INVENTORY of the ARCHIVES from ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS’ ASSOCIATION

Archivist: James Strike, Chorister 1950-52.
This index incorporates the 34 items recorded in the earlier Archive compiled by Trevor Lee in circa 2005.

Abbreviations:  
RCOCA. Rochester Cathedral Old Choristers’ Association  
FCOCA. National Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers’ Associations  
KSR, King’s School Rochester  
OR, Old Roffensian Society

Computer Files:  
RCOCA Archive Inventory (this file)  
RCOCA 2020 History  
RCOCA 2020 Organists  
RCOCA 2020 Boys since 1679  
RCOCA 2020 Girls since 1995

Computer files of Digital Photographs:  
Organists  
Boys’ Choir  
Individual boys  
Girls’ Choir  
Individual girls

RECORDS:  
LISTS OF NAMES  
Boy choristers  
Girl choristers  
RCOCA Secretaries, Chair, Trustees and members  
Organists  
Precentors  
Headmasters of the Choir School

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
MINUTES and ACCOUNTS
NEWSLETTERS
FCOCA
CHARITY COMMISSION
DINNER MENUS
CHRISTMAS CARDS
MUSIC
PROGRAMMES and SERVICE SHEETS
BOOKS
PAMPHLETS & ARTICLES
NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS
DRAWINGS & PAINTINGS
PHOTOGRAPHS
LISTS OF NAMES

Boy choristers
Members of the choir 1679 to 2015, in publication, 2016, Choristers of Rochester Cathedral.
Year lists: 1984, 1989,

Girl Choristers
Members of the choir 1995 to 2015, in publication, 2016, Choristers of Rochester Cathedral.

RCOCA
Secretaries 1909 to 2018
Chair 1920 to 2018
Trustees, 2018
Year lists of RCOCA members: 2008

Organists
1550 to 2018

Precentors
Notes only

Headmasters of the Choir School
1845 to 1937

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
1933 to 1935, Choir School Reports for Trevor Lee.
1936, 29th February, Invitation to Annual General Meeting, Evensong and Tea, and other matters.
1937, 3rd July, Arrangements for Presentations at the Closing of the Choir School.
1950-56, Form and details for joining RCOCA.
1950-56, Invitation to ex-non-singing boys from The Choir School to become Old Roffensians
1953, 4th March, Requesting contributions towards a memorial tablet to Bertram Laurd-Selby
1971-1981, Note from Roy Trett, Secretary RCOCA, recording his visit with the Chapter Clerk into the
yard of the old Choir School, now Garth House, to record graffiti carved into the brickwork. They
identify the boy’s names of seven dated initials.
1977, 22nd February, Memorial to Rupert Johnstone.
1981, 9th February, Old Choristers’ Awards at KSR.
1988, 31st May, From the Dean, inviting comments for the Cathedral Working Party on The Review of
Cathedral Music.
1991, 12th October, Donald Pharoah, Memoirs as a chorister 1917 to 1919.
1991, 21st November, 50 Head Chorister badges from Fattorini Ltd.
1991, List of Archive items compiled by Roy Trett. These 33 items have been included in this Inventory.
1994, 23rd August, Request from Canon John Armson for a copy of Choristers of Rochester Cathedral for the Cathedral Library, and for the names to be updated.
1995, 18th November, Notifying the Friends of Rochester Cathedral that the publication, HALE, Paul, The Organs of Rochester Cathedral is no longer available in the Cathedral Book Shop.
1996, 19th February, 26 Old Chorister ties from P.L. Sells & Co. Ltd.
1996, 19th September, Enquiry from Canon Armson, Cathedral Librarian, as to our interest in a collection of old cathedral choir music books.
1996, 3rd October, Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali accepts the invitation to become patron to RCOCA.
1997, 19th November, Memorial Tablet for H. A. Bennett.
1999, 18th October, 50 Head Chorister badges from Fattorini Ltd.
2000, August, Asking OR Society whereabouts of the book boys music carrying ‘coffin’.
2002, 21st May, Ralph Godsall, Precentor, on the cost of running the choir.
2003, 27th May, Informing the Precentor that RCOCA are setting up a Choir Trust Fund
2003, 22nd October, Col. Ian Rouse invited to be an honorary member of the Association.
2004, 23 June, Letter to members to notify them that RCOCA is now a Registered Charity, and notifying them of the Rules.
2005, 11th January, Oliver Ogg on the design of a website for the Choir Trust Fund.
2005, February, Rules for the RCOCA Choir Trust.
2005, 1st April, Robert Crumbie on fund raising for the Choir Trust Fund.
2005, 21st November, Information to members on the proposed Cathedral’s Music Endowment Fund
2005, 12th December, Trevor Lee, Chairman, to the Dean, concern about obtaining choristers from schools other than KSR.
2006, 4th January, From the Dean to reassure, and inform there will be a review of liturgy and music in 2006.
2007, 3rd September, New sample colours for RCOCA ties from P.L. Sells.
2007, 23rd October, 29 Old Chorister ties from P. L. Sells & Co. Ltd.
2017, 1st November, James Strike to Cathedral Librarian for information on the Chapter policy on Archives.
2017, 10th November, from Headmaster KSR, no policy on Archives.
2017, December, Appeal to finance recording equipment in the Quire and Nave of the cathedral.
2018, June, Data Protection and Privacy Policy.
2019, 7th January, Organists at Rochester during the Great War.
2019, January, RCOCA Membership Categories and Fees.
2019, November, to the editor of ‘Cathedral Music’ concerning the first women to be appointed as a cathedral organist.
2020, 25th January, to Roger Vaughan, to thank him for the gift of his photographs of the choir.
2020, 6th February, to The Cathedral Music Department seeking information on the manuscript by Bertram Laurd Selby for ‘O Saving Victim’.
2020, 10th February, to Roger Vaughan, elected as an Honorary Member.
2020, February, RCOCA Membership Categories, fees, Application form and Gift Aid form.  
2020, April 29th, Letter to the Times Newspaper, Female Organists.

