



**LEICESTER CATHEDRAL
OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS NEWSLETTER 2013**

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

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Committee	Graham Wright David Fisher Simon Headley Geoffrey Cox	John Thorpe Dr Christopher Johns (Ex-Officio) Dr Johannes Arens (Ex-Officio)

The Association was founded in 1965 and was accepted by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes in 2013. It is affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations which was founded in 1910.

www.onceachorister.org

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DR. GEORGE GRAY MEMORIAL TRUST

Chairman / Trustee	David Briers, 7 Houlditch Rd, Leicester, LE2 3FF	
Trustees	Richard Belton John Thorpe Geoffrey Cox	Michael Gray Neil Crutchley

This trust is administered by the trustees to provide scholarships to the Cathedral Choir and is governed by a trust deed dated 8th February 1983 as amended by a Resolution dated 8th March 2010. It was registered as a charity on 1st March 1983 under registration number 513625 and any proposed changes to the trustees are ratified at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

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From the President

Passing on the baton.

"Passing on the baton" has become a refrain in our house of late. I think congratulations are due to all our members who have been handed the baton of Leicester Cathedral Choir, have run with it for however long a pace and in their turn passed it on to up and coming choristers. We should all be justifiably proud of the distance we ran with it and how we have helped to uphold the traditions of our Cathedral's music whilst being members of a very special team.

On a personal note - last November the choir of St Matthew's Northampton came with their director Stephen Moore to sing Evensong in Leicester Cathedral to the organ accompaniment of Thomas Moore, former head chorister, and present organist of Wakefield Cathedral. I taught both of these very able musicians the organ from their early lessons through to entry into their tertiary education, and feel so proud of the way they and others like them are firmly gripping the baton with which I am no longer able to run.

Moving into 2014, I was happy to take part in the Christian Unity Evensong which our Songmen Emeriti ably led recently at Holy Cross Priory. The peace and tranquillity evoked by this service was very moving. However, in

contrast, the lively dynamic singing at Southwell for the recent 3 Choirs Festival in which our young choristers took part was a joyful acknowledgement that the baton is yet again moving on into the next generation of capable hands and voices.

Geoffrey Carter

*Front Cover – Leicester Cathedral on Christmas Eve 2013, featuring the newly completed nativity set, designed and carved by Charles Gurrey
Photo: The Very Rev'd David Monteith, Dean of Leicester*

ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

Replacement Ruffs and Surplices

Leicester Cathedral is planning to update the ruffs and surplices for all boy choristers and introduce ruffs for the girls and replace their tabards with surplices. This is being done as some clothing is worn, some threadbare and some have, in time, become stained! This will improve the choir's overall appearance and will introduce a harmonious and equitable look across the sexes. The total cost to do this will be £3,430.

Friends of Leicester Cathedral have generously agreed to match 2:1 any funds that we raise towards the total so the Cathedral have begun efforts to raise the £1143 needed.

If members of the Old Choristers' Association would like to make a donation towards the cost of new ruffs and surplices then that would be much appreciated. Please make a cheque payable to Leicester Cathedral, mark the back of the cheque 'ruffs' and post to Leicester Cathedral, St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester LE1 5PZ. Thank you.

Cathedral Humour

Friends of Cathedral Music is planning to publish a book of witty anecdotes: As part of its 60th anniversary celebrations in 2016, Friends of Cathedral Music will be publishing a collection of humorous stories of accidents and events from choir stalls, organ lofts, vestries and Deaneries. They are being collected and edited on behalf of FCM by Mark Rowlinson. Please send your stories and anecdotes direct to him, preferably by email: markrowlinson@btopenworld.com, or by post to: Mark Rowlinson, 6 Sylvan Avenue, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 6LR

You know the sort of thing, the stories shared by lay clerks and former choristers over a pint in the pub after evensong. But they need not be limited to the choir stall. They might also include solo concerts, ensembles, bigger choirs, conductors and so on - as long as there is some link, however tenuous, to sacred music. Nor do the subjects of these tales still have to be alive!

MEMBERS NOTES

Births

Andrew Belton and Jane were pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Honour Elsa, on 3rd October.

Charlotte Wittering now teaches in London, but has managed to get back to Leicester each year to sing with the Cathedral choir on Christmas Eve, 2013 being the first she has missed, due to the happy arrival of her first child, Alex. Charlotte sends greetings to all.



Weddings

The wedding of **John Thorpe** to Celia Russell took place on Saturday 8th June and was a real "Cathedral occasion". The service was conducted by Canon Barry Naylor, Acting Dean, in the presence of about 300 guests. The whole of the cathedral music foundation sang the service under the direction of Chris Johns with Simon Headley at the organ. Three anthems were sung, including a special arrangement of Psalm 67, composed by David Fisher and sung by the Songmen Emeriti. After the service, every one was invited to join the bride and groom for tea and cakes in the great south aisle, kindly provided by the Cathedral Community Committee.

In Memoriam

We were very sorry to receive the news that **Dr Robert Joseph (Bob) King**, one of our first life members, had passed away in September after a long illness at the age of 90. Bob was a chorister and bass songman from 1931 to 1971 with a break for his war service. In 1962, he published a paper entitled "Choirs and the Weather" and in 2005, wrote an 11 page paper about his chorister years. *(Unfortunately, space does not permit us to publish these papers but they have been placed in the Association archives and we would be pleased to send a copy to anyone who would like one.)*

Bob will be remembered by many who knew him as a very modest and gentle person but especially for his solo work. He enjoyed singing immensely the bass solos in Purcell's verse anthem "O Sing unto the Lord" when he came into his own near the end by singing very appropriately "Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King". It was as if the whole choir

turned to acknowledge him when they replied with the chorus "The Lord is King". When Dr Gray retired as Master of the Music, he formed a small group from the older songmen named the Georgian Singers. Bob was one of its members and the group sang at Bob's wedding to his second wife, Sally, at Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby in 1977 and also for Teddy Boston at Cadeby Church.

Bob was a former Curator of Geology at Leicester University and in 1970 discovered small gold deposits at an undisclosed location in the Charnwood Forest. He left Leicester in 1983 to take the post of Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Geology at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. He joined the choir at Llandaff Cathedral but, in 1986, found the time expected of him too demanding and joined the choir at St Athan. He was then "promoted" from the ranks to Choirmaster and frightened the choristers out of their minds by putting on a service of Lessons and Carols. After government financial cutbacks dried up the funds for his research work in Cardiff, Bob moved to Tewkesbury in 1988 to take up the post of curator at the John Moore Countryside Museum. He enjoyed the superb singing of the Abbey School Choir and living in a medieval house in the Abbey precincts. When his youngest son became a chorister in the Abbey Choir, Bob also accepted an invitation from John Belcher, the then Organist and Master of the Choristers, to join the bass section.

After his retirement from the Museum and the Abbey Choir, Bob moved into the country and took up the position of peripatetic curator of mineralogy for the Area Museum Council for the South West. After a short period of singing in the Longdon village church choir, Bob had to give up singing in 1999 for ill health reasons, especially failing eyesight.

Our association was represented at the Thanksgiving Service for Bob's life held at the church of St Michael & All Angel's, Bishop's Cleeve by David and Peter Webster. The service was conducted by Rev Dr Christopher Fletcher who had been a geology student at Leicester in the 1960's and a recording of the Leicester Cathedral Choir singing Walmsley's Nunc Dimittis in D was played after the blessing.

