



Founded 1909

Rochester Cathedral Old Choristers' Association

From The Chairman: David Littlejohn JP FRSA

December, 2025.

Dear Old Chorister,

Our appeal to raise funds for the new Song School and Music Hub, launched at the end of last year, enabled the Association to send a cheque to the cathedral for £10,000. I would like to thank again all those who supported the appeal. Some of the funds were used to purchase specialist rehearsal chairs for the choir.

In 2024, the Director of Music invited old choristers to sing Evensong with the cathedral choir. Despite our efforts, another invitation was forthcoming. On the 18th of May, an old chorister “ensemble” sang Ayleward Responses, Noble in B minor and the anthem *For Lo I Raise Up* by Charles Villiers Stanford, all greatly enjoyed by those present. The evening concluded with a reception hosted by the Association in the Crypt.

The End of Year Eucharist for leavers was held in the Nave on the 6th of July. The music at the Eucharist was the *Truro Service* by Briggs and the motet *View me Lord* by Richard Lloyd. The service was particularly memorable for the address given by the outgoing Principal of the Kings School, Ben Charles, in which he extolled the virtues of music and singing in choirs. The traditional bring and share picnic followed.

A joint Annual Dinner with the Old Roffensian Society was held in the School Hall on the 4th of October. Some seventy OC's and OR's were present and the feedback received was very positive. The toast Floreat Schola Regalis was proposed by Simon Fisher, new Principal of the School and we were delighted that the Rt. Rev. Dr. Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop of Rochester and the Dean were present. It is planned to repeat the event in 2026.

Despite many requests and advertisements for volunteers to take on the roles of Secretary, Treasurer and Events Secretary, the response each time was less than one. Your Association needs you!

The Association does require income to continue and many old choristers do not pay the subscription of £20 per annum. Please look on our website under membership and consider completing the membership form.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

David Littlejohn

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