



WESTMINSTER ABBEY CHORISTER

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Welcome to the newsletter

You will have read my letter introducing the changes to the Westminster Abbey Old Choristers' Association publications and this edition is the first in the new format. We are all immensely grateful to James Wilkinson (51-55) for his production of the Westminster Abbey Chorister for so many years and the way in which he has crafted a magazine which will now have the wider readership it deserves. This edition marks the start of the new Westminster Abbey Chorister which will be exclusively about former choristers, the choir school and the choir and will also be available online. We will also publish online old editions of the magazine dating back to 1909 including fascinating details of football matches between the Abbey and St. Pauls which date to 1896. The choir teams seem to have been more balanced in those days! Please enjoy this edition and send in your comments/news.

Richard Watts (52-57)

FORMER CHORISTER NEWS



Geoffrey Silver (86-91) is now the Director of Music of Stowe School.

Geoffrey is a choral specialist who after his time as a chorister at Westminster Abbey and the RSCM, won choral and music scholarships to Tonbridge School.

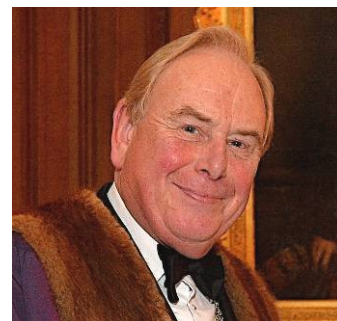
Continued on the [website](#)



Dr. Sebastian Roberts (95-00)

Is one of four brothers (Sebastian 95-00, Tobi 98-04, Fabian 00-05 and Cameron 03-08) who are all former choristers of the Abbey. Is this a record?! After leaving WACS he went to Kings College School Wimbledon.

Continued on the [website](#)



Andrew Morris (59-62)

Andrew Morris is an orchestral and choral conductor, music educator, examiner and consultant. He is also a keyboard continuo player with 40 years' experience as an organist and harpsichordist.

Continued on the [website](#)



Tony Stephens (53-57);

Tony was pleased on a recent visit to see that science is today firmly on the Choir School curriculum. This was not the case in the 1950s, causing him some problems in fulfilling his ambition of becoming a Professional Engineer.

Continued on the [website](#)



Robert Turner (47-49)

Robert is currently professor of law at Clare College, Cambridge. He has written a fascinating article on the immediate post war choir which is available online.

Continued on the [website](#)



Tim Winter (75-80)
Secretary Elect WAOCA

Tim joined the Royal Navy as a Midshipman in 1985. After completing his basic training at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth....

Continued on the [website](#)

CHOIR SCHOOL NEWS



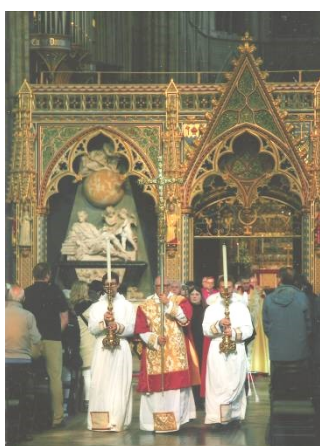
At the end of summer term eight boys left to go on to their senior schools.

Sebastian Braw-Smith and Anthony Hedger to Kings College, Canterbury
Edward Byrne to Loughborough College
James Francis and Monty Jones to Eton College
Xavier Leitch to to Ampleforth College
Daniel Livermore to Uppingham School
Jeremy Suppey to Tonbridge School.

We welcome new joiners for the Winter term 2016: Zebedee Buckeridge, Nathan Inwang and Sebastian James

On the teaching staff Michael Riley replaced John Wright teaching French and sport.

BROTHERHOOD



The serving Brotherhood of St. Edward who carry the Processional Cross, Lights and Banners at the Sunday Eucharist and other services is exclusively manned by former choristers which is much appreciated by the Dean and Chapter.

The Brotherhood secretary, Andy Mackinder (68-73) is very active in encouraging all members to join in where they can and this is especially true of the younger members with many leavers serving when they can and very much enjoying the experience. Services range from the weekly Sunday Eucharist to State occasions and many other mid week services.

The past year has been very busy with 382 duties making an average of 32 per month.

Andy relies on the support of the Headmaster for his encouragement to boys as they leave, and allowing Andy to visit the leavers each year - without which new members would not happen so easily. Of the 8 summer leavers 5 have already served at least once.

PURCELL CLUB



Last April marked the 450th of the Purcell Club's monthly musical/historical tours in their present form, which have now raised more than £275,000 for the Abbey and various small charities.

The Club's members are predominantly Old Choristers but include a number of guest singers, giving us over thirty singers "on the books". We are usually able to field between fifteen and twenty for each tour. We have three speakers who rotate the lecturing role, while two conductors share the musical responsibilities.

As former choristers we greatly value being able to come back to sing in the Abbey and introduce visitors to it; and the visitors love the tour experience, as evidenced by the letters of appreciation that we get and the 3-year waiting list. We also enjoy a great sense of camaraderie, not to mention the food and drink between rehearsal and tour!

We would be delighted to welcome more Old Choristers (minimum age 18) to our ranks - especially altos!

REQUIEM IN PACEM

Guy Woolfenden (47-51),
born July 12 1937, died April 15 2016

[Full Obit on the website](#)

Dr. Michael Christopher Langton Cox (35-39), born November 1925,
died May 2016

[Full Obit on the website](#)

Grahame Gibbs (44-48), born 17th
April 1934, died 4th April 2013

[Full Obit on the website](#)

Sir David Willcocks (29-34),
born December 30 1919, died
September 17 2015

[Full Obit on the website](#)

Ian Parrott (36-40),
born 1927, died June 2013

[Full Obit on the website](#)

Gordon Roland-Adams

[Full Obit on the website](#)

Peter Wallin (32-35),
born 1921, died October 28, 2016

[Full Obit on the website](#)
