

# THE ORDER OF ST ETHELDREDA



ELY CATHEDRAL TRUST

SPRING 2011  
Newsletter for the  
Order of St. Etheldreda  
ELY CATHEDRAL

## A Message from the Dean

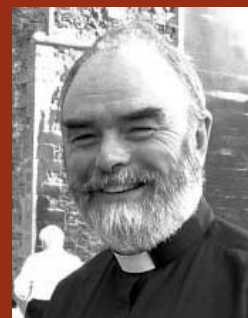
The Order of St. Etheldreda, founded by my predecessor, is a vital element in the on-going life of Ely Cathedral. This is a building of world-wide importance, and the site has been a centre for prayer and worship since the seventh century. The Members of the Order of St Etheldreda share in an astonishingly profound heritage.

Without the generosity of the Order Members this Cathedral would be in a very sorry state indeed. During my time as Dean, the Order has concentrated its efforts, to a real extent, on financing the great musical tradition which is complementary to England's great Cathedrals. However, circumstances being as they are, we have been adversely affected by the economic situation of the last year or so, and have been casting round to find ways of ensuring the tradition continues and to carry forward the repair works to the edifice which have become more urgent since the Great Restoration (1986 - 2000).

To this end, one of our targets in 2011 is to increase the membership of the Order, and we would very much appreciate Members' help in this. If you have anyone to whom you would like to suggest Membership, may I urge you to approach them as soon as you conveniently can. You might show them this Newsletter as a form of introduction.

I am delighted to be able to report a particularly good piece of news. We need to do about £333,000 work on the North Transept, and a successful application to the Wolfson Foundation recently awarded us £100,000 towards that sum.

Chapter hopes that the Trust will underwrite the balance so that we can undertake the work during the specified period that the grant is available. However, to do this work would considerably deplete our funds and therefore we are hoping to raise the remaining £200,000 ourselves. If anyone feels they would like to contribute towards this specific project, we would be happy to discuss the work in detail to potential donors.



Our chief asset, as well as our greatest responsibility is, of course, Ely Cathedral itself. I am reminded that our wonderful Cathedral Church is the only UK building to be listed as one of the 'seven medieval wonders of the world'. But a wonderful Cathedral needs wonderful people to support it. The support which we have already received from Members of the Order shows an astounding appreciation of the place and a profound desire to ensure that it continues to captivate successive generations.

Thank you all for your generosity and I hope that every reader has a splendid year in 2011, knowing that Ely Cathedral is there to cater for our spiritual, musical and ascetic needs in a time of economic uncertainty.

*Michael Chandler*

## THE FABRIC OF ELY CATHEDRAL

### Vicki Roulinson, Clerk of Works

Following the major South Transept project of earlier this year, the fabric of the building finds itself in good order on the west side. As well as essential roofing repairs, stonework and stained glass were also addressed. The windows of the west elevation of the transept were removed for conservation by specialist contractors, whilst access to high-level stonework enabled vital conservation works, re-pointing, and stone replacement where necessary.

Day-to-day maintenance of the building is essential to keep it in good order, and as part of this we have an on-going programme of minor roof-level works including the re-sealing of the Lantern windows, repair to damaged lead coverings and flashings and continual monitoring of known 'problem areas'. Recent heavy downpours, depending upon the direction of the driving wind, continue

to highlight the areas in need of this attention.

As part of the re-ordering of the east end of the Lady Chapel, the consolidation of the existing stone reredos and rubble wall beneath has commenced.

The window panel immediately behind the statue has also been in-filled. This work will be ongoing in various stages, and once installation of the new reredos is complete, gilding work will begin. The chapel remains open throughout, and this will hopefully prove of interest to visitors to the Cathedral.

Another project is the conservation of the South Choir Aisle vault. The area in question

comprises the ceiling of three of the central bays of the aisle where historic rainwater ingress (long since addressed) has caused flaking of limewash and surface disruption of the stonework beneath. Careful cleaning using dry methods

where possible, will be followed by consolidation and finally re-limewashing. In advance of these works, all surfaces will be examined and recorded by the Cathedral Archaeologist and Clerk of Works. It is

hoped that the entire ceiling of the Choir aisles will then be cleaned and re-limewashed over the following months or years, as funds permit.