Our association has made a donation of £20 to Calibre Audio Library in memory of Bob.

Other Notes

At Easter we bade farewell to **Isabella Oreffo** from the Cathedral Choir. Izzy joined the girls' choir in November 2008 and started singing alto in January 2011 as her voice matured. When she entered Year 11 at Leicester Grammar School, she found it increasingly difficult to balance the demands of being in the Cathedral Choir with those of her other interests, most

notably (although by no means only) the drama activities in which she's involved.

Izzy's older brother, **Reuben**, joined the choir as a treble in 2003 and, after a period as Head Chorister, moved to the back row in 2008. His strong sight-reading made him a valuable asset to the tenor section and it came as no surprise to learn that he had been offered a Choral Scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Equally unsurprising for those who witnessed his unswerving dedication to his academic work, was the clean sweep of A*-grades at A-level, adding to similarly flawless performances at GCSE and AS-level. For those who saw his choice of reading matter on the Germany tour, there can be little doubt that he'll take to the Cambridge Philosophy course like a duck to water. But that won't be until autumn 2014, as he's opted for deferred entry, allowing him to spend a year in France teaching English.

Clare Fowler joined the choir in 2006 and had always been able to manage her time in such a way that her annual tally of services she missed could be counted on one hand. With excellent sight-reading and a beautifully pure tone, she had sung many memorable solos, including Mendelssohn's 'Hear my prayer' particularly since becoming Head Chorister. Clare has gone to Nottingham to read Music and has won a Choral Scholarship to St Peter's Church.

Hollie Burton started attending the Monday sessions of the Cathedral Choir with her twin brother, **Thomas**, in September 2002, when it was the boys who rehearsed and sang Evensong on that day, and, as such, was probably the first female chorister to sing a Monday Evensong at the Cathedral. While others her age might have been put off by being the only girl in a group of boys, in the Burtons' case it had the opposite effect and while Thomas left in 2008, Hollie can now look back on nearly a decade of singing at the Cathedral. She has been Head Chorister of the Girls' Choir and has been everything one could have asked from someone in that position. Musically, she is a strong but never overpowering leader, whilst at the same time having the vocal resources to sing big solos. No less importantly, she has also been an outstanding role-model. Hollie is now taking a gap year, some of which she plans to spend in Australia, before applying to study Psychology at university.

Christopher Worsfold joined the choir in January 2004, following in the footsteps of his older brother **Benjamin**, who left us two years ago, and moved to the back row in 2008, where he sang bass. Christopher is one of those quiet, unassuming characters who understand what the job entails, turn up and get on with it, and while the solos he has sung in recent years are certainly worthy of mention, to overlook the solid contribution that his

beautiful, rich voice has made to the bass line and to the sound of the choir as a whole would be to ignore a large and no less vital part of his service as a Chorister and Songman. Christopher is also an accomplished trombonist and is now at Imperial College, London, studying physics.

Corin Amis decided to leave the choir to concentrate on his GCSE exams. Corin joined the choir in March 2006 as a treble and moved to the back row in the autumn of 2010, first as an alto and, more recently, as a tenor. He is also active as a musician outside the Cathedral as the lead singer in a band that is now getting regular gigs and he has promised that he will credit the Cathedral Choir when they hit the big time.

Robert James-Weavill writes "I passed my audition to the choir in 1945 and sang when King George VI visited the Cathedral, with Queen Elizabeth, after the war. The Queen spoke to the boy next to me, lucky fellow! Sidney Rudge was the Assistant Organist and Guy Vernon, the Bishop. (I have "The Book of the Coming of Age Celebrations -1947" presented to choir members) It contains a photo of the royal visit and of the Cathedral Chapter & Lay Canons showing Dr. George Gray & the verger, Mr. Innocent.



I also recall re-organising the choir music library in the Song School. I had organ lessons with George Gray for several years, thanks to a bursary awarded by the Cathedral. I never sang in the mens' choir since I was offered an organist post at St. Chad's Church in Coleman Road, Leicester in 1953. I remember the annual Whitsun outing to Skegness for the boys in an old Bedford bus! Just Mr. Gray and Mr. Innocent supervised all of us (no Health & Safety rules to worry about!)"

Robert is now organist at Willoughby-on-the-Wolds (pictured above), Widmerpool & Wysall churches, posts he has held for about the last 30 years.

The Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei at the morning's service on Sunday 23rd June were composed by **Dominic Veall**, a member of the Cathedral Choir who at the time was just coming to the end of his lower sixth year. Dominic has sung the part of the Evangelist in the Palm Sunday Passion for the past two years, among many other memorable solos and was doing Music A-level, but wasn't taking the composition module. Certainly, on the basis of that morning's music, there was no reason why he shouldn't have!

Congratulations to **Ian Imlay** who was made a Distinguished Honorary Fellow of Leicester University in July, and also to **Neil Crutchley**, one of our Patrons and a Dr George Gray Trustee, upon receiving an Honoured Citizen Award from Leicester Lord Mayor, Councillor Mustafa Kamal at the Town Hall in November for his service to classical music. Neil has been involved in producing hundreds of reviews of classical concerts and was classical music writer for the Leicester Mercury from 1984 to 2012. He attended his first concert by the Leicester Symphony Orchestra in 1967 and has written the orchestra's programme notes since 1983. He is also president of the Leicester Recorded Music Society.

Ben Allen was a chorister from 1949 to 1952, along with his brother **Martin**, and returned to Leicester to sing at a memorial service for his late mother at Knighton Church in March. **Adam Piplica**, **Richard Belton**, and **Willard Welsford** formed part of a small choir for the occasion under the direction of **John Gull**. Ben now lives in Berkshire and writes "I left Leicester more than 50 years ago and don't visit very often now that my parents are gone. However, even from this distance (both time and miles) I owe a great deal of thanks to George Gray, who massively helped my early musical education and singing, which has remained a blessing throughout my life.

I was impressed to read of the long service of the famous four who were the last links in the choir under George Gray. With their length of service, they must have been in the choir when I was (1949-1952 – I think!). Such loyalty is incredible! I remember the visit of the King and Queen to Leicester in 1946, and last year, when the present Queen visited, Martin, my brother said that the Cathedral bells sounded magnificent. I recently had the opportunity to take part in a wonderful performance of Verdi's Requiem at the Reading Concert Hall conducted by Will Dawes, a choir of nearly 200, the Southern Sinfonia and some great soloists. The c.v. for the Bass Soloist began "**James Oldfield** (bass) was a chorister at Leicester Cathedral and held a Choral Scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge". They get around." *and further* "Thank you for sending me a copy of the 2010 newsletter showing the Gardiner Room at St. Martins House – most impressive. I was delighted to see the name of Mr C Innocence in **Tony Stevens's** testament to **Roy Sawbridge**. While I don't remember the names of either Tony or Roy, though they were probably there when I was, I do remember the name of Mr Innocence who would precede the choir and the Provost into the church from the vestry. I also noted **Tim Pigott Smith** in the actors section of the 2012 Newsletter. I first remember seeing him as Sergeant Merrick in "The Jewel in the Crown" on TV many years ago. He must have been just

after me both at Wyggeston Boys' Grammar School and also in the Cathedral Choir"

Ed Bampton returned to the Cathedral to preach on Sunday 1st September. After a year of studying theology at Queen's, Ed had learned so much and as much as he would have loved to share everything with us, he was sure that we'd be pleased to hear that he was not going to attempt that. The text of Ed's sermon can be accessed on the "Sermons" page of the Cathedral website. He has since learnt that his curacy has been settled which will be in Shepshed with Oaks in Charnwood near Loughborough so **Claire** is looking forward to a much shorter work commute to the Christian Aid East Midlands office in Loughborough.

