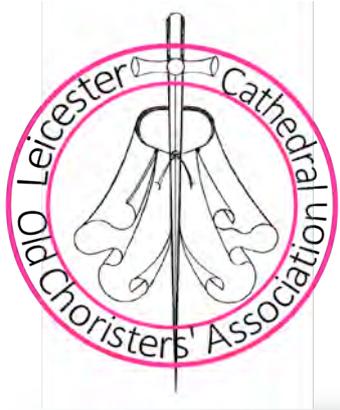


Leicester Cathedral Old Choristers' Association



Newsletter 2018





EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 2018 edition of the LCOCA's newsletter and my last as editor. I can only iterate what I wrote in previous editions which is that this is YOUR opportunity to

keep in touch with your cathedral, its music and those fellow choristers and songmen with whom you shared so many wonderful times

Thanks to members of the committee, especially Richard Belton, I have more news of members and events that have happened during the year and what a year it has been. We have had quite a few responses since last year and those are included in this year's edition. It is really helpful for you to keep us up-to-date with your news and anything else which you feel would be of interest to us.

To connect with us, please feel free to email us at lcoca.secretary@gmail.com. Let the new editor have comments on the content and what you would like to read in future editions.

When submitting articles, please ensure they are unformatted. Photos should be attached to emails and not embedded in Word documents. Thanks.

David Fisher [Chorister 1963-69 & Songman 1970s]

LCOCA CALENDAR 2019

April 6th	President's Skittles Evening (details already circulated)
May 11th	FCOCA Day & AGM at Lichfield Cathedral Association
June 21st - 23rd	FCOCA Festival at Portsmouth
Sept 8th	LCOCA Reunion
October ??	LCOCA Committee Meeting

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

OF QUIRES AND PLACES WHERE THEY SING

As ever for those who seek the spiritual inspiration and peace which music offers there have been many such rewards in 2018. In sharing with you my experiences of some of these I hope to reflect the on-going contribution which especially Cathedral Choristers make to this dimension of life.



My first such visit was at King's College Cambridge whilst attending the 50th Anniversary Concert of the inauguration of the Kings Singers. All present and past members of the group (28 in all) have been trained in the Anglian Choral tradition with our own Julian Gregory a present member. The King's Singers now perform their awe-inspiring music not only in this country, but also in venues throughout the world.

In March, snow-drifts still in evidence in the Norfolk countryside, we attended a Sunday Evensong at Norwich Cathedral. Expecting a basic Choral Evensong we were delighted to find ourselves amongst a "full house" congregation bidding farewell to a well loved diocesan clergyman, the music resounding around the building and uplifting the spirits of that vast congregation, ourselves included.

Our next visit was to a concert in St. David's Cathedral given by the Welsh National Youth Orchestra and Choir performing the "Chichester Psalms" by Bernstein and Fifth Symphony by Mahler. Though not Cathedral Choristers here once again we were made aware of the extra vitality with which youthful voices enhance the musical experience, the stunning architecture and superb acoustics as they have done for 100s of years in such an ancient foundation.

For the first time this year we attended the Choral Festival at Southwell Minster. The Cathedral Choir always plays a pivotal role at the heart of these events, singing in Festal Evensongs, Eucharists, Compline, and much more. Indeed the presence of these Choral Services has been the initial inauguration of whole Festivals.

In September we joined other delegates from all parts of the country at the 88th Festival of the Federation of the Cathedral Old Choristers Association held this year at Peterborough. Old Friendship and joint musical experiences were renewed here when the inheritance of the English Choral tradition was once again celebrated. Each of these 5 cameos illustrate the wider experiences into which the youthful chorister is projected. However, particularly through attendances at Choral Evensongs in Leicester Cathedral in 2018, I have been most appreciative of the adventurous content of Evensongs such as the St. Cecilia, Advent and Christmas services, the monthly Bach Cantata series not to mention "Heavenly Laughter". All of which have been very thought provoking with each one being presented extremely well by the Choristers and members of our musical foundation. Well done to all concerned.

Geoffrey Carter

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: Geoffrey M H Carter

VICE PRESIDENTS:

**Very Revd. Vivienne Faull
Very Revd. Derek N Hole
Very Revd. David Monteith
Very Revd. Alan C Warren
Revd. Canon Michael T H Banks
Revd. Canon John Craig
Revd. Canon Stephen Foster
Revd. Canon Michael Wilson**

CHAIRMAN: Vacant

Enquiries please to lcoca.secretary@gmail.com

GENERAL SECRETARY: Vacant
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: David Fisher

COMMITTEE:
Simon Headley, Graham Wright
Dr Christopher Ouvry-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.fcoca.org.uk

DR. GEORGE GRAY MEMORIAL TRUST



CHAIRMAN/TRUSTEE: David Briers
7 Houlditch Rd, Leicester, LE2 3FF

TRUSTEES:
**Nicholas Basford Richard Belton
Neil Crutchley Michael Gray Gerard Gray
Philip Leech John Thorpe**

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.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018



Position vacant

MEMBERS NOTES



Weddings

Richard Paterson

was married on Saturday 14th July at St John the Baptist, Ripe, East Sussex, to Olivia Bishop, which was a very happy occasion on a very hot and sunny day! The service was conducted by the Reverend Susan Paterson, mother of the groom, and the music included Entry of the Bride - Salut d'Amour (Elgar), Jesu, the very thought of thee (Paul Halley, based on Gordon Slater's hymn tune 'St Botolph'), A Hymn for St Cecilia (Howells), Hymne à la Vierge (Villette), and Organ Prelude on 'Nun Danket Alle Gott' (Karg-Elert). Hymns were 'All my hope on God is founded', 'Come down, O love divine' and 'Christ triumphant, ever reigning'. The organist was Tim Ravalde, Assistant Organist at Chichester Cathedral, and the choir was made up of Lay Vicars from Chichester plus friends of the bride and groom, conducted by Charles Harrison, Director of Music at Chichester. **Adham Fisher** acted as an usher.



Richard and Olivia now have a house in Westbourne, near Portsmouth, which is convenient for both their places of employment. Richard is still Decani Bass Vicar Choral at Chichester Cathedral, and is also now the Head of their Liturgy and Music Department.

Congratulations also to **Oliver Hatton** who was married to Charlotte Agar at St. Bartholomew's United Church, Quorn on 18th August. The Cathedral choir led the singing of the hymns and sang



three anthems, "The Lord bless you and keep you", "Love one another" from "Blessed be the God and Father" and "For the beauty of the earth", during the signing of the registers. Thankfully the weather was fine and dry as Charlotte arrived at the church with her father in an open horse-drawn carriage and the same carriage took the happy couple to the wedding breakfast.

Congratulations to **Richard Dalby** and Nika who were married in the Cathedral on 31st December. Their second son, George, brother to Harry, was born on 3rd August 2017 and George was baptised in the Cathedral on Sunday 19th February 2018.

In Memoriam

John (Jack) Clay, formerly of Blaby Garage, passed away on 20th January in his 103rd year. The funeral service was held on 23rd February at Great Glen Crematorium. Jack was a boy chorister from 1925 to 1928 and was therefore, no doubt, the last living former chorister of the parish church of St Martin, Leicester before it became Leicester Cathedral in 1927. After his voice broke, Jack joined the choir at St James the Greater, Leicester.

When our Association was founded in 1965, we were able to trace quite a few of the parish church former choristers who were invited to be Honorary Members and Jack was the last name on our database for this type of membership. There is an article in our archives from the Leicester Mercury showing pictures of Jack as a chorister, and at the age of 81 when he was trying to trace others who had been in the choir with him. In the article, Jack describes singing for the visit of King George

VI and Queen Mary in 1927 as the highlight of his time at the Cathedral.