A more imminent project is the repair of the Nave floor. Badly decayed and damaged stones within the floor of the Labyrinth and the north, south and central aisles will be replaced with matching stone. This includes the sourcing of some of the rarer and more decorative marbles of the central aisle. Naturally these works have been carefully programmed, and great care will be taken to work around and avoid disturbance to the daily users of the Cathedral.

This outlines some of the more urgent and high-profile works we have in hand, and as ever there is never a 'quiet' or 'dull' moment in which we cast around for something to do! And that is the beauty of the work, and the Cathedral itself, which is a living, breathing and much-loved entity.

*"We are the custodians  
of the only UK  
building to be listed  
amongst the  
Seven Medieval  
Wonders of the World"*



Paul Trepte, Director of Music

## MUSIC AT ELY CATHEDRAL

Cathedrals offer the public an opportunity to hear a wide range of choral music in its intended context of worship almost every day of the year - most notably at Choral Evensong (Sundays: 4pm; weekdays: 5.30pm). Highlights are the special services devised for the major festivals which frequently involve orchestral accompaniment. For example, on Easter day, 24 April 2011, Choral Evensong will include a liturgical performance of *Bach's Magnificat*, and on Sunday, 26 June there will be an Orchestral Mass at 10.30am.

Generally speaking, the repertoire sung on a daily basis at Ely is wide and non-specialised, thereby catering at various times for the tastes of anyone who cares to check our website to see what music has been selected for each service. This is the real business of what cathedrals and their choirs are

all about and it explains why the choral tradition represented at Ely is held in the highest regard throughout the world. It also explains why our choirs tour abroad. The girls visited Paris last summer and the boys toured in Spain and Gibraltar last October.

The home team of three



liturgical choirs (boys and men; girls and men; adults) is sometimes further augmented, especially at concerts, by our children's choir, *The Ely Imps* (as well as by instrumentalists).

In the current economic climate we have to be careful in our concert programmes to appeal to as wide an audience

as possible, so our programmes usually feature very popular and approachable music (whilst the diet can be much more varied for our services). At no stage in the year is the popular approach more apparent than around Christmas. It seems to work, because last December the choirs sang to more people in a single month than was the case throughout the remainder of the year!

The largest and most expensive piece of "hardware" in the cathedral is the organ. Organ concerts are held after Evensong on Sundays throughout the summer, but occasionally there are special recitals such as the "lollipop" programme which was given last December. This proved a great success and we expect to offer another opportunity for our public to request items for inclusion in an organ recital programme in summer 2011.

## Members of the Order Council

Patron: HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG KT

Mr Hugh Duberly CBE, HM Lord Lieutenant (Chairman)

Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey Bt DL (Vice Chairman)

The Very Revd Dr Michael Chandler

Canon David Pritchard

The Rt Hon the Lord Fairhaven JP DL KtSJ

Dr Peter Dawe OBE

Mrs Sue Freestone

Mr Tom Green

Sir David Harrison CBE

Sir Michael Marshall CBE DL

Mr Charles Rawlinson

Mr Robert Stopford

*"As members of the Order, we are part of the Cathedral family. Our support is critical to the continuing maintenance of the fabric of this wonderful building and the glorious music that brings it to life. I very much look forward to greeting you at the many Order events and Cathedral gatherings which are detailed in the newsletter"*

Hugh Duberly CBE, HM Lord Lieutenant (Chairman of the Order Council)

## The Order of St. Etheldreda Annual Gathering

Over 50 members attended the last annual gathering which included a short harp recital by Parker Ramsay, music scholar and 2008 "Cambridge Young Composer of the Year."

The 2011 annual gathering takes place on Saturday 19 March. There will be Evensong at 5.30pm followed by drinks and the Annual General Meeting at approximately 6.15pm. This year we have the opportunity to experience a special 'Son et Lumière' with the Cathedral Choir at 7.00pm followed by supper in the Almonry at 8.00pm.