Claire McGinn (Soprano) and **Richard Paterson** (Baritone) took part in the series of song recitals in the autumn as part of the Cathedral lunchtime recital series. Richard was also the baritone soloist in a performance of the Durufle Requiem on 3rd November in aid of the charity "HOPE Against Cancer".

Thomas Moore, Director of Music at Wakefield Cathedral, returned to play the organ for Choral Evensong on Saturday 9th November which was sung by the visiting choir of St Matthew's, Northampton whose conductor is Tom's brother, Stephen. Although Wakefield Cathedral featured first in a series of three documentaries on Cathedrals, broadcast on BBC4 in November, there was only a passing view of the choir during the programme. However, when Songs of Praise was broadcast from Wakefield on 17th November, the Cathedral Girls' Choir gave a beautiful rendition of Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth" Another member, **Robin Easton** was spotted singing with the massed choirs in another broadcast of "Songs of Praise" from Llandaff Cathedral on Sunday 25th August.



Spencer Basford, a former chorister and alto songman, moved to South Wales and sang at Llandaff Cathedral for many years. It is the only cathedral out of the six in Wales that has a choir school, but in December it seemed that goodwill to all men may have been in short supply when five part-time lay clerks, one part-time choral scholar and the assistant organist were handed redundancy notices. It is reported that adult choristers will in future be "contracted on a flexible occasional basis" to sing with the boy choristers for Sunday services and special events. The cathedral is also to develop its

relationship with girl singers and parish choirs. The redundancies will save £45,000, helping to cut down the cathedral's anticipated loss for 2014 of £81,000. Spencer was not surprised when he heard the news. He now does some singing with the choir at the Cathedral in Newport. One of the musical staff asked him where his singing career had begun, and when Spencer said 'Leicester,' the comment was '...so you were one of George Gray's boys, were you.' It seems as if boys of that era are still quite famous!

Paul Morley has set up a fund in memory of his late wife, Jayne, after her tragic death in October 2012. The fund, which has been granted charitable status by HMRC, has been set up to help young musicians, with specific emphasis on singing, which Jayne was so actively involved in for the majority of her adult life. At the end of 2013, the fund stood at an amazing £7,700 and future fund raising events are in the pipeline. Paul directs the Leicester Church Music Consort and two young people are already benefitting from scholarships to the choir. In September 2013, a 10 year old chorister from Southwell Minster was the first recipient of the Jayne Morley Memorial Award, which will be for a scholarship for a period of 5 years whilst he is in the Minster choir.

In news from our Devon residents, **John Wood** writes; "I'm still singing at our local parish church here in Chagford. Sometimes I feel the changes made within the church life are aimed at dispensing with the choir and all the types of service that go with it – a psalm still sung, but only a few verses, no sung canticles, the same poor setting week after week. Gosh I must be getting really old to moan but many are voting with their feet and the choir is small. We are extremely fortunate to have Roger Clevedon as our music master – Bass at Westminster Abbey for 30 odd years, plus the occasional help of a chap – Richard Edwards – sometime a gentleman of the Chapel Royal whose conducting is simply the best I've yet to experience. **Peter Sarjeant** from Kingsbridge was expecting to be anchored off Christobal over the Christmas period awaiting transit through the Panama Canal for research work in the East Pacific in early 2014. **Stephen Wain** runs the Surfview Guest House in Woolacombe with his wife Shirley but they spent the winter in Lanzarote. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on 20th October.

Richard Parsons and his wife Linda also celebrated their Ruby wedding on Saturday 14th December with a family lunch and skittles at the Wheatsheaf public house in Thurcaston.

Event planner, **Adham Fisher**, likes to use his professional skills in his personal life. In November, he returned to Leicester after breaking the

record for riding through every subway station in the city of Boston, Massachusetts. Adham had to beat a time of 11 hours and 48 minutes which he comfortably did by completing the journey in 8 hours and 48 minutes. Although not an official record as in the Guinness Book of Records, he did receive a framed "certificate of appreciation" from the Massachusetts Bay Transport Authority. Two years ago, Adham also broke a similar record at Chicago, Illinois and has attempted to break records at Glasgow, Paris, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Lille, Madrid and Brussels. Unfortunately his attempt on the London Underground took 24 minutes longer than the record time of 16 hours and 20 minutes!

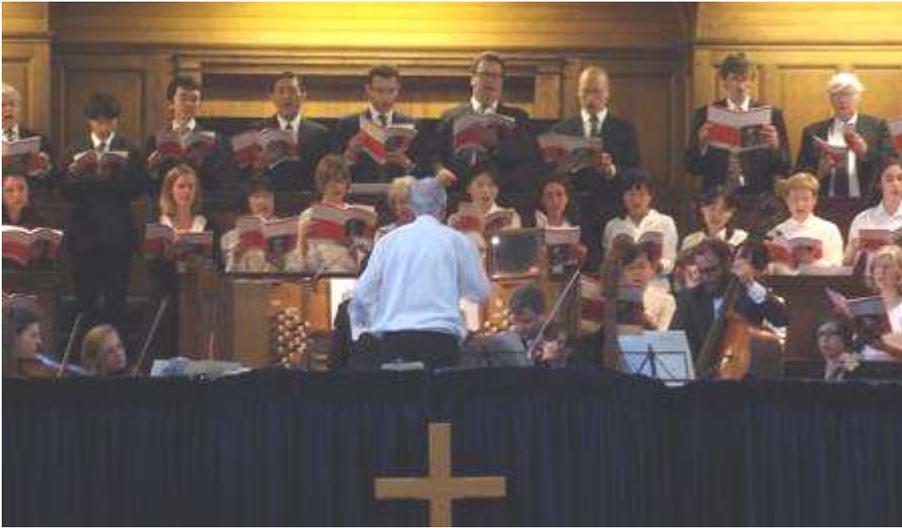
The Gregory family "have continued to enjoy our new home. Yoshimi's piano has been in good use this term, with Julian's singing and Julian accompanied by Dad giving a song recital in Fellowship House, Hampstead Garden Suburb. (Jonathan's piano remains in the garage!) Our neighbours are interesting and able, and we attended the wedding of one of our 'neighbours' in Hong Kong – as I was working in Hong Kong at the time, in a beautiful hotel overlooking the Victoria harbour, reminding us of Nicholas & Sharon's wedding & reception in the cathedral like banqueting hall in the 5 star hotel in China 3 years ago.

Julian has been busy both with post graduate singing studies at the RAM and in various singing commitments and bookings, having completed his year in Heidelberg learning German intensively. He has a professional membership of the Choir of St Bride's Fleet Street and has given solo and other performances in Truro, Greenwich, Ipswich, Zurich and Paris.

Yoshimi has returned to work in UK-Japan relations, having recovered from a bad injury (a fall, running for a train) early in the year. She is involved in planning ahead to a conference needing her organisation in Africa, and her commitment and support for the Anglican Communion continues in the area of communications and the Japanese church. She plans to give much time in getting support for the UK-Japan Music Society in 2014, as well as singing in the weekly rehearsals. She is gradually getting the house in order, having more flexible working hours and better health.

Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church has become a good platform for concerts as well as services, and we have many friends there, with a keen, if older, choir. The congregation has a very good number of families and children, some of whom have been enjoying singing with Jonathan each Sunday morning. Friday lunchtime recitals have a popular lunch followed by musical programme.

Jonathan has arranged for deputies during his (rather many) absences abroad, and diplomacy has been needed : we hope that the good church relationship will continue.



We have had a successful year with the UK-Japan Choir and UK-Japan Music Society, with performances of Faure Requiem, Messiah and at a Tohoku Tsunami memorial concert, featuring a Japanese Song Mae-e

(Forward). The choir have given performances in St John's Wood and in Hampstead Garden Suburb; it has been lovely working with fine young professional soloists. We have been so appreciative of the singing support of friends from Cambridge, Leicester and Northern Ireland, and we have more significant Japanese choir members based in London now.

Jonathan has been enjoying playing and giving organ recitals and also accompanying Julian on occasion. He has been teaching organ to pupils at Henrietta Barnet girls' school and also occasionally he goes to Leicester for some pupils and calling in to see brother Howard and family. He has appreciated the flexibility of time and enjoys his travelling and examining. As well as getting to visit for instance Southend, Blackheath, Berkshire and Winchester College and Bromley for exams (sometimes renewing friendships with colleagues) he has had 5 or 6 week sessions in Jahor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and in Kowloon and Sha Tin in Hong Kong, following in the steps of brother Howard. Whilst in Hong Kong he conducted and sang with Hong Kong Cathedral Choir where he has some good friends. It was lovely that Yoshimi was able to visit during one examining session and appreciate the 5 star hotel treatment. She also enjoyed singing with St John's Cathedral Choir in Hong Kong on two Sundays whilst visiting Jonathan.

Congratulations to **Matthew Farrell** and **Andrew Goodrich**, who have both gained places in choirs of national standing.

Matthew went on an Eton Choral Course in the summer and sang a solo at the BBC Radio 3 broadcast of Choral Evensong on Wednesday 17th July. He has now been offered a place in the Rodolfus Choir, a group selected from participants in the Eton Choral Courses.

Andrew, meanwhile, has been accepted into the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, an auditioned choir which meets in school holidays to perform all manner of choral music. Andrew is also fundraising for an expedition to

Morocco in August 2014 organised by World Challenge. The trip will award UCAS points which are highly acclaimed by universities. As he wishes to study Russian at Cambridge, he realises that he will need every qualification available. The expedition costs £1,000 and participants must raise money themselves without the aid of parents but through fundraising events and sponsorship. To aid his appeal for funds he is baking and selling cupcakes and, in the future, various other confectioneries, priced at 50p each every Sunday morning at the Cathedral by the tea & coffee stall. Andrew would be extremely grateful for your support in his efforts. He will send an article about the trip, along with photos and personal acknowledgements, to all sponsors.

Geoffrey Clarke writes "70 years ago I was a chorister under Dr George Gray. I recall Evensong on Mondays was sung by boys' voices. The repertoire I learnt from those days was further enhanced when I had the good fortune to be accepted for the choir of Kings College Cambridge in 1945, at the time when Boris Ord returned as Organist after war service. Then David Willcocks arrived as Organ Scholar, and it was he who first taught me the organ.

In 1948 I progressed to Aldenham School, where there was plenty of opportunity for singing and playing. I also learnt to play cello in the school orchestra. During National Service I studied for the ARCO Diploma, and did the paperwork by correspondence course with Dr Ben Burrows.

My first post back in Leicester was Organist of St John the Divine from 1956 to 1962. Then I was appointed to St Anne's, from where I have just retired after 50 years. What changes I have seen! From an all male choir of 16 boys and 12 men, by 1980 boys were scarce, as the social pattern of Sundays had begun to change. Numbers were maintained by the admission of girls. A further decade saw the choir change to a mixed group, which continues, although numbers have declined. Thankfully St Anne's choir maintains a balance of 4 parts, so a good proportion of the repertoire is still sung. I have served under 6 incumbents, all of whom have been supportive of the work of the choir, and of its contribution to the offering of worship.

My work career comprised 25 years in planning and stock control at D Byford & Co, followed by 14 years as Assistant Diocesan Secretary for the Diocese of Leicester. I retired in 1994. Until recent years, I gave private lessons in piano and organ, and many pupils achieved high grades."

Adam Piplica writes "Following in the footsteps of the former Dean of Leicester, I am now living in the beautiful historic City of York with my girlfriend, Katherine. There is plenty of music-making to be had in the city and I am regularly singing at the Minster with various choirs, most notably

the Ebor Singers. I have also continued to sing with Jonathan Gregory's UK-Japan choir.

Professionally, after 5 years working in market research post-graduation from Leicester University in 2007, I have become self employed with an internet business writing about investing and money-management. I'm now pursuing professional financial advising qualifications to become an Independent Financial Advisor (hopefully) in the next few months.

Ben Woolley writes: "I'm an IFA working from Kegworth specialising in all things pension, married with 2 boys, I went travelling round the world in 2005, narrowly missed Tsunami. I'm currently studying on a masters course at Northampton in Transpersonal Psychology and Consciousness Studies (might be looking for dissertation volunteers for music related transpersonal experiences...!), just qualified as a volunteer for Cruse as bereavement support worker. Often think back to choir and playing British bulldog before practice on Thursday and liking Haydn's Kyrie!"

THE KOREAN WAR 1950-1953.

It is now 60 years since an Armistice was finally signed on 27th July 1953 ordering a cease fire along the battle lines. Due to the fact that all negotiation has failed, the peninsula remains divided roughly along the 38th parallel. The British Korean Veterans wanted to commemorate the anniversary and in the words of our Chairman "go out with a bang." As we National Servicemen are all over 80 and some regulars and reservists are well over 90, it could be the last time we were all together.

On Thursday 11th July, we assembled on Horse Guards Parade and, led by the band of The Welsh Guards and 30 standards, we marched to



Westminster Abbey for a service of Thanksgiving to commence at 12noon. His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester, joined us and over 850 veterans' wives and families filled the Abbey. During the service I was

escorted to the High Altar to read a prayer. I was both honoured and proud to read and the experience will remain with me for ever.

After the service we moved onto the Abbey lawns where a buffet and drinks were served. I reminded the Duke that we had met in Busan in 2010 at the United Nations War Cemetery where 1,080 British troops are buried.

On Thursday 18th July, the veterans attended the opening and service of dedication of a new Korean War memorial in Cannon Hill Park Birmingham.

On Monday 22nd July we attended a service to commemorate the 60th Anniversary at the Leicestershire County Council headquarters on Groby Road. This service was commissioned and put together by the LCC HM Lord Lieutenant, Lady Gretton JP. Many other dignitaries attended, and the service was conducted by the Very Rev Derek Hole, Provost Emeritus.

On Saturday 27th July we held our annual service of commemoration at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire where I was asked to recite the Exhortation and also to read a prayer. There were over 880 Veterans, families and friends present. Also the Ambassador, his Defence Attaché and other Korean Diplomatic Staff attended all these functions. It was wonderful to be able to socialise with these Koreans and find that their relatives were born in cities and towns that I had been to 63 years ago.