**MINUTES and ACCOUNTS**

**Minutes**

**Accounts**
1982 1st September to 1997, 31st August  
2008, 1st September to 2009, 31st August.

**NEWSLETTERS**

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1981</td>
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**FCOCA**

1909-16, Photograph, Rochester and Canterbury Old Choristers gathering at Canterbury.  
1929, Photograph, The Cathedral and Collegiate Church Choir Festival, Westminster Abbey.  
1935, Festival at Rochester, September 20th-22nd.  
   - The Old Chorister Magazine  
   - Festival Programme  
   - Pamphlet ‘Preserving a Great Tradition’  
   - City of Rochester Luncheon, Corn Exchange.  
1936, Letter from RCOCA Secretary to RCOCA Members saying that Westminster Abbey Old Choristers would like to play us at cricket. And St. Paul’s and others are having a swimming contest. 29th February.  
1991, 12th December, Letter from FCOCA inviting Rochester to host the Federation AGM in 1995  
2014, Festival at Rochester, September 26th – 28th.  
   - Programme Information.  
   - Festival Dinner, King’s School Hall.  
**Rochester entries in the FCOCA Magazine.**

CHARITY COMMISSION
2003, September, Signed Declaration.
2003, 12th October, Signed Constitution.
2004, 26th March, Charity Commission requires clarification of charitable activities.
2004, 18th April, RCOCA Revision of clause 28.
2004, 22nd April, RCOCA confirms change of Clause 28 to Commission
2004, 21st May, Confirmation of Charity Status, No. 1103867.
2004, Welcome pamphlet from Commission.