We hope many of you will be able to join us for all, or part of the evening.





# Forthcoming Events 2011

**19 March, from 5.30pm - ORDER OF ST. ETHELDREDA ANNUAL GATHERING**  
Evensong, reception & Son et Lumière followed by dinner in the Almonry

**16 May, 7.30pm - AN EVENING WITH MELVYN BRAGG**  
Melvyn Bragg talks about his book on the King James' Bible, 'The Book of Books - The Radical Impact of the King James Bible 1611 to 2011'

**19 May, (time tbc) LADIES EVENING AT 'SPA ELY'**  
Limited tickets to include treatments & refreshments.

**21 May - SPRING BALL (still tbc)**

**11 June, 7.30pm - A SUMMER CELEBRATION**  
The choirs of Ely Cathedral join forces in choral splendour with choirs from Cambridge Colleges

**25 June, 7.30pm - ST. ETHELDREDA FESTIVAL - James Bowman in Concert**  
One of the world's leading countertenors returns to Ely where he was a chorister, to present an evening of music and conversation

**8 - 9 October - HARVEST FESTIVAL at Ely Cathedral**  
Take the opportunity to view the wonderful displays of produce which bedeck the Cathedral at Harvest

**27 November, 6.00pm - ADVENT PROCESSION**  
A magnificent occasion when liturgy and music combine in a very special way to show Ely Cathedral at its very best

**December (date still tbc), 7.30pm - 'WINTER WONDERLAND' Christmas Concert**  
A mix of popular Christmas classics from stage & screen. Performed by the Cathedral Choirs with guest soloists and accompanied by Cambridge based swing band - '78RPM Big Band'

**22 December, 7.30pm - 'CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT'**  
A traditional mix of Christmas carols and festive music performed by Ely Cathedral choir with audience participation. A wonderful family event in this magnificent setting by candlelight

**All fundraising events directly benefit Ely Cathedral Trust**

## 'THE ELY SERIES' - by Alexander Creswell

Ely Cathedral is widely acknowledged as one of the most glorious of UK Cathedrals and has been represented in art many times over the centuries. We were very fortunate that Internationally acclaimed watercolourist, Alexander Creswell, chose to depict Ely in a series of three paintings called 'The Ely Series'. There are a total of 300 prints of each painting, each one numbered and signed by the artist. The prints are available unframed.



Alexander Creswell signing each of the 300 limited edition prints of 'The Ely Series'

We can arrange framing at a special discounted price of £30.00 each. The prints are donated and therefore VAT exempt allowing 100% to go to Ely Cathedral.

- The Choir - £300 unframed (27 x 22 inches 67 x 55 cm - framed)
- The Lady Chapel -£300 unframed (22 x 27 inches 55 x 67 cm - framed)
- Under the Octagon - £450 unframed (Two framed sizes available)  
Large (35 x 41 inches 90 x 104 cm) Medium (23 x 27 inches 56 x 67 cm)

Prints can be purchased by contacting the Order of St. Etheldreda or by downloading an order form from [www.elycathedral.org](http://www.elycathedral.org)



*"Ely Cathedral is a fabulous subject, presenting in one glance almost every challenge that a painter can encounter; not just the light, the perspective, colour & scale, but its soaring majesty and awe-inspiring spirit. I am delighted that my work will go towards supporting the Cathedral so that its wonders may be experienced by future generations for years to come."* (Alexander Creswell)

## The King's Speech

In December 2009 Ely Cathedral became one of the key locations for *The King's Speech*. A week of stage building, props and set dressing transformed the Octagon area into the interior of Westminster Abbey on the eve of the coronation of King George VI. Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Derek Jacobi were on set at Ely, along with about 40 film crew. We are delighted the film has been so well received and we are hoping to be able to have a special showing in the Cathedral following the film's general release.



RECEIVE  
INFORMATION  
BY EMAIL

We are always looking to keep down our costs. One way of doing so is by using email to contact you. If you prefer to receive information electronically email:  
[oofse@cathedral.ely.anglican.org](mailto:oofse@cathedral.ely.anglican.org)  
and we will amend our database.

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