On Thursday 22rd August I and 11 other Veterans enjoyed an evening at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo where we marched into the arena before a capacity crowd of over 900 people to bring the performance to an end at 11.30pm. It was a wonderful experience and one which I shall always remember.

On Remembrance Sunday 19th November we paraded for the last time at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. We were sorry not to be able to lead the parade as our association is disbanding in 2014 and it was probably the last time that we shall all be together.

It has certainly been a busy few months!

Tony Stevens, Chairman LCOCA
National Treasurer, British Korean Veterans Association

Leicester Cathedral Legacy Concert, October 12th 2013

In 2002, the Leicester Bach Choir under its Musical Director, Giles Turner [ex-cathedral chorister under Peter White] performed a "*Leicestershire Composers*" concert featuring four substantial works by local musicians. The programme introduction included these two sentences: "*The biographical notes which the composers have given us show that they have connections with each other and also, in most cases have been influenced by Dr George Gray, late Master of Music at Leicester Cathedral and conductor of the Bach Choir from 1931 to 1969. They can claim an impressive musical heritage: Dr Gray was very proud of the fact that he was taught by Sir Edward Bairstow, who was taught by Frederick Bridge, who was taught by John Goss, who*

was taught by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart!" With my diploma piano teacher Roy Sawbridge [ex-chorister and songman under George Gray and songman for Peter White] there is another lineage which includes Liszt, Beethoven and Haydn! Such is the impact of musicians upon their charges. Musical legacy is so important that every musician who owes their careers and/or skills to Leicester Cathedral can be grateful for the quality of instruction they received, the music they learned and the lifetime friendships they have made as a result.

When I retired I wanted to celebrate this legacy as I reached my 60th birthday. Fortunately, Dr. Chris Johns liked the idea and we developed a concert which would celebrate what I considered the highpoints of my career alongside music closely related to Chris and I. Chris was a cathedral chorister at Derby Cathedral under Peter Gould who succeeded Wallace Ross, a one-time assistant under George Gray and music master at my grammar school. Such are musical lives intertwined. The Leicester Cathedral Legacy Concert was envisioned as a way of celebrating all that is good about of Leicester's music. This meant music by George Gray, Peter White and Chris Johns and myself with music pivotal to certain points in my musical career including my *Mary Laid Her Child* composed for Peter White and the choir, "The Tiffany Anthem" written for Jonathan Gregory, the Leicester Cathedral Old Choristers and the Girls' Choirs of Leicester, Derby and Coventry, Bairstow's Magnificat and *Nunc Dimittis in D* by George Gray's mentor at York Minster and two pieces by Chris Johns for important cathedral occasions: the opening of St Martin's House and the Installation of the current Dean. It also gave me an opportunity to thank other legacy influences in terms of teachers and allowed me to work again with one of my most successful singing students.

The full text of the concert's programme can be accessed by going to <http://www.composersalliance.com/> and scrolling to the bottom of my biography page. What was wonderful is that is brought singers together from the many choirs of Leicester Cathedral, the Songmen Emeriti, Old Choristers and Kingfisher Chorale, a choir I founded over two decades ago. The many hundreds of years choral experience all came together in my new piece called "The Legacy". It is "*Dedicated to Dr Chris Johns, Simon Headley, the Choirs of Leicester Cathedral, the Leicester Cathedral Old Choristers' Association and the magnificent musical legacy these represent*" and the legacy aspect of this anthem is explained fully on the Central Composers' Alliance website.

All the choirs were in splendid voice and it was quite clear to old-timers like me just what a marvellous job Chris has done and is doing, ably assisted by Simon Headley, in developing the cathedral choirs and extending the reach of singing into schools. The future of Leicester Cathedral's potential musical legacy seems as strong as ever. Whilst the concert occurred on a day of

incessant torrential rain, it nevertheless raised money for the Cathedral, the Cathedral choirs and the George Gray Memorial Trust. A DVD and audio recordings will be available in due course. I can think of no better way of contributing the legacy.

I recently attended three performances of **Chicago** at Curve and at a gala evening I met the hugely talented Sandra Marvin whose spectacular voice rang out across the theatre in her role as Mama Morton. When we discussed our individual Leicester legacies I discovered with great pleasure that she had started out in the Leicester Cathedral Girls' Choir for many years. Another fantastic shared legacy!



David Fisher [Chorister 1963-1969]

Changing Leicester Cathedral:

A Richard III Chronicle.

Members will doubtless have many memories of Leicester Cathedral both as a physical building, and of its life, worship and people. The discovery of the remains of King Richard III alongside other planned changes have already had and are likely to have much future impact on the building and its life and work.

The life of Richard III, the discussions which have surrounded his re-interment and the wider impact on the life of the City and in particular its Cathedral could doubtless fill many volumes. I would like to share with you here a brief timeline, which I hope sets in context and gives a flavour of some of the events of the last couple of years and the changes which are already happening.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 nd October 1452 | Richard Plantagenet is born at Fotheringhay Castle. |
| 6 th July 1483 | Richard is crowned King of England, following the death of his brother, King Edward IV. |
| 20 th August 1485 | Richard III stayed overnight at The Blue Boar Inn on Leicester's High Street, although this was not his first visit to the town. |
| 22 nd August 1485 | Richard III is killed at Bosworth Field in Leicestershire defending his crown against Henry Tudor. His naked body is brought back to Leicester on horseback. |
| Aug 22 nd - 25 th | The body of the defeated King, the last English monarch to die in battle, is displayed for public viewing in Leicester. |

- 25th August 1485 Richard's body is hastily buried in the church of the Franciscan Grey Friars Priory, just a hundred yards from St Martins Church. A connection with the Franciscan order already existed through the Monarch's Franciscan Chaplain.
- 1485 to 2012 527 Years pass, during which Richard III's remains lie miraculously undisturbed as the site changes dramatically:
 1495 - Henry VII causes an alabaster tomb to be erected over the burial site.
 1538 – The Grey Friars Priory is demolished, some of the stone and wood being used to repair St Martin's Church.
 Alderman Robert Herrick, thrice Mayor of Leicester, builds a mansion on the site in the early 17th Century.
 1740 and 1759 – further significant properties are built on the land.
 1863 – Alderman Newton's Boys School is constructed on part of the site, the remainder is brought by Leicester Corporation in 1866 as the proposed site for a new Town Hall.
 1936 – Leicestershire County Council construct offices on the remainder of the land, these are purchased by Leicester City Council in 1965, the unbuilt land serving as a car park for council staff.
- August 1982 A Memorial Stone to Richard III is placed in the Chancel of Leicester Cathedral, funded by the Richard III Society, it bears the inscription "...Buried in the Church of the Grey Friars in this Parish".
- 25th August 2012 Exactly 527 years after the burial, the University of Leicester Archaeological Society begin a dig in the car park of the council offices just off New Street. On the first day of the dig remains of the Priory are found, together with human leg bones in Trench 1.
- 31st August 2012 ULAS applies to the Ministry of Justice to exhume up to six sets of human remains, with the possibility that one of these may be the remains of Richard III and that being so that his remains are interred in Leicester Cathedral. The licence is granted on 3rd September.
- 5th Sept 2012 The remains discovered in Trench 1, believed to be the site of the choir of the church, are carefully excavated and removed. Circumstantial and physical evidence suggest that these are the remains of the lost King.
- 1st December 2012 The Very Rev Vivienne Faull (Dean Emeritus of Leicester) is installed Dean of York.
- 4th February 2013 The University of Leicester formally announce that the remains are those of Richard III, the last Plantagenet King.