DINNER MENUS
RCOCA Annual Dinner menus:
1954, The King’s Head Hotel. 1955, The King’s Head Hotel. 1956, The King’s Head Hotel.
1957, The King’s Head Hotel. 1958, The King’s Head Hotel. 1959, King’s School.
1960, The King’s Head Hotel. 1961, The King’s Head Hotel. 1962, The Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel.
1975, The King’s Head Hotel. 1976, The King’s Head Hotel.
2015, King’s School Conference Centre. 2017, King’s School House Dining Room.
2019, King’s School Conference Centre.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

MUSIC
LUARD-SELBY, Bertram, O Saving Victim Opening Wide, original manuscript by Luard-Selby.
FERGUSON, Barry, 2009, See, See the Word is Incarnate.
LEEE, Trevor, CD of Trevor Lee’s Funeral Service, 5th October, 2010.

PROGRAMMES and SERVICE SHEETS
1916, Eccles Roffens, June and July.
1935, 21st December, Dedication of the Memorial Tablet for Charles Hylton Stewart.
1938, 6th to 13th November, 1938, Eccles Duelm. (Durham Cathedral).
1949, Christmas Day.
1950, Easter Day.
1951, Christmas Day.
1952, Christmas Day.
1957, PROGRAMME OF FIVE ORGAN RECITALS, Thursdays in May, with A Short Account of the Organs of the Cathedral.
1989, St. CELILIA CONCERT, Promoted by the Cathedral Choir Association, 23rd November.
1990, ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL ORGAN FESTIVAL, 23 June, Recital by Paul Hale.
1990, CAROLS ON ADVENT SUNDAY, 2nd December.
1990, CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE, 22nd December.
1990, CAROL CONCERT AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL, Sunday, 23rd December.
1991, EUROPEAN TOUR, April.
1991, EUROPEAN TOUR, A personal account by Barry Ferguson.
1991, CHORISTERS’ SPONSORED CONCERT, 16th June.
1991, A CELEBRATION OF KINGS, Royal Albert Hall, Concert by the combined choirs and orchestras of the seven King’s Schools, founded by Henry VIII in 1541.
1991, St. CECILIA CONCERT, Promoted by the Cathedral Choir Association, 21st November.
1992, CHORISTERS’ SPONSORED CONCERT, 14th June.
1995, CRICKET MATCH, between Decani Boys and Gentlemen and Cantoris Boys and Gentlemen, 25th June: together with the ‘rules of the game’.
1995, DÉBUT CONCERT given by the GIRL CHORISTERS and Lay Clerks, Saturday 18th November.
1996, CHOIR TOUR USA.
1997, 3 CATHEDRAL CHOIRS CONCERT, at Canterbury Cathedral, 12th July.
1979, 24th November, attended by members of RCOCA
2003, 18th October, Wording for the admission of new member to the Old Choristers’ Association.
2004, A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC WITH CHORISTERS PAST & PRESENT, 14th February.
2010, FUNERAL SERVICE for TREVOR LEE, 5th October.
2013, CHATHAM DOCKYARD CAROL SERVICE, 12th December.
2014, THE KING’S SINGERS, September
2015, FAREWELL to Dean’s Choristers, Choral Scholars and Organ Scholar, Sunday 19th July.
2018, ORGAN CONCERT, JEREMY LLOYD, 16th September.

BOOKS

* Rochester Cathedral Old Choristers Booklet *
  with the Rules and a List of Members
  1953 edition, green cover
  1954 edition, blue cover
  1965 edition, pink cover

* Choristers of Rochester Cathedral *
  1955, First edition, Editor, H. G. Cooper
  1985, Second edition, Editor, N.A. Tanner
  1994,
  1999, Third edition
  2010, Eleventh edition
2016, Twelfth edition, editor, James Strike
AROLD, Ralph. 1961, The Whiston Matter
HALE, Paul, 1989, The Organs of Rochester Cathedral
LEVETT, James, A. 1997, Memoirs of James A Levett.
PALMER, G. H. 1897, The Cathedral Church of Rochester, A description of its fabric and a brief history of the Episcopate See, Bell’s Cathedral Series, George Bell and Sons.

PAMPHLETS & ARTICLES
Listed alphabetically by author.
CHORISTERS and PROBATIONARY CHORISTERS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL, 1945-52, Information for prospective parents.
GODSALL, Ralph, Canon, