



# *Friends' Newsletter*

October 2002

## ***From the Chairman***

*Miranda Seaman*

Welcome to the fourth edition of our Friends' Newsletter, coming to you following extremely busy spring and summer terms for the ULCC. As you may recall from our last newsletter, since April the choir has enjoyed stays in York, Paris and St Davids, as well as visiting Canterbury and returning to Southwark.

As you will be aware, the ULCC has charitable status. One of its charitable aims is to provide music, generally by singing services, at smaller parish churches. Thus, in addition to the above rather 'high profile' venues, the choir has also been delighted to return to St Anne's, Soho, to sing for Maundy Thursday Eucharist and to All Saints', Stock, Essex, where we put on a concert and sang Choral Evensong as part of that church's Dedication Festival. In February we travelled further afield and sang Choral Evensong at St James', Bulkington, Warwickshire. This was perhaps an ambitious distance to travel for the day but we greatly enjoyed the occasion and believe that the service was very much appreciated by the clergy and congregation. We greatly value these smaller-scale events and are always willing to consider requests for visits from Friends' home churches – subject to distance and availability!

Our 10th anniversary celebrations in May were a wonderful highlight of this year. The Festal Evensong at Christ the King was well attended, as was the celebration dinner at the Tavistock Hotel which followed. We were delighted to see so many Friends present, in addition to former clergy and choir and our former conductors Simon Over and Richard Goodall. The success of the day depended very much on the hard work of the committee and Bryan, but especial thanks go to Anthea Corser for her meticulous planning, to Liz Watkins for editing and producing the wonderful souvenir Order of Service booklet and to Richard Corser for his financial stewardship and for producing the very popular souvenir mugs and CDs.

Anniversaries are often a time for reflection and our 10th anniversary was a fitting time to consider what the ULCC has achieved during the last ten years. In October 1992, exactly ten years ago, the choir had no church, no name (we were still informally the choir of The University Church of Christ the King but that church had closed to the chaplaincy), no formally appointed conductor and, apart from a return trip to Truro planned for the following summer, no 'gigs'. Contrast the picture now! It is entirely due to the hard work of the members at that time in continuing to attend rehearsals and arranging services that the choir did not fold. Whilst reluctant to single out anyone for special praise, thanks are due to Richard Leigh for stepping in as our temporary conductor during the difficult autumn 1992 term and also to various parents (many of whom are now Friends) for putting on splendid teas when we imposed ourselves on their home churches!

As ever we are always delighted to see you at any of our services or concerts and we thank you once again for your support.

## ***The 2002 AGM***

For the second year running the choir's AGM was held during the summer tour. Bryan and Miranda reported on an enjoyable and musically successful year (if somewhat hectic in the early summer!), and Richard reported that in the immediate term the choir's financial position is stable, although this remains strongly dependent upon the subscriptions of full members and upon income from Friends (for more on this, see *Treasurer's Report* on page 4). There was some discussion of last year's constitutional changes (officers to be elected by the committee rather than by the full membership), and it was agreed that the Secretary should report back at the next AGM having canvassed members' opinions on how they perceive the new arrangements to be working, in the light of two years' experience. Nine committee members were appointed unopposed at the AGM: Anthea Corser, Richard Corser, Victoria Foster, Victor Gan, Miranda Seaman, Geraldine Warner, John Watkins, Liz Watkins and Peter Wright (Bryan Almond is a member *ex officio*). At the first committee meeting of the autumn term Miranda, Richard and John were appointed Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

### ***The View from the Podium***

*Bryan Almond, Director of Music*

As Director of Music to the ULCC I count myself extremely fortunate to enjoy the time and talent of a team of dedicated and gifted choir members. The constant fulfilment and immense reward of five years in the post have been and continue to be an absolute pleasure. The past two terms have been particularly rewarding, as you may already have appreciated from Miranda's and Anthea's articles. Although we were busy, everyone pulled together to produce some very fine singing from a challenging and varied repertoire.

I am personally particularly grateful to Richard Corser and John Watkins for making available their recordings of our performances. The recent 10th anniversary CD is a splendid souvenir of a decade of ULCC singing. It stands as a testament to the high standards strived for and achieved in the last ten years. Each track provides a snapshot in time, evoking memories for all involved.

I should also like to pay tribute to our organists, Paul Dean and Chris Nickol. They often go unnoticed, buried away in the organ loft. We owe them a tremendous amount as their contribution is invaluable and essential. Always of a professional standard, Chris and Paul enrich our services and encourage fine singing. Paul is often to be heard accompanying us at Southwark Cathedral and other venues around the South East during his free time from his job as Head of Music at The Hall School. The inimitable Chris Nickol gives his time warmly and willingly from his distant post as Director of Music at New Kilpatrick Parish Church in Bearsden, Glasgow. Look out for his solo CD recordings in the shops on the Priory label.

A 10th anniversary year provides a wonderful opportunity to look back and remember good times from the past. It also enables us to look forward to the next ten years during which I know ULCC will grow from strength to strength.

Do come along and see us if we are performing locally. We shall be very glad to see you.

### ***Ten Years Ago***

*John Watkins, Secretary*

To some of you who haven't been associated with the choir for very long, I'm sure that what the choir was doing ten years ago must seem like ancient history, but autumn 1992 was actually a turning-point in the life of the choir. As the choir of The University Church of Christ the King, we were told in June 1992 that the chaplaincy was no longer to hold services at Christ the King. During a successful tour to Truro Cathedral that summer, we decided to stay together as a choir. One of the chaplains, Jeremy Caddick, offered to be Chairman of what was soon to become the University of London Church Choir, and so we continued...

According to my records and hazy memory, the first event for the new choir was an Evensong at All Saints', Stock, home of Miranda's parents. Stock has become a regular fixture for the choir, and it was right there at the beginning! I can't remember who conducted that service, but at that time Richard Leigh was taking rehearsals while we looked for a permanent Director of Music. Certainly Simon Over conducted some services until the following spring.

In November we sang another old favourite – the Duruflé *Requiem* – at St Pancras. Then we were into the Christmas season, with the vital opportunity to attract new student members. We sang our own service at Christ the King, followed by a service at City University, a BBC Radio 2 'Carolathon' at Central Hall, Westminster, and a service at All Saints, Margaret Street, for what was then the Polytechnic of Central London (now Westminster University).

On 20th December at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, we sang the first of several BBC Radio 4 Morning Services. It was a very odd affair, with no congregation in the church but an enthusiastic preacher!

Present committee members will not be surprised to hear that committee meetings at that time were concerned with gowns, recruitment and money – some things never change...

## ***News of ULCC Friends Old and New***

*Anthea Corser*

It was wonderful to see so many friends at the 10th anniversary celebrations in May.

Those of us in the choir enjoyed the different conducting skills of our two immediate past conductors RICHARD GOODALL and SIMON OVER along with our 'man of the moment' BRYAN ALMOND; whilst for those of us from Christ the King days it was great to have our first Chairman, the Revd JEREMY CADDICK (now Dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge), conducting the service and delivering the sermon (how many of you have thought twice about visiting National Trust tea-rooms over the summer?). We were also very pleased to welcome the Revd Preb ERIC TINKER (former senior chaplain of Christ the King) and the Revd MARTIN PARROTT (now a hospital chaplain in Wakefield) to read the lessons. As well as many current members and Friends the choir included former members DUNCAN PARRY, HELEN CONYERS and JULIA CADDICK (but why wasn't MARK HILL singing?). It was lovely to have so many friends and family in the congregation and

especially to see some old members of the Christ the King congregation, several of whom have subsequently become Friends of ULCC.

At the dinner which followed the grace was given by former choir member the Revd DAVID WYLIE, now chaplain to the Royal Navy. Following dinner we enjoyed speeches from our conductors and Chairmen past and present, including ROGER MULLIS who couldn't make it to the service but turned up in time for the food and booze!

We also received some kind messages from old friends unable to make it on the day, including the Revd CHRISTINE OWEN (now rector of Glan Conwy, North Wales), JEREMY HONEYBUN, who also lives in North Wales with his family, working as a GP and singing as a lay clerk at St Asaph's Cathedral, and the Revd EDWARD DOWLER, former priest in charge of St Mary's, Eversholt Street, now director of Pastoral Theology at St Stephen's House, Oxford. Also very sorry not to be able to attend was our former organist the Revd GILES ALLEN, now vicar of Lund in Lancashire. We received a letter of congratulations from the Archbishop of Canterbury and a 10th birthday card from former member JUNE MEADER!

My personal thanks go to all those who helped to make the event such a success, including my mum, JEAN CECIL, for making the tea and washing up!

In April, on the sunniest day of the year thus far, many of us were pleased to help celebrate the wedding of VICTORIA MOVLEY and DAVID FOSTER; a splendid affair! We wish all good luck to LINDA STOLLWERCK and DAVID BOULTON on their forthcoming nuptials this autumn. Congratulations also go to DUNCAN and TINA PARRY and to SIMON and MANISHA REDMOND who were married earlier this year; and we welcome ISOBEL, a new daughter for LYNNETTE and BRUCE GOMME. Well done to MIRANDA SEAMAN on being accepted for ordination training – we look forward to singing at her first service! – and to FIONA PORTER on her recent appointment as a consultant anaesthetist at Charing Cross Hospital.

It was with deep sadness that we learnt of the death of Mary Leeson, mother of Rachel. She and her husband Max have been great supporters of the choir, often turning up at many of our events. I especially remember her laying on a sumptuous tea for the whole choir after we had sung at Coventry Cathedral.

**If you have any news that you would like to share  
with ULCC friends then please send it to  
[rich-anth@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:rich-anth@eclipse.co.uk)**

## ***Treasurer's Report***

*Richard Corser, Honorary Treasurer*

### *Year-end accounts for 2002*

31st July marks the end of the financial year for the choir, and for the year ended 31st July 2002 the choir reported a surplus of income over expenditure of some £1,364 which is due to a number of positive cash flows.

### *Subscriptions*

The level of annual subscription to full members has been set so as to cover, as far as possible, the fixed running costs of the choir. Obviously the number of full members varies and in the year 2001/2002 numbers have increased – contributing directly to the surplus for the year. Subscriptions from Friends totalled £461, and this has helped to finance sheet music purchases which have been significant owing to the number of events at which the choir has sung over the past year.

### *10th Anniversary*

Considerable costs were involved in this event, but I am pleased to report that these were entirely covered by the donations received on the day as well as the sale of commemorative CDs and mugs.

### *Gift Aid*

Shortly after its formation the choir achieved charitable status, and one of the principal benefits of this is the ability to recover income tax on donations and subscriptions that it receives. From 6th April 2000, the rules were relaxed particularly with respect to Gift Aid, removing the minimum qualifying level of £250. Gift Aid has taken over, effectively, from the much more strict and binding Deed of Covenant. Interpretation of the new regime and its application to the ULCC has had a very positive effect on its finances. The ability to class elements of choir tour fees as donations towards third-party costs of such tours has further maximised the income earning potential from this 'perk' of being a Registered Charity.

### *Members and Friends who pay income tax at the higher rate (40%)*

A donation made under Gift Aid qualifies for relief from income tax at the higher rate – very much like a pension contribution. With this in mind, all members and Friends who fall into this tax bracket can give more to the ULCC at no extra cost to themselves. For those of you who complete a tax return please contact me so as to minimise your tax liability whilst maximising the choir's revenue earning opportunity.

## ***New Friends and Full Members***

*Liz Watkins, Friends' Secretary*

A warm welcome to those of you who have become full members or Friends of ULCC since the last edition of the newsletter was published: full members ALYSON LOCKETT, ANDREW GREEN, CHRISTINA ROZEIK, TOM SUTCH, ANNA KINGSMILL-VELLACOTT and HELEN BARTON, and Friends ROGER FRANCE, SIMON OVER, RUSTOM BATTIWALLA, GILLIAN GUILDFORD, GARETH JONES, FREDDIE CAMPBELL, MELANIE LUMSDAINE and GLORIA WINTER. The minimum subscription for Friends' membership remains at £15 for one calendar year, and we're most grateful to those of you who have recently renewed your subscriptions.

On a personal note, John and I would like to thank our ULCC friends for their kindness and sensitivity over the past few months during a very difficult and painful time for us. God bless you all.

### ***Forthcoming Events***

For up-to-the minute details of rehearsal and service times, follow the Events link on this site or ask to be put on the regular e-mail database.