The announcement follows months of scientific investigation, including a DNA match with two 17th generation descendents of Richard's sister, Anne of York.

8th February 2013 A major exhibition is opened by the City Council in the Guildhall Visitor Centre adjacent to the West end of the Cathedral. By the end of the year 159,000 people have visited, most of whom also visit the Cathedral an increase of six times the Cathedral's estimate of visitor numbers for the previous year. The impact on volunteer staffing requirements and on daily operations are significant.

March 2013 A recruitment campaign for the Cathedral choir is launched "Sing for the King" and brings substantial interest (see choir notes for detail).

26th March 2013 The newly formed "Plantagenet Alliance", a group of 15 individuals claiming to be related to Richard III announce that they intend to seek Judicial Review of the legality of the University's Licence with respect to the consultation process which it undertook. Fifteen people out of potentially millions of "collateral" descendents; City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby dismisses the claims as "absurd, while the University brands them as "tosh".

18th May 2013 The Very Rev David Monteith installed as the new Dean of Leicester

May 2013 The Cathedral gains a new department formed specifically to deal with the re-interrment. Led by Rev. Pete Hobson (who oversaw the renovation of St Martins House) and supported by Emma Wigley (formerly a member of the Cathedral choir) and Rev. Alison Adams.

August 2013 Installation of a large plinth and experimental altar in front of the Nicholson screen is completed. The pulpit and lectern are moved to new positions. These changes are a pre-cursor to future re-ordering of the building. (see front cover photo)

26th August 2013 Judicial Review is granted, defendants being the Ministry of Justice and the University of Leicester. Leicester Cathedral and York Minster are named as interested parties.

Sept 2013 Leicester Cathedral hosts a flower festival based around Richard III's motto "Loyalty Binds Me".

19th Sept 2013 Leicester Cathedral announces proposals for a tomb and place of honour which would involve a £1m re-modelling of the Chancel and Sanctuary areas of the building, including the moving of the Nicholson Screen to the East side of the tower. At the same time, the plans are lodged with the



Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE) for a decision on their appropriateness. It is imperative that we have our plans ready so that when issues are resolved we can act quickly and with dignity.



24th October 2013 CFCE defer their decision, requiring both further information on some aspects of the design, and citing concerns about the Judicial Review.

26th Nov 2013 The Judicial Review hearing opens and is immediately adjourned, following a decision that the City Council should be a third defendant.

18th Nov 2013 Work begins on Cathedral Gardens a substantial scheme which will enhance the surroundings of both the Cathedral and St Martins House, connecting them both to the £4m City Council exhibition which is under construction in and around the former Alderman Newton's School and the now famous car park! Life inside the Cathedral continues as normal as we adjust to the building site literally on our doorstep!



27th January 2014 The winner of a commission by the County Council to design artwork for the St Martins House end of the Cathedral Gardens is announced.



Towards Stillness, designed by London based practice Dallas Pierce Quintero, consists of 12 upright metal plates echoing the gravestones in Cathedral Gardens, and depicting a timeline from Richard III's final moments in battle to his re-discovery in 2012.

2nd February 2014 Leicester Cathedral launches a new website giving information on the re-interment. <http://kingrichardinleicester.com/>

February 2014 A second recruitment campaign for the Cathedral Choir is launched under the banner "Be Seen on Screen". See April 2014 to find out why!

12th February 2014 Designs for two new stained glass windows by artist Tom Denney are unveiled. The windows will be



installed in St Katherine's chapel and will both tell the story of the life of Richard III and provide an atmospheric backdrop to the proposed site of the tomb when approaching from St Dunstan's Chapel.

27th February 2014 Local dignitaries and press gather at the Cathedral as the Bishop of



Leicester, The Rt. Rev Timothy Stevens and the City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby lay the first Porphyry stone of the gardens scheme.

The statue of King Richard III currently in Castle Gardens will be moved to sit opposite the new exhibition, while the newly commissioned sculpture will sit at the St Martins House end of the Gardens.

13-14th March 2014 The Judicial Review hearing will resume.

20th March 2014 CFCE decision on design matters is expected.

2nd to 4th April 2014 Leicester University Theatre company will present Shakespeare's Richard III in the Cathedral, under the direction of Cathedral songman Dr. Roger Scoppie.

20th April 2014 Interest in Leicester Cathedral has prompted the BBC to announce that their Easter morning service will be broadcast live from Leicester Cathedral.

21st April 2014 In addition to the live broadcast, the BBC will record two editions of Songs of Praise. The broadcast and recordings will involve over a week of setup, rehearsals and recordings, plus numerous planning sessions and site meetings to ensure that all goes to plan.

5th July 2014 Official opening of the Cathedral Gardens to include the Diocesan Assembly "Garden of Life" event.

22nd August 2014 Service to commemorate the 529th Anniversary of the death of Richard III.

Late 2014 Work likely to begin to alter the inside the Cathedral to accommodate the tomb of Richard III – subject to the outcome of the Judicial review process.

2015 Possible re-interment of Richard III

In addition to all of the above, the Cathedral has for several years been planning for a major re-ordering of the Cathedral interior. The first stage of this will be the changes described above to provide a tomb for Richard III.

The next stage will involve the remainder of the building and is likely to incorporate the following: Levelling all areas of the floor, providing a new stone floor with under floor heating, changes to the West end gallery and re-development of the former Song School area. All this is intended to make better use of the space we have for worship today and to provide a lighter, warmer and more flexible building. Plans are well advanced, with the aim that the scheme can be picked up once the tomb is in place and a major fund raising campaign can begin.



Also in the background thought is being given to a re-interment service and events surrounding it, how our signage and information will look and the message it should convey, how we interact with our increased traffic of visitors and how we maintain the Cathedral as a place of worship and prayer as we become busier.

As I hope you will realise, there are many changes and much going on both in public and behind the scenes at Leicester Cathedral; the life death and re-discovery of one English King has already had and will have huge repercussions! Meanwhile the daily life of worship and prayer, our *raison d'être*, continues.

Reference:

The University of Leicester website
Leicester Cathedral Richard III website
The Richard III Society website

Leicester Cathedral website
The Diocese of Leicester website
The Leicester Mercury

Peter Collett

LCOCA Charitable Grants

Members may recall that at the AGM in 2012 an application for sponsorship from James Shepherd was discussed. James had run the London Marathon to raise money for Heartlink in memory of his late father.

At the Committee meeting which followed, it was agreed that we would give £25 to James for his charity. It was also agreed that future requests would be considered as and when received, within an annual financial limit set by the Committee.

We were therefore delighted that during 2013 we were able to give small grants to two members, both undertaking physical challenges to help their chosen charities:

Our Associate Organist, **David Cowen**, writes "About a year ago I decided it was time to set myself a new physical challenge. I'd been thinking for a while about training for a marathon and the timing of the Edinburgh Marathon Festival fitted with my plan. Twelve months and over 700 miles later I completed the 26.2 miles in 4:44:44!! As with any serious challenge the journey is as important as the main event and there were many memorable training runs along the way: The Leicester Half Marathon, hill training on Dartmoor, an early morning run along Wenlock Edge, running the full length of the Bournemouth promenade, crossing fields in almost complete darkness and watching the sun rise on the new year... It's also been good to learn more about sports psychology and ideas about training, much of which is transferable to music and most of which is way ahead of anything written for musicians. And I was very pleased to raise over £600 for Arthritis Research UK through the support of many people including LCOCA. If you are thinking of taking on a new challenge – Go for it! "A year from now you'll wish you started today." [Karen Lamb]



Andrew Belton writes "Over the last few years I have helped at a food drop-in centre run by my church in Manchester with my friend Jim. It became clear to us that new homeless/rough sleepers can take up to 6 weeks to locate help and understand how their 'Hidden Community' can survive. By asking all the homeless people we serve over a number of months where they go and what they do 24/7 we were able to build a picture of help from the ground upwards. It is this information we want all new rough sleepers to have.



We want to minimise the time a new rough sleeper spends on the street, without food and shelter. We came up with the idea of producing a city centre street map that signposts new rough sleepers to walk-in help centres, homeless agencies, soup kitchens and NHS surgeries. These walk-in agencies can then start the referral process for accommodation and support. This has not been done before and will bring all help agencies under one easy to use umbrella. The map, when folded, will be the size of a credit card and sits in a waterproof lanyard. This folds out as a 'Z' map to just larger than A4. The

map will have a colour coded flag at the location of each walk in agency. The flag will have symbols on to indicate help available, i.e. knife & fork to show meal available, mobile phone for free phone contact to benefits agencies, etc. On the reverse of the map further details will be given in the same colour code including address, opening times and list of help available. Rough Sleeper Services Maps will be distributed to the relevant Police, Ambulance & Fire Services, in addition to all the support agencies listed on the map. Initially we are looking at producing this for Manchester and Halifax, but long term we are in the process of setting up our own charity which will aim to roll this out across all the major cities and towns across the UK.

So, Jim and I cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats starting on the 15th July 2013 with the intention to raise enough money to fund the initial roll out of maps in Manchester and Halifax. The route took us 12 days, cycling on average 80 miles a day (Approx 960 miles in total). I am not a seasoned cyclist; in fact I had only owned a bike for 3 months before the ride so it was a big step up for me. We raised a total of £10,500 to cover the production and design of the maps through personal and corporate sponsorship. We are currently in the process of finalising the design of the maps and getting them printed."

CHOIR NEWS

2013 was another year of change and growth for Leicester Cathedral Choir. The announcement, at the start of February, that the human remains found under a car park barely a stone's throw from the cathedral were indeed those of King Richard III allowed us to run a very successful recruitment campaign under the slogan 'Sing for the King', which attracted enquiries from the parents of over 150 children, 60 of whom came for audition, with 25 subsequently taking up places in the choir. Thus we currently have 18 boy trebles, 18 junior girls, 12 senior girls and 14 songmen singing regularly at cathedral services.

The boys and songmen were disappointed that their trip to Derby for the annual Midlands Four Choirs' Festival in January was snowed off, but enjoyed joining forces with the Burton Choristers of Loughborough Endowed Schools and the Cincinnati Boys Choir for a festal evensong to mark the 60th anniversary of the coronation. The junior girls had their first 'away' fixture, singing evensong to a packed church in Kirby Muxloe in November. Both these groups joined forces with children taking part in our schools' singing project *DioSing!* (now in its second year of operation), for a performance of Bob Chilcott's 'Little Jazz Mass' to a congregation of over 500 in June and for

BBC Radio Leicester's popular broadcast 'Sing Christmas' on 23 December, in advance of which they recorded a CD of Leicestershire's ten favourite Christmas carols.

Highlights of the year for the senior girls and songmen included a service to mark 40 years of Ugandan Asians in the UK and a performance of the Duruflé Requiem (together with the Cathedral Chamber Choir) in aid of the cancer charity HOPE, accompanied by the Graff Orchestra of England, who also played for the Easter Eucharist, as in previous years. The senior girls also travelled to Southwell for evensong with the girls' choirs of Derby, Southwell and Coventry. Members of all the choirs spent a day with the St Peter's Singers of Leeds, singing Eucharist and evensong at Leeds Minster, and all were involved in David Monteith's first weekend of service as Dean of Leicester, the senior trebles and songmen singing for his installation on the Saturday (including a first performance of a setting by Chris Johns of Robert Herrick's 'Litany to the Holy Spirit') and the boys, junior girls and songmen singing for his first Eucharist as Dean on Pentecost Sunday. In August, a group of 30 singers toured Germany for a week, where performances included High Mass at Osnabrück Cathedral and the rededication of St Joseph's Church in the same city, following extensive building work.

The Cathedral Chamber Choir has continued to grow in profile, singing for four Sunday Eucharists outside the Cathedral Choir term and for evensong on Pentecost Sunday, including J.S. Bach's motet 'Der Geist hilft unsrer Schwachheit auf'. They also sang for 'Saying Goodbye', a service for those who have lost children in pregnancy, at birth or in infancy; for the Civic Service and they performed Britten's 'Five Flower Songs' at the Flower Festival in September.

The Songmen Emeriti sang evensong at Holy Cross Priory as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and enjoyed their annual trip to sing evensong at Mount St Bernard's Abbey in May, followed by a lovely meal at the Copt Oak. In June they sang at the wedding of Songman Emeritus John Thorpe to Celia Russell and, in October, joined the Cathedral Choirs for a concert to mark local composer, conductor and former chorister David Fisher's 60th birthday (including the premiere of 'The Legacy', which he wrote for the occasion). At the Eucharist on 6th October, they sang the baritone choir part in Widor's Mass for Two Choirs and Two Organs, a service at which Philip Duffy of the Friends of Cathedral Music presented the Dean with a cheque for £25,000 towards an endowment to fund the post of Assistant Director of Music. They rounded off their year by singing evensong at the Cathedral on the Thursday before Christmas, followed by supper at The Globe.

In September, Simon Headley's job title was changed to 'Cathedral Organist & Assistant Director of Music' to reflect more accurately the division of work in the department. The new lunchtime recital series, now under his direction, has seen two former choristers and a former choral scholar give song recitals, with audience numbers steadily growing (nearly 60 at the last recital). Also in September we welcomed Katy Dent to the post of Choral Director, replacing Matthew Haynes, who has gone to Cambridge to study for an M.Mus. in Choral Conducting.

2014 Promises to be no less exciting, with a performance of Bach's St John Passion in collaboration with Leicestershire Chorale in early April and then a live broadcast of the Eucharist on Easter Sunday morning, followed by recordings of two 'Songs of Praise' programmes.

Christopher Johns
Director of Music

THE SONGMEN EMERITI

The Songmen Emeriti sang the following choral services during 2013.

- On 23rd January, at Holy Cross Priory, Choral Evensong, as an act of common worship during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- On 4th May, their annual Choral Evensong at Mount St Bernard's Abbey, followed by a visit to Marston's, Copt Oak restaurant, for an early evening dinner. (*Known in the trade as "Thirst after Righteousness."*)
- On 8th June, at John and Celia's Wedding
- On 23rd June, together with other formerr choristers, they sang evensong with the Cathedral choir at the LCOCA annual reunion service
- On 28th July they were invited to join with the Cathedral choir to sing evensong at St Withan's, Wistow.
- On Sunday 6th October, they joined with the Leicester Cathedral choirs to perform the Mass setting for two choirs and two organs by Widor, at the Cathedral Eucharist, during which a very generous donation was presented by Mr Terry Duffy, on behalf of the Friends of Cathedral Music, to the Dean, in support of the work of the music department of Leicester Cathedral.
- On the following Saturday, 12th October, they joined with the Cathedral choirs and the Kingfisher Chorale, at the premier

performance of David Fisher's composition "The Legacy" and other works.

- The year ended with a Men's Choral Evensong in the Cathedral on Thursday 19th December followed by a splendid Christmas supper, together with their ladies and guests, at the "Globe Hotel" (*O Thou the Central Orb*).

John Thorpe

CATHEDRAL CHOIR 100 CLUB

The *100Club* runs like a small on-going lottery with a draw each month. The size of the prizes depends entirely on how many members are signed up – the greater the numbers, the greater the contribution to Choir funds and the bigger the prizes to the monthly winners. Membership costs just £4 per month. Payment of £4 per month buys a single share in the draw. Of course it is possible to buy more than one share, which of course will increase your odds of winning!

Please consider supporting this Choir fund raising activity by joining the *100Club*. If you would like details, please contact the Association Secretary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our Association continues to maintain a steady membership and we were pleased to welcome Logan Bott as a member as he moved onto the back row of the choir.

Our reunion on 23rd June 2013 took the form of an AGM followed by Choral Evensong. We were pleased to welcome as our preacher, the new Dean of Leicester, the Very Reverend David Monteith, who was installed on 18th May 2013. We are delighted that David has subsequently accepted an invitation to become a Vice-President of our Association. Evensong was followed by a splendid tea provided by our Cathedral Community catering team and was enjoyed by young and old alike!

Our President's Skittles Evening in April was enjoyed by an enthusiastic group and now seems to be a regular feature of our calendar, with a further evening planned for 2014.

Peter Collett

REGISTRATION AS A "CHARITY FOR TAX PURPOSES"

Following a successful application to HMRC by the Guildford Cathedral Association in 2012, your committee decided to make a similar application which was accepted provided that a couple of minor amendments to our constitution were formally approved at our 2013 AGM. The amendments were duly notified to all members in the AGM notification and approved at that meeting in June.

Our association's main objective is now;

"To advance the education of the public in the art and science of English cathedral music by supporting and furthering the provision of this music by organists, songmen, the boys and girls of the Cathedral Choir, thus helping to ensure that its tradition is maintained and developed as part of the Cathedral's worship and heritage". In support of this objective, the Association donated £300 to the choir's trip to Germany in August 2013 to be used to subsidise the cost of the trip for choristers whose parents would have otherwise not have been able to afford it and presented the four annual book awards of £20 each to choristers nominated by the Director of Music.

We can now take advantage of the following benefits:

- a) Members now have the opportunity to Gift Aid the qualifying portion of their subscription and any further donations, and
- b) the Association will be able to claim gross interest on its Building Society accounts.

We hope to submit our first claim to HMRC very shortly so that we receive the money into our bank account before our year end on 31st March.

Richard Belton

MATT



'To raise money for charity the Government is doing sponsored U-turns'

DR GEORGE GRAY MEMORIAL TRUST

The trustees currently offer eight scholarships of £370 each to choristers to help maintain the high standard and choral tradition expected of a Cathedral Choir. The names associated with the eight Scholarships are:

Dr George Gray 1 and 2
Leicester Cathedral Old Choristers' Association
Friends of Cathedral Music
Bishop Ronald and Mrs Cicely Williams
Stephen and Mary (nee Gray) Harland
Helen Jean Cope
Lionel Hamer

The 2013 Annual Meeting was held on Monday 8th April at the home of John Thorpe when the annual accounts for the year ended 28th February 2013 were presented. These showed assets of £102,724 and donations and tax recovered on those donations totalling £893 which included a legacy of £500 from the estate of the late Margaret Orpen.

During the current financial year, donations to the trust from members of the Old Choristers' Association have so far totalled £322. These annual donations are always welcome and help to top up the capital for the scholarship awarded in the name of the Association.

The trust has also received a donation of £257 from the Legacy Concert organised by David Fisher in October. David also gave a talk to members of the Leicester Recorded Music Society and asked that his fee be donated to the trust. Neil Crutchley has also generously donated his fees from talks he has given recently to the LRMS, the Victoria Ring, made up of former members of the Victoria Road Church and Friends of the Leicester and Leicestershire Museums. In total these fees have amounted to £160.

All scholarships, including those offered by the Cathedral, are recorded in leather bound registers and we are grateful to Chris Martyn, a former songman and choir parent, who updates these for us on a regular basis.

We extend our thanks, as always, to David Briers for acting as Chairman/Administrator, ably assisted by his wife Julie on the secretarial side.

Richard Belton



FEDERATION OF CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

fcoca

The first Federation event of 2013 was a successful Tour of Ireland from 11th to 17th April. The tour started and ended in Dublin and delegates made their own travel arrangements to get there. It was also an opportunity to enjoy the welcome and hospitality of the members of our two affiliated associations at Christchurch and St Patrick's Cathedrals. Despite the fluctuating rate of exchange, the cost stayed within budget and delegates received a small refund after the accounts had been finalised.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Canterbury Cathedral on 11th May. 22 delegates attended representing 16 associations and 18 individual apologies were recorded. The Chairman was pleased to report that the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby had accepted an invitation to be a Patron of the Federation. Chris Royall, Chairman of the Rochester Association, proposed the Dean of Rochester, The Very Reverend Dr Mark Beach as their nominee for the Presidency of the Federation for the year 2014.

The Festival was hosted by the St Albans Association from 20th to 22nd September. Accommodation was provided at the Comfort Hotel and the banquet was held in the Town Hall at which the guest speaker was Dr Simon Lindley. Our thanks go to Malcolm Bury for organising such a successful festival at such short notice.

At the end of 2013, membership remained at 55 affiliated associations and 3 individuals have joined as Individual Members. We are still in regular contact with Newcastle Cathedral, St David's Cathedral, the Collegiate Church of St Peter's in Wolverhampton, Jesus College in Cambridge and St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Sydney, Australia, who are all in the process of establishing associations.

The pattern of sending out regular Newsheets after each of our executive committee meetings and AGM's to keep affiliated associations abreast of Federation matters have continued.

During the year, the leaflet "What is the FCOCA?" was updated and reprinted and copies to give out to our new members are now available. This can also be viewed on the "Documents" page of the Federation website. A

copy is also sent out with each membership card ordered together with the list of Cathedrals and record companies which offer free admission or discounts, including our own Christian Resources Bookshop at St Martins House. This list is still in its infancy, so if you are able to help us expand the list, please let me know.

The Federation website www.onceachorister.org is kept up to date on a regular basis. We are always looking for ways to improve the information thereon so please do have a look and let me know if you have any suggestions to make.

Richard Belton, FCOCA Honorary Secretary

2014 LCOCA Calendar

March 4 th	Committee Meeting
March 22 nd	President's Skittles Evening <i>(See reply form enclosed)</i>
May 10 th	Federation AGM at Blackburn Cathedral
June 22 nd	Annual Reunion and AGM
September 26 th – 28 th	Federation Festival at Rochester
October 7 th	Committee Meeting

