster Abbey. One of our oldest members, Raymond Hughes who has just celebrated his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday participated. Camps were also held at Tenbury Wells in the late 40's/early 50's, supervised by the late Peter Burton.

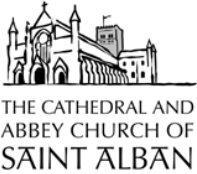
During the last few weeks and months we have contacted and/or visited some of our more senior members including Jeffrey Collins, Harold Page, Alan Godfrey, Bob Fitzsimmons, John Tournay, Peter Ward and John Bate who sang in the choir in decades spanning the 30's to the 50's. We have also been in contact with younger 'veterans' like Ian Woods, Stephen Guy and Keith Hill and together they have been able to put some names to faces in the older choir photographs.

We are also cataloguing all the recordings and broadcasts made by the Cathedral Choir and the Abbey Girls' Choir, the earliest broadcast Choral Evensong currently identified being in 1963. Fellow members Rogers Covey-Crump and Tony Robson, together with Lance Andrews (LAMMAS Records), are contributing to this project.

Chris Sharp, John Adams, Simon Colston and Malcolm Bury, with support from Dr David Kelsall, the Cathedral Archivist, have now started to develop an electronic archive of the two choirs which, hopefully, will be launched on the website in June. Quite a few choir photos and documents relating to the choir's activities going back as far as the 1860s have been located and are being catalogued and preserved.

**Have you got any old photographs of the choir; special services, solo performances, personal portraits, choir camp, tours, press cuttings or tangible memorabilia? Would you like to be involved in research and production of the archive? If the answer to either of these questions is 'yes,' please contact the chairman!**

*Reminder: If you have not registered your e-mail address with us, please do so as this saves us money.*



# St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association

## 2008 Reunion Choral Evensong – General Meeting & Reception Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008

### Reply Form

**Please reply either by:**

**1. E-mail:** info@stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk (as an e-mail attachment)

OR

malcolmgb@btinternet.com (as an e-mail attachment)

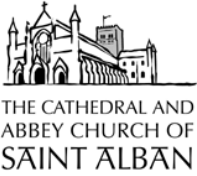
**2. Telephone:** Malcolm Bury on 01296 630169

OR

**3. Post:** Malcolm Bury, 23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB

Please provide/return the following information:

	Yes	No
I will be attending the General Meeting at 1.45pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I should like to participate in the Evensong Service from 2.30 p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My voice part is:      Soprano <input type="checkbox"/> Alto <input type="checkbox"/> Tenor <input type="checkbox"/> Bass <input type="checkbox"/>		
or, I will be attending Evensong at 4.00 p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I should like to attend the Reception after Evensong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I will be bringing ..... Guest(s) <i>Only members and their spouse/partner/carer may attend the reception</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am willing to help to help set-up in the morning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I was a Chorister / Lay-Clerk / Music Staff at St. Albans from ..... to ..... (years)		
Name: .....	Telephone: .....	
Address: .....	Post Code: .....	
E-mail: .....		
My suggestion for music would be: Service (Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis): .....		
Anthem: .....		
Hymns: .....		



# St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association

## 50<sup>th</sup> Luccombe Choir Camp - Reply Process

To: Malcolm G. Bury – Chairman  
 23, Long Plough,  
 Aston Clinton,  
 Aylesbury,  
 Bucks. HP22 5HB

I / We wish to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> Choir Camp Package indicated below and enclose my cheque made payable to St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association.

**Package Option:**

1. Camper's Package	Nights camping		Drivers only		Cost
Names of camper(s):	Friday <i>Please v</i>	Saturday <i>Please v</i>	Driving own car <i>(Yes / No)</i>	Can offer 2-way lift <i>(Yes / No)</i>	
1.					
2.					
				Cheque Enclosed	£

2. Non-Camper's Package	Days Attending		Drivers only		Cost
Names:	Saturday <i>Please v</i>	Sunday <i>Please v</i>	Driving own car <i>(Yes / No)</i>	Can offer 2-way lift <i>(Yes / No)</i>	
1.					
2.					
				Cheque Enclosed	£