Revd. Canon Derek Goodman

passed away on 11th June at the age of 83. Derek was a chorister at the Cathedral from 1941 to 1948 and then sang alto until 1953. He was the last in a very long family line of

choristers and had therefore been delighted only last year to see a photograph of the choir from the 1920's

which had only recently been discovered and hung in St Martins House. He wrote "The two Goodmans, Charlie and Herbert (on the photograph)

are relatives and I was something like the fifteenth member of the

family to be in the Cathedral/St Martin's choir." Derek was the Diocesan Director of Education from 1989 - 1996 and an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral from 1990 - 1996.



John Thorpe represented the Association at Derek's funeral service in the Cathedral on 2nd July as well as paying his own personal respects as a Dr George Gray choirboy of the same era and **Simon Headley** played the organ. At the service, the first hymn "O Jesus I have promised" which had been sung at Derek and Margaret's wedding in 1959, was sung, and at the end, "Thine be the Glory", one of Derek's favourite hymns. A Quartet sang "The Lord bless you and keep you" and "A Gaelic Blessing", both by John Rutter. All were invited to partake of light refreshments in St Martins House after the service and were joined shortly afterwards by the close family members after they remained in the Cathedral for the Prayer of Committal.



Colin Tipple, one of our associate members and a past committee member, passed away on 2nd September at the age of 79. After the war, Colin's family settled in

Parkstone, Dorset where he attended St Hilary's Primary School and then Poole Grammar School. It was during this time that he started to sing in the choir at St Auldhelm's Church in Bransome, Poole, where he became Head Chorister. His brother Trevor also joined him in the choir and so began a passion that would stay with them both for life, Colin singing and Trevor becoming an organist and choir master, Colin taking on a love for the music of S. S. Wesley and Trevor of Bach, a subject that led to much happy banter over the years.

In 1951, the family moved to Worcester where Colin attended Worcester Royal Grammar School. On leaving school in 1957, he attained a place at the National Provincial Bank, now National Westminster Bank. During this time he met Rosemary at a dance at St John's Church where he was in the choir, unbeknown to him then the person he was going to spend the next 42 years with. Having completed his National Service in the RAF 1958 to 1960, a time he was very proud of, he married Rosemary at St John's Church in 1961.

In 1966 Colin was promoted within the bank and moved to Birmingham where both he and **Andrew** (see also "other notes") continued the family musical tradition, singing in Birmingham Cathedral Choir, after spending 10 years commuting to Worcester to sing in St. Martin's where his brother was and still is the organist. After several branch moves within the area, Colin was promoted again, this time to Leicester, where they bought a house in Groby and both he and Andrew were soon members of Leicester Cathedral Choir.

In 1995, after almost 40 years of dedicated service to the bank, Colin and Rosemary left Leicestershire and retired to Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight, a place they had always loved and where they enjoyed several happy years. After several visits to Australia to see the grandchildren, the decision was made to

move there but it was now that fate took a hand. Rosemary, having been originally diagnosed with a melanoma in 1998, the cancer, that they thought had been treated and gone, came back with a vengeance and sadly after 42 years of marriage, Rosemary passed away in 2003.

Colin was very down at this stage of his life and a little lost, however this is where fate took another hand. During Rosemary's illness, a move had been made to Wootton Bridge to be closer to St Mary's hospital, where they made friends with Chris and her father Eric across the road. They both kept a welcome eye on Colin with Michael being in Scotland and Andrew in Australia. Clearly as Chris says she kept rather too close an eye on him and they started going out for meals, etc. and, to cut a long story short, they got engaged on 10th April 2004 and married on 26th February 2005 at St Mary's in Cowes. Colin was a tower of strength to Chris before and after Eric sadly passed away.

Charles Paterson (See also "other notes") represented our association at Colin's funeral service held at the Parish Church of All Saints, Ryde on 18th September which was very much a celebration of his life. The choir and organist performed various pieces, mostly by Colin's favourite composer, S.S. Wesley. 'Thou wilt keep him' was accompanied by Colin's brother, Trevor, who has almost retired as an organ builder and having been the church organist at St. Martin's Church in Worcester for at least 53 years, retired from that post after Christmas. One of the men in All Saints Choir, John Davey, who read a poem, also came from Leicester and is also a bass, but he sang in the St. James the Greater Choir and is an organ builder. They got on so well despite the rivalry between the two choirs. Son Michael delivered the eulogy. Andrew was taught by Charles at Leicester Grammar School when Andrew was a chorister at Leicester, and Charles was sorry not to have caught up with him again at his father's funeral. Currently living in Australia, Andrew was only over for a week and had to decide whether to risk coming straight away and hopefully arrive while his father was still alive, or leave it and come just for the

funeral. Fortunately he came early and was able to spend about three days being able to chat with his dad after which it became harder to understand what Colin was trying to say. Andrew left on the morning of his father's death as he was flying home to Australia that evening and it was at 3.30pm that day that Colin passed away. Thankfully, Michael was able to make contact with Andrew whilst he was still at the airport to let him know what had happened. At least Andrew knew prior to boarding his flight home. (See additional notes further on re Andrew)

Here are some edited remembrances from some of those who were in the choir at Leicester with Colin.

"Like Graham Wright, Martin Turner, Michael White, Donald Salt and me, Colin was a 'choir father', and all at much the same time. We were fiercely proud of our sons. Colin was a shy and retiring man who would never have wanted to take a solo. He had a stammer, which of course in no way impaired his singing. He and I were billeted together on all our visits to Krefeld (Leicester's Twin Town in Germany – see below) and spent many a happy hour talking to each other as well as conversing with our host and his family".



"I liked Colin immensely. He was a loyal member of the choir, a man of unshakeable integrity, an affectionate and caring husband and father. He will be sorely missed".

Chris Martyn

"Yes, I followed Colin as choir secretary. He was a gentleman and a typical old style bank manager and indeed we conducted the handover in his office over a cup of tea and I still have his NATWEST folder which I still use".

Don Salt

"I remember Colin well. He and his then wife, Rosemary, were friends with Michael and Katharine White and I would often travel with them to songmen's dinners and outings. Colin always seemed good humoured and took an interest in people, as well as being ribbed by Tony Stevens about banking!"

Peter Collett

"Colin was a good friend and colleague to me in the choir for many years. He joined the choir in October 1979 and sang bass on Sundays until 1995. Colin was choir secretary for three years, during which time he organised outings to Ely and Wells and, in a break from the usual cathedral visit tradition, a boat trip on the River Bure and broads from Wroxham. He also organised three splendid choir dinners at the Gables Hotel on London Road of which I have fond memories.

Being a banker by profession, Colin was treasurer of the choir funds. He gave valuable assistance to Peter White in managing the finances of the joint choir trips, with the Leicester Bach choir to Krefeld, Saarbrücken and other European destinations and organised favourable exchange rates of foreign currencies for choir members in "pre-euro" days."

John Thorpe

OTHER NOTES

Congratulations to **The Very Revd. Vivienne Faull**, one of our Vice Presidents, on her



ordination and consecration in St Paul's Cathedral, London by The Archbishop of Canterbury on Tuesday 3rd July at 11a.m. after being chosen to become the new Bishop of Bristol. The service also

included the ordination of the new bishops of Bradwell, in the Diocese of Chelmsford, and of Tonbridge, in the Diocese of Rochester. The

service was sung by the St Paul's Cathedral Consort, directed by Simon Johnson, Organist and Assistant Director of Music. The organ was played before the service by William Fox, Sub-Organist and during the service by Nicholas Freestone, Organ Scholar. Apart from the Gloria composed by Andrew Parnell, the communion setting was from the Missa Brevis by William Walton. As the Archbishop gave the Episcopal rings to the newly ordained bishops, the choir sang "God be in my Head" by Philip Radcliffe and the anthem during the communion was "I sat down under his Shadow" by Edward Bairstow.

After the giving of the pastoral staffs to the newly ordained bishops, the Archbishop's procession made its way to the west end of the Cathedral during the last hymn to much applause. The Finale from Symphony No 1 (Op.14) echoed around the building to bring the service to a fitting conclusion at 12.50p.m. The invited guests then made their own way to Lambeth Palace for a celebratory private lunch reception held in the gardens.

There was then another party for the enthronement on 20th October for which Richard Shephard had composed a new motet "Eternal Light, shine into our hearts" using the words of a prayer of St Alcuin of York. This was followed three days later by more formality with her introduction to the House of Lords.

Elected Chair of the Deans' conference when it was held in Bristol, Viv rejoices to be called to return to that city and to her mother's home as the Right Reverend Vivienne Faull.

Another of our Vice Presidents, the **Reverend Canon Dr Stephen Foster**, Coordinating and Anglican Chaplain to the University of Leicester, announced his retirement in September to take effect from 7th March 2019, his 65th birthday. Stephen was Canon Precentor at the Cathedral from 2004 to 2010 and we wish him well in retirement.





In January, the engagement of two long-serving members of the Cathedral community was announced.

Peter Collett, a former treasurer

and secretary of our association, had chosen the ideal opportunity to propose to Bev Farrant on her birthday. Congratulations to the happy couple were expressed in the Weekly Notice Sheet and we all look forward to the wedding in the Cathedral in May 2019. Peter worked at the Cathedral for 13 years during which time he led the vergers team, managed the building, sorted out our cascades of bookings and filled in many other gaps and roles. He is now working at Bishop's Lodge as PA to the Bishop of Loughborough as well as being appointed the very first distribution manager for the Soar Valley Life magazine.

Julie Tyler had been supporting the musical and educational work of the Cathedral for the past nine years and finished her time of service in March, entering into retirement. In particular, so many choir children and families have been helped and supported by Julie and we are pleased that she decided to carry on as an Associate Member of our Association and thus maintain a link with the Cathedral. Julie first joined the music department as the Administrator for the Chorister Outreach Programme, which started under **Jonathan Gregory**, and became Music Department Administrator when the successor to that programme, DioSing!, was set up in 2012.



Charles Paterson writes "Susan and I moved to the Isle of Wight in April, and Susan was licensed on Sunday 6th May by the Bishop of Portsmouth as Rector of Whippingham with East Cowes. As St Mildred's, Whippingham is the church Albert

built for Victoria, a deputy Lord Lieutenant was present to read the royal letters patent authorising her appointment (!). Thus we now live at 69 Victoria Grove, East Cowes PO32 6DL, which is a rather rambling Edwardian house just ten minutes' walk from Osborne House - something I find very convenient, as I enjoy regular walks around the park and down to the beach, where it's very pleasant to sit with a coffee on the veranda of the cafe and watch the boats large and small with Portsmouth in the background. We both sing with a small choir, Cantus Vesperi, who provide Choral Evensong at churches around the island which have no choir, and of whom I am now also the Music Director. I am also beginning to get invitations to deputise on the organ for services, the first being at Newport Minster (nice three manual Walker, for those who are interested).



Peter Webster celebrated his 90th birthday in May and he had already decided some time before then that it would be a fitting time to retire as organist and choirmaster at St. Bartholomew's Church, Kirby Muxloe after over half a century in the post.

His father, Horace, had held the post from 1926 until his death in 1962 after Peter's grandfather had recognised Horace's musical talents when he was young and so had him tutored by Dr Bunney at St Peter's, Highfields in Leicester. Horace Liked to go to Leicester Cathedral for Saturday evensong and to listen to George Gray and his choristers, then to implement his techniques within his own choir. He regularly took his sons with him and later **David** and **Ron** joined as choristers. Peter developed a love of church music and had a few piano lessons, but he wanted to play the organ. As his father was rather precious about the organ, he borrowed his father's church key without his knowing. One evening Horace's friend saw him in The Oak and asked how he

could be in two places at the same time as he had just passed the church and had heard him playing, and so the secret was out!

Peter has always had the great skill of knowing when to accompany musicians and when to lead them, but when his deafness was making him uncertain, he felt it was time to rest his fingers. Peter's final evensong was on 17th June with a good number attending, and refreshments were served after the service.

Matthew Farrell,

a lay clerk at Hereford Cathedral, helped to make history when on 29th June, the cathedral choir became the first Anglican cathedral choir since the Reformation to sing at the Papal Mass for Saints Peter and Paul. The Mass, which was held on



the steps of St Peter's Basilica in St Peter's Square in front of a crowd of 125,000, was also transmitted live on Vatican TV to a global audience of millions, with the Hereford choir singing alongside the Choir of the Sistine Chapel.

At the morning service on Sunday 8th July, the last before the choirs' summer break, it was the usual time to take the opportunity to say an official goodbye and thank-you to those who would be leaving the choir sometime between then and the start of university term in the autumn. **Michael Clarke** joined the Cathedral Choir as a Young Songman in February 2017, having previously sung with the choir of St Andrew's, Aylestone, both as a treble and on the back row. He very quickly settled into the Cantoris basses, where his warmth of tone in the lower registers had been a real bedrock for the sound of the choir as a whole. Michael was not only a gifted singer, but also an accomplished clarinettist, who recently got a distinction for his Grade Eight, the cost of his lessons having been supported

in part by one of the scholarships that the Cathedral makes available to Young Songmen through the new Cathedral Music Foundation. He has taken up a place at Nottingham University to study Electrical and Electronic Engineering and now sings as a Choral Scholar at St Mary's Church in the city.

Clarissa Wells first came to the Director of Music's attention when he accompanied her Grade Five singing exam just before Christmas 2013. He liked what he heard and, since there was space in the Senior Girls' Choir at that time, invited her to join. We were fortunate that she decided to stay in Leicester for her degree and extend our warmest congratulations to her on having recently been awarded a B.A. in Education Studies with Upper Second Class honours from De Montfort University, her dissertation for which was supervised by our very own **Motje Wolf**. As well as having become a real leader among the Cantoris sopranos, Clarissa had been an important part of the social side of choir life and is referred to affectionately by some of the others as 'Granny', purely on account of her being a year or two their senior and therefore the other side of twenty.

Also leaving was **Elizabeth Natrass** as she moved down to Devon as soon as she finished her A-levels. Her parents had recently left the teaching profession to open a hotel there. Then aged 12, Elizabeth was one of the oldest singers to join the choir through our 'Sing for the King!' campaign held in the spring of 2013 and, after just a term in the Junior Girls' Choir, moved up to the Senior Girls' Choir the following summer, where she'd been a mainstay of the first soprano line ever since, particularly over the past year. Like Clarissa, she had sung some memorable solos, including the Pie Jesu from the Fauré Requiem in 2016. Elizabeth is currently taking a gap-year, during which she is working at a Catholic Youth Retreat Centre in Derbyshire, and hopes thereafter to study Architecture in Lincoln.

The annual Woodhouse Eaves Horticultural & Craft Show took place on Saturday 1st September when the prizes included the **Derek Buxton** Trophy for Class 43 (5

vegetables in a seed tray). Canon Derek, a former Succentor at the Cathedral, was the vicar of the parish before he retired. It is good to see that his name lives on as he is not very active at all now.

Andrew Tipple has lived in Australia for over 26 years and he celebrated his 50th birthday back in February. Whilst living in Leicester he was awarded a scholarship to join the Navy and train as an Officer at Dartmouth Naval College. Whilst down in the Dartmouth and Plymouth area, Andrew met and married Kate, an Australian girl, and in time she gave birth to a baby girl named Rebecca. Two years later Kate wanted to return to Australia, so Andrew left the Navy and emigrated to NSW. Once in Australia, their family grew with a further baby girl, Charlotte, and seven years later they had a baby boy named Marshall. However, it was soon after that stage that their marriage broke down and they ended up getting divorced. Andrew then met a lovely partner in Catharine but sadly, back in 2006 having spent approx. 10 to 12 years together they split up. When Andrew isn't working as an Engineer, he sings the part of Robin Gibb in a Bee Gee's tribute band. They perform in some very big stadium to large audiences, quite a long way from his Leicester Cathedral days!

Simon Headley has been appointed to the new post of Historic Churches Support Officer (HCSO) in the Diocese of Leicester. Simon brought nearly 20 years' experience of working as a Senior Assistant for a local architectural practice and took up his new role on 3rd September. This new post is funded by a substantial grant from Historic England, following the recommendations of the Taylor Review on the sustainability of church buildings and also in response to the increased incidence of metal theft from churches in the Diocese. Simon left his current role as Cathedral Organist and Assistant Director of Music but continued to help out by playing for occasional services while the Cathedral made arrangements to appoint a permanent successor.

Congratulations to **Geoffrey Clarke** and Pauline who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 6th September.

On Saturday 8th September, **Dominic Veall** and **Sophia Ramnarine** performed a cello and vocal recital featuring a variety of classical and popular music where they synchronously played and sang. The recital was held at the Church of the Martyrs in Leicester and they were accompanied by **Simon Headley**.

John and Olivia Craig have moved to Lichfield where they have much history and many happy memories. Their new flat is within walking distance of the city centre and also the Cathedral, where John and other members of the family were choristers. The flat also affords "in-built" care as and when age catches up with either of them. We wish them well in their new surroundings.

Roy Birch is still very much involved with the Leicestershire & Rutland branch of the Western Front Association and having grappled with the problem of how to commemorate November 1918 for the November edition of the "TIGER" magazine, he recalled a similar dilemma over which of the countless Remembrance events he might attend in 2018. The answer to this conundrum, however, came at the end of July with an invitation to represent VISTA, the local organization for supporting the visually impaired, at the national Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in London on November 11th. Roy wrote "I was delighted and indeed honoured to be so invited and to know that the service in Westminster Abbey on Remembrance Sunday itself would form the centerpiece, though not the sole component, of my Armistice commemorations. As a visually-impaired person myself, I was especially keen that we remember and pay tribute to those blinded by war, not only during the two worldwide conflicts, but also during those of our own time. Readers will doubtless recall images of lines of blinded soldiers from the 1914-18 War being led by a sighted guide,



often a hospital orderly, each with a hand on the shoulder of the man in front, making their way from Casualty Clearing Stations en route to embarkation for "Blighty". Those of us who continue to study The First World War know that the Armistice was, in effect, a provisional cessation of hostilities, and that the War was not officially ended until June 1919 with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. And even then, numerous separate "Cease Fires" had to be negotiated in other wartime theatres - away from The Western Front, so that peace couldn't be officially declared in many countries until the early 1920s. Thus, our research will continue for many a year to come."

Roy wishes everyone a Happy New Year and if anyone wishes to read the full text only version of his article, do let us know.

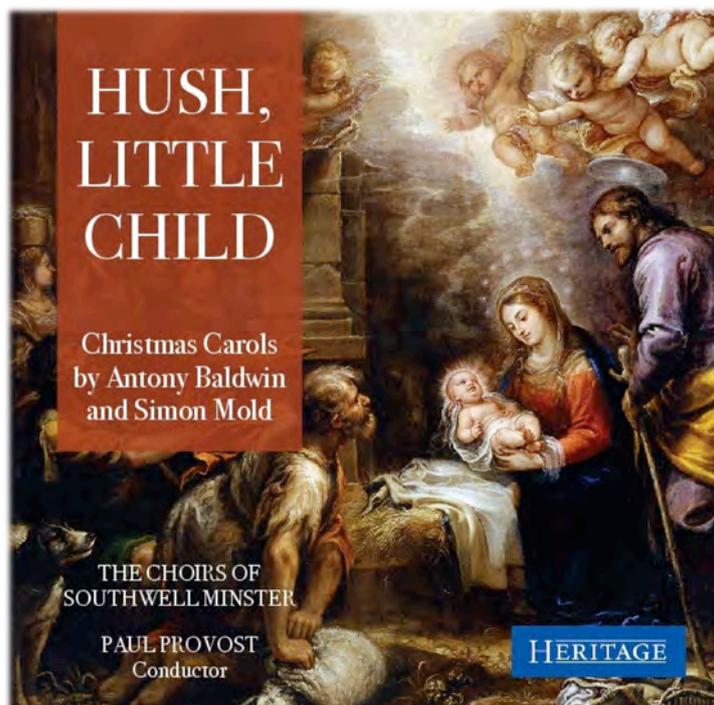


Simon Mold appeared twice on our TV screens during December. He directed the singing of "Ding dong merrily on High" in Foxton Church by the Cathedral-based Ricardus Singers to sing on an edition of East Midlands Today

21st December 2018. With his partner, Amanda Fitchett, he also pictured [below] on the Antiques Roadshow at the Abbey Pumping Station back in 2017 alongside a gigantic fibreglass abstract sculpture, originally from the garden of British Shoe on Scudamore Road, and this was repeated on a programme which looked back on a selection of favourite finds from the past 40 years.



Simon also gave a most interesting talk to the Leicester Music Society in December 2018. David Fisher, LCOCA committee member and newsletter editor is the Chairman of the Society. He invited Simon to give a talk on a subject of his own choosing and he presented a fresh approach to Handel, concentrating on his writing for instruments. He described Handel's masterly approach to writing for instruments as "a miracle of subtlety and variety". A wide array of wonderful recordings was enriched by live performances with countertenor, harpsichord and recorder.



Simon has also had some of his Christmas music produced on an excellent CD performed by the choirs of Southwell Minster conducted by Paul Provost. If you are interested in purchasing a copy please contact: lcoca.secretary@gmail.com



In 2018, **David Fisher** was commissioned Leicestershire Chorale to write a piece for the 40th anniversary of the choir. As a founder member of Leicestershire Chorale in 1978 (for some time one of the leading choirs of the Midlands and beyond) David felt that the essence of the piece should be a joyous affirmation of singing and so he took the words

of ***The Gift to Sing*** by the African-American poet James Weldon Johnson and incorporated Verse 6 of Psalm 150 (which he remembers singing many times in the powerful C-major Stanford chant under George Gray and Peter White) and a toe-tapping "Alleluia". The première was at St Aidan's Church on June 30th 2018 with the Chorale under the direction of Tom Williams and the relentless organ part in the secure hands and feet of David Cowen.



After a request to adapt the work as a Christmas anthem the words of the American poet were exchanged with Martin Luther's "Vom himmel hoch" and "Alleluia" with "Gloria in excelsis". Its première in an upper-voice version was in Köln on December 2nd 2018 alongside the first performance of his ***In the stable*** for mezzo, two countertenors, sax, cello and organ. The mixed-voice première of ***Gloria in excelsis!***, also in St Aidan's Church, followed on December 9th by the talented chamber choir Viva la Musica under the direction of Fr. Simon Lumby.

A further choral work of David's to be performed on July 13th at St Aidan's in the presence of Bishop Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and sung by Viva la Musica. ***Verbum Caro*** is a communion anthem to words by Thomas Aquinas.



Jonathan Gregory directed the 27th Christmas Concert of the UK-Japan Music Society, comprised of the UK-Japan Choir and the UK-Japan Consort, held on 8th December at St John's Wood Church, London, NW8. This included Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols", and music by Bach, Poulenc, Takemitsu, Messian, Howells, Yamada and Gregory. **Josef Laming** accompanied the "Ceremony of Carols" on piano and organ. He has now taken up the Historical Performance Enlightenment scholarship to study the harpsichord at the Royal Academy of Music, with the support of the Alderman Newton Educational Foundation.

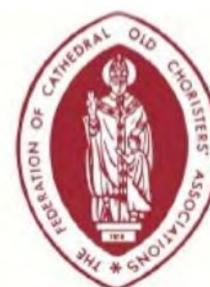


Julian Gregory is now the Assistant Music Director of the Society as well as continuing his singing as a tenor with The King's Singers, who celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a global tour which included concerts in the USA, Japan, Europe, China, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, South Korea, Taiwan and Scandinavia. Former chorister, **Claire McGinn**, was also listed as a member of the choir.



FEDERATION OF CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

The Federation has still not been successful in recruiting a new editor for the "Once A Chorister" magazine, so we were very much indebted to our



fcoca



collate the printing and distribution of paper copies for all associations to keep the cost down.

The magazine contains articles and photographs relating to the 2018 day at Chelmsford Cathedral, including the AGM, and the festival at Peterborough.

Chairman, Alastair Pollard, for taking on this role again in 2018. In order to keep the magazine down to a size which makes it more economical to print for association members not on email, or who would still like a paper copy, it was decided by the federation committee, after receiving feedback from members associations, that Association reports would be loaded directly onto the website in future. The chairman therefore welcomed "editorial" articles only from associations for the 2018 magazine concerning choral music and associated subjects that may be of interest to FCOCA members. As our association has its own annual newsletter on the federation website, there was no need for us to send in any separate association notes otherwise this would only duplicate matters. I offered to

Only one photograph was printed of the festival so here are a few more. Geoffrey Carter, Richard Belton, Malcolm Gregory and their respective wives represented our



Association at the festival.

The 2019 AGM will be hosted by the Lichfield Cathedral Association on 11th May and the annual festival is being hosted by the Portsmouth Association from 21st to 23rd June. Full details will be circularised when they are available.



Richard Belton
Association Representative

LCOCA AGM - REPORT

The Association's 2018 AGM was held on Thursday 3rd May. Members attended Choral Evensong - responses by Clucas, canticles Collegium Regale by Howells, anthem **Go Down Moses** by Tippett and the hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise" to the tune Leoni - and then adjourned to The Globe Inn. Here we shared our views of the service over tea (or coffee) and sandwiches; 'Well, that could have been any cathedral choir in the land,' was a comment which seemed to summarise our thoughts on a service we had all enjoyed.

And so to business...

John Thorpe welcomed those present and opened the meeting in prayer, remembering **Stan Cottom** who had died since the last AGM. This was to be John's last meeting as chairman, members recorded their appreciation of a job well done and **Chris Ouvry-Johns** also thanked John for all that he had done for the Cathedral over many years (i.e. since 1946, when John had become a chorister!)

There were no nominations put forward for the posts of either Chairman or Secretary and the Treasurer agreed to take on the role of Acting Secretary in the meantime.

The usual annual business was successfully concluded, and the AGM also agreed to make a one off donation of £500 to the new Leicester Cathedral Music Foundation.

All those years ago, as choristers, we had clearly learnt some life long lessons regarding punctuality. The AGM closed exactly one hour after it had begun.

Nick Basford, Minutes Secretary

LCOCA REUNION - REPORT

The 2018 Association Reunion took place on Sunday 9th September and was based on Choral Evensong at 3:00 pm.



The service was sung by the Boys, Junior Girls and Songmen of the Cathedral Choir, joined by those members of the Association who felt able to. Responses were by John Reading (c. 1645-1692), while Psalm 119.49-56 was sung to a chant by the current Director of Music. The canticles were **Stanford in C** and the anthem **O Thou the Central Orb** by Charles Wood. The Old Testament Lesson was read by **Jonathan Leeming**, a young songman and former chorister (2014-2017,) the New Testament Lesson by Victoria Roe, Diocesan Representative for the Friends of Cathedral Music and a patron of the LCOCA.

All the presentations took place after the singing of the anthem. The presentations of hymn book awards to those who have completed their time as Boy and Junior Girl Choristers were made by the Canon Precentor to **Alex Edgley, Damien Hollis, Joel Young, Isaac Wiles, Gregory Webb, Lilian Arens, Cheera Au, Anna Cowen, Maisie Lambert, Clara Leech, Edie Richards, Jade Sawh** and **Sofia Tansey**.

The Chairman of the Old Choristers' Association and the Director of Music then made presentations of the Association Book Awards to **Toby Frape, Isaac Wiles, Cheera Au** and **Hannah Robinson**.

Next came the scholarships awarded by the Dr George Gray Memorial Trust, presented by the Precentor and **David Briers**, Chairman of the Trust, please see the Trust report for further details.

The Precentor and the Director of Music presented the Cathedral Music Foundation Scholarships, which were awarded as follows:

- **James Upton** for a National Youth Choir Course
- **Joe Banerjee** for singing and piano lessons
- **Logan Bott** for taxi fares
- **Michael Clarke** for clarinet lessons
- **Darcie Furniss** for viola lessons
- **Tom Good** for singing lessons

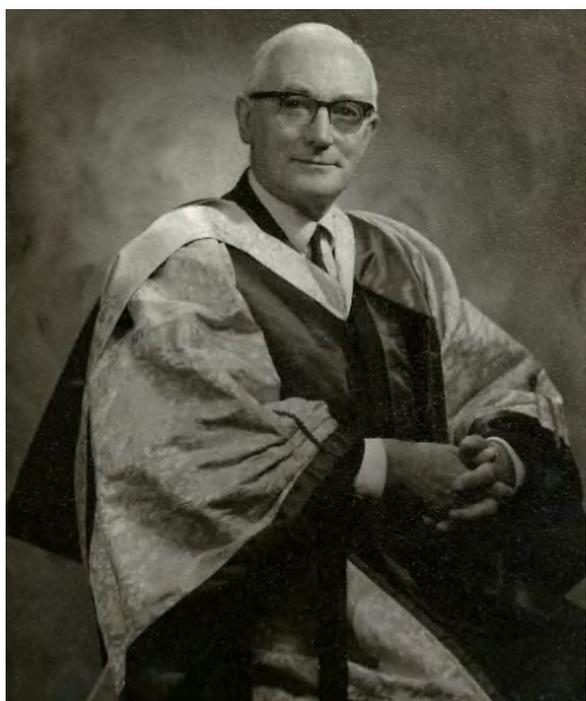
This service was the last service to be accompanied by Simon Headley in the position of Cathedral Organist and Assistant Director of Music; Chris Ouvry-Johns made a presentation to mark this occasion.

The service ended with the hymn, Angel Voices Ever Singing and Simon's last voluntary, Elgar's Allegro maestoso from his Sonata in G Op. 28.

All present then adjourned to the Cathedral Great South Aisle to enjoy the tea and cakes kindly provided by the Cathedral Community Committee.

Nick Basford

DR GEORGE GRAY MEMORIAL TRUST



The recipients of the eight annual scholarships were presented with their cheques at the annual reunion of the association on Sunday 9th September as follow:

- George Gray Scholarship 1 to **Damien Hollis** for piano & saxophone lessons
- George Gray Scholarship 2 to **Gregory Webb** for piano lessons
- Stephen and Mary Harland Scholarship to **Clara Leech** for singing lessons
- LCOCA Scholarship to **Clara Richards** for flute, violin & singing lessons

- Bishop & Cicely Williams Scholarship to **Victoria Malone** for singing lessons
- Lionel Hamer Scholarship to **Edie Richards** for singing lessons
- Friends of Cathedral Music Scholarship to **Anna Cowen** for violin lessons
- Helen Jean Cope Scholarship to **Maisie Lambert** for singing lessons



Victoria Roe, the Leicester Diocesan Representative for the Friends of Cathedral Music (FCM) and a

Patron of our Association was able to be present at our reunion and was pleased to present the scholarship cheque in the name of FCM to Anna [see above right]. This particular scholarship has been in existence since 1985 following the first successful application for a grant from FCM. Further grants were also approved by FCM in 1989 and 1998.



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

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the trust was held on 3rd October at 42 Buckminster Road, Leicester by kind invitation of John Thorpe. Our chairman and administrator, David Briers, welcomed Gerard Gray and Nicholas Basford to their first meeting as trustees.

The annual accounts for the year to 30th September were presented. These showed assets of £105,505, donations and tax recovered on those donations totalling £1,411 and scholarships awarded totalling £1,600.

Finally, our thanks are extended as always to David Briers for acting as Chairman and Administrator, ably assisted by his wife Julie on the secretarial side.

Richard Belton

ARCHIVE



In the Autumn, **Hilda Scarth** got in touch with the Cathedral office to say that she had sent a picture to English Heritage of the Cathedral songmen at Stonehenge as part of their annual outing to Salisbury in September 1960. English Heritage was collecting photographs taken at Stonehenge between 1850 and 2018 and would like to include this kind of photo in what will be a digital collection they are making of the thousands of people who have visited the site over the years especially in the years when visitors could get up close to the stones. Hilda attached a copy of the photograph as shown below, which

includes her late husband, and the email was forwarded to me for a response.

After numerous emails of reminiscence between the two of us, Hilda mentioned that she would like to keep in touch and I am pleased to report that she accepted an invitation to become a Patron of our association. She very generously sent a cheque for £100 to cover her subscription until 2020 with the remainder to be allocated as a donation to the Dr George Gray Trust Fund.

From left to right: Stan Cottom, Ken Tindall, ? , Ron Reah, ? , John York, ? , Fred Warburton, John Alexander, Bob Prime, Bill Southorn, Rev Eric Devenport (Succentor), Cyril Innocent (Verger), ? , Dr George Gray, Richard (Dick) Scarth, Geoffrey Cox. Does anyone know the names of the four not named please?



Jen Richardson, who is researching her family tree, also got in touch with the Cathedral office around the same time. Her father, **Andrew Richardson**, was a chorister at the Cathedral and was enquiring as to whether we had any photographs of him. This email was also forwarded to me and I was able to send Jen copies of a number of pictures taken during the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on 30th October 1946 when Andrew would have been 18 years old. Three of our members of that era did not remember the name so I was delighted when Jen reported back that she was quite confident that her father was on two of the photographs. On the one below, he was recognised as the young songman (no ruff) with the jet black hair standing immediately behind Dr Gray.

Jen sent a donation which more than covered the association's costs in this matter and in my email of acknowledgement, I wished her well in her research and hoped that it would continue to be fruitful.

The Famous Smith Five: Moving on to the 1980's and 1990's, it must have been a record for the choir when five brothers of the same family were choristers at the Cathedral as shown on a certificate of appreciation presented to their parents, Christopher and Gillian Smith, after they had all left. As an association, we were therefore delighted when Christopher and Gillian paid for them all to become life members after accepting a concessionary rate!

Now in their 30's and 40's, Gillian kindly sent the following news in December.

Simon is now aged 42 and married to Katrina, a GP - they have a 5 1/2 year old son called Toby (another one for the Cathedral Choir maybe)? They live in Kibworth Beauchamp, where Simon is a bell-ringer at St. Wilfred's Church. Simon graduated from York University with a Masters Degree in Electronic Engineering and now works in Coventry as a Chartered Engineer/Software Design



Lead. Simon is currently having German lessons in his spare time, and he and Katrina have just taken up Squash to keep fit, and also have an allotment in Kibworth which keeps them busy.

Leicester Cathedral
Church of St. Martins

Presented to

Gillian & Christopher Smith

*in appreciation of
their five sons who were
Leicester Cathedral Choristers*

<i>Simon</i>	<i>1986 - 1989</i>
<i>Timothy</i>	<i>1986 - 1994</i>
<i>James</i>	<i>1990 - 1997</i>
<i>Matthew</i>	<i>1992 - 1999</i>
<i>Edward</i>	<i>1995 - 2002</i>

Jonathan Gregory - Master of the Music
John Craig - Precentor
Vivienne Faull - Provost

in his spare time. He does now speak fluent Spanish! Tim came back to the UK and did a Masters Degree in Broadcast Journalism and is now the Production Manager at Peak FM in Chesterfield. He still sends work over the internet to Spectrum FM in Marbella each week to earn extra money.

James will be 36 in January and studied Law with French Law at UCL. A year of his course was spent in Aix-en-Provence which he loved. Now he lives just across Euston Road from St. Pancras and has a very active life there as a lawyer. He particularly enjoys a drink with his friends at the Gilbert Scott at St. Pancras station! James worked as a Solicitor for a law firm which was taken over by American lawyers and they over-stretched themselves, so everyone was made redundant - however - after several unemployed months he joined MTV as one of their lawyers, which he absolutely loves. It takes him to

Tim is approaching his 40th birthday next April and is still single. After gaining a Bachelors Degree in Communication Studies, he went over to Spain not knowing a word of Spanish and worked in an English-speaking radio station in Marbella for 10 years. He had previously worked for Leicester Sound

various interesting places such as Wembley, Malta last year and Bilbao a few weeks ago to do the legal work for the EMA award ceremonies and his name even appears on the credits! He is also a very keen cook and "wine connoisseur"! He did a course in wine-tasting in his spare time!

Matthew is 33 and studied Occupational Psychology at Royal Holloway and then he did a Masters Degree (same subject) at Cardiff University. After attending an interview at Lowestoft Jail and deciding that prison life was definitely not for him, he went to the National Audit Office and trained to be a Chartered Accountant, doing a very intensive, fast track course. He now works as an accountant for BA at Heathrow Airport which he enjoys very much, particularly as he gets very cheap long distance flights for himself and friends, and has been to Japan, Australia, Canada and America (Business Class)!

Edward is 30 and did a Clinical Psychology course at Cardiff University. He then stayed on to get his Masters. After working in hospitals in Stevenage and London to gain experience, he is now studying 2 days a week at Royal Holloway University for a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and working 3 days a week in London - one day at St. Pancras hospital plus 2 days in a GP practice, and he is hoping to qualify in 2 1/2 years time. He is a very keen classical pianist and is working in his spare time to get his Licentiate in Performance playing - hopefully next summer. In spite of being mainly interested in classical music he is also a great fan of Elton John.

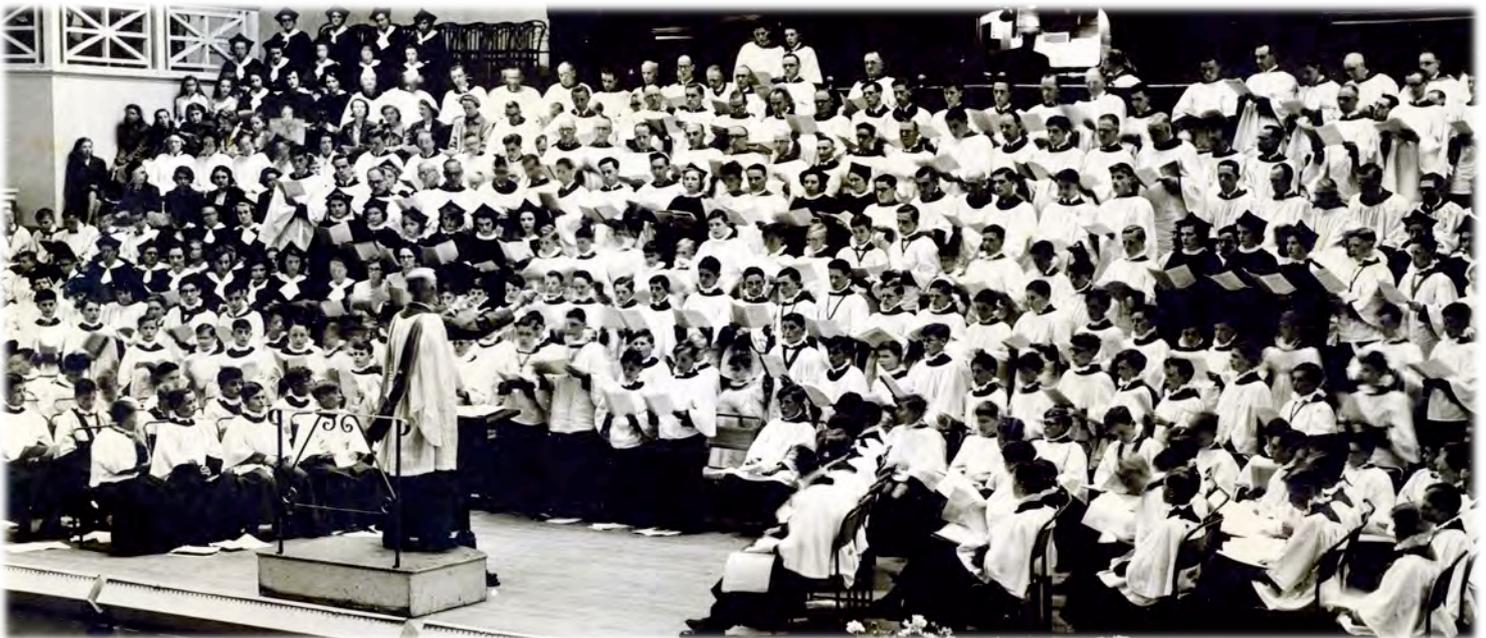




The photograph above from our archives was taken in 1997 at the launch of an exhibition in the Cathedral entitled "70 Years of Choristers and Music" and shows Edward as a young chorister meeting our oldest former chorister at that time, **Jack Prentice**.

The Arts Council of Great Britain on 20th June. The conductor was Dr John Dykes Bower of St Paul's Cathedral and the organist was Dr William McKie of Westminster Abbey and Leicester Cathedral is mentioned as one of the participating choirs.

We do hold a programme of a big event at the De Montfort Hall on 25th June 1955 being a Festal Evensong with a choir of 600 singers from the Cathedral and Parish Churches in the Leicester Diocese at which George Gray was the conductor. The secretary and treasurer of the Leicester Diocesan Choral Association Committee at that time was George's assistant, **Sydney Rudge**, who has a memorial stained glass window in the old song school.



Nicholas Miller from Newcastle came across this picture at an auction recently. He thinks, by the writing on the back, that it's of the (rehearsal for?) performance of massed choirs in the De Montfort Hall for 1951 Great Exhibition with **Dr George Gray** conducting.

We have been unable to spot for definite any Cathedral choir members. The photo is about 10x8 inches and stuck onto a slightly larger card backing and looks like it was framed at one stage.

The only big event in our archives for 1951 is a RSCM programme for a Festival Church Service at the Royal Albert Hall by arrangement with



ORGAN RECITALS 2018

The photograph on page 19 was taken by the editor of Chris Ouvry-Johns conducting the cathedral choir on July 10th at Leicester's De Montfort Hall at the joyous first concert of the 2018 Summer Organ Recital Series. It launched a vibrant, varied and interesting series featuring the full range of the cathedral organ's capabilities with these expert players:

- **Richard Hills** [London]
- **Christopher Ouvry-Johns**
- **Andrew Kirk** [St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol]
- **David Cowen**
- **Prof. David Saint** [St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham]
- **Christopher Allsop** [Worcester Cathedral]

The final concert of the series was by **Simon Headley**. It was a very well attended lunchtime performance with the projector screen situated under Arabella Dorman's artwork ***Suspended*** – see later article.



The evening recitals are very good value and have complimentary juice and snacks afterwards when there is an ideal opportunity to meet the recitalist. During the summer period there are lots of folks on holiday but it would be very nice to see more Old Choristers listening to the magnificent organ they know so well.

EXHIBITIONS 2018

Suspended

The Cathedral hosted Arabella Dorman's unique artwork between 20 June and 28 August 2018, alongside as a series of events, to highlight the experience of refugees. This

startling and internationally-acclaimed artwork was be installed and on show, free of charge—from Refugee Week, through the Cathedral's 'Conversations' season until Leicester's ArtReach-led *Journeys Festival International*.



Composed of hundreds of items of clothing which had been discarded by refugees upon their arrival on the island of Lesbos, a 'stilled explosion' was created over the Cathedral nave, inviting the viewers to contemplate the violent fragmentation experienced by the inhabitants of the garments. ***Suspended*** was the centrepiece of a unique summer of events, which helped people grasp the experience of real refugees by promoting empathy for them. An interactive wall of clothing and shoes salvaged from Lesbos and Calais was also placed in the cathedral where visitors could touch and handle the clothes and imagine the lives of the individuals who wore them as they risked everything to escape their homelands.

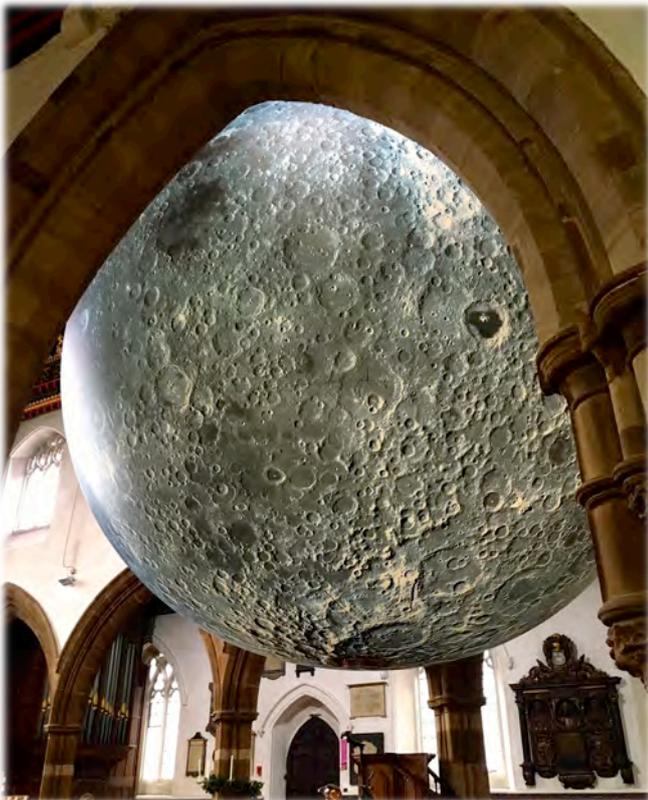
David Fisher

Moon

Between 9-18 March 2018, an art installation of a 7 metre [23 feet for us oldies] diameter model of the **Moon** by Luke Jerram was placed in the cathedral, as part of a joint project led by the University of Leicester to mark British Science Week 2018. Anticipating that it would be very popular, space was made available for personal reflection and prayer, and there were also special activities for children and young people. The queues for this exhibition were remarkable – even compared with the attraction of King Richard III:



The editor had an opportunity to photograph the remarkable model in an almost empty cathedral:



and then in September 2018, I saw the moon again in Hull Minster:



In the latter venue (which I was visiting for the very first time) it didn't look quite as impressively placed but still drawing the crowds in an historic and very imposing building.

David Fisher

A REMINDER

Please contact...

lcoqa.secretary@gmail.com

...if you have any news, photos or other information you wish to pass on for the 2019 LCOQA Newsletter or our Archives.

IMAGES PAST AND PRESENT NORTH AND SOUTH

The image on the left is an image which originally appeared in a book by Robert Guy Waddington called "Leicester – The making of a modern city" with ten illustrations such as this one by Robert Sargent Austin. It was published in 1931 by authority of the Leicester Corporation by Geo. Gibbons & Co., 49 King Street. Certainly and interesting perspective of the Guildhall Lane view – especially the workmen, horse and cart and the detail on the now restored staircase turret on the North East corner of the North Transept.

Below is a 2017 photo of the cathedral taken in glorious sunshine that spring. When taking the picture, however, I was not aware of the big bird flying over the Great South Aisle until afterwards. I was unable to tell what sort of bird it was. Inadvertently I later asked some of the peregrine falcon watchers who looked at the photo with disdain and told me it was a feral pigeon probably trying to escape the falcons!

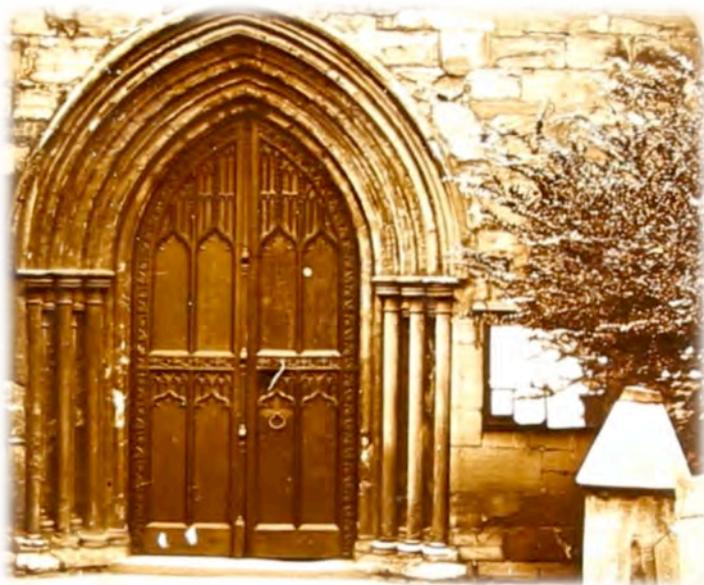




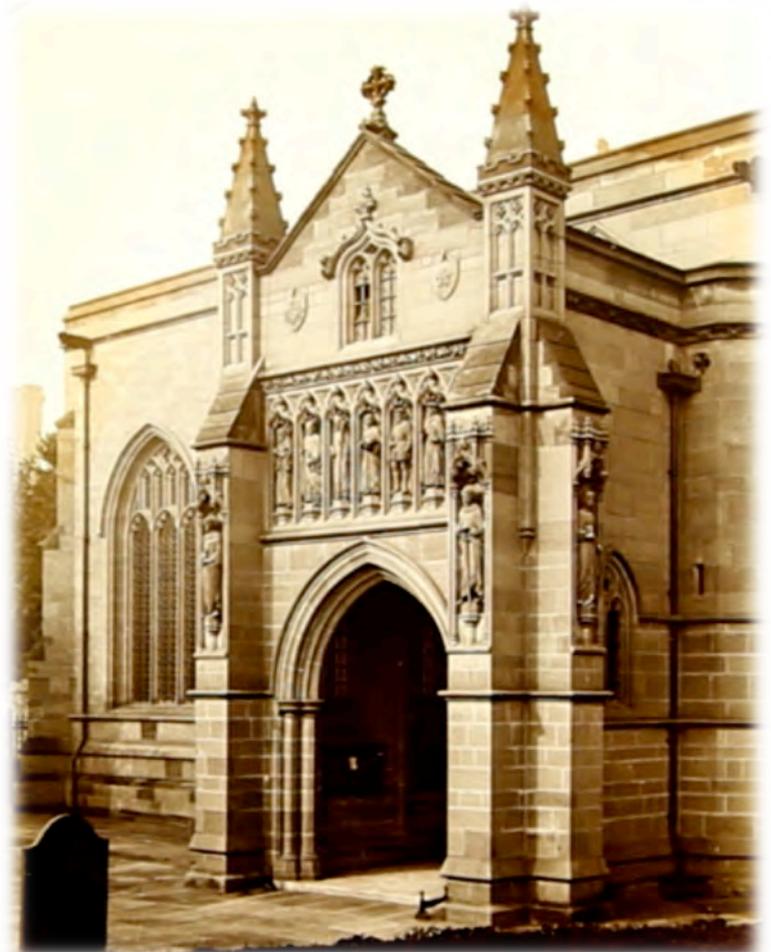
THE CHOIRS OF LEICESTER CATHEDRAL

This formal photograph of the current choirs of Leicester Cathedral was taken last July and the choir members were able to buy copies. Your association - the LCOCA – paid for a framed copy which is now hanging in the choir photograph gallery in St Martin’s House.

MORE ARCHIVE PHOTOS OF ST MARTIN’S CHURCH



The 'old' South door [above] before the addition of the newly built Vaughan Porch [right].



THE CATHEDRAL QUIZ

We are very grateful for the quiz produced for last year's LCOCA newsletter by Graham Wright. For those of you stumped by the questions, here are the answers:

1. There is a Columbarium in the cathedral. Where is it?

In the floor at the South East corner of the Chapel to Christ the King (formerly the Sanctuary)

2. The transition from the square tower to the octagonal spire is called a - - - - - spire.

A "Broached" spire

3. What are the three tiers of openings in the spire called?

Lucarnes

4. There is room above the Vaughan Porch. What is its architectural name?

Parvis

5. Where is St Francis depicted in the cathedral?

In the East window of St. Katherine's Chapel

6. What is the correct date of the Font?
1849

7. Where is there a Piscina in the cathedral?

At the East end of the Great South Aisle on the south wall (used for washing the vessels after the Mass)

8. There is an original piece of Norman stonework inside the cathedral. Where is it?

At the east end of the North Aisle high up on the side of the Tower. It is called a "billet" moulding

9. What is the first recorded date of there being a St. Martins Church?

1086

10. The arcades (arches) either side of the nave date from which century?

13th century



The cathedral in spring



The choir and chancel of the parish church



St Martin's Vicarage



The High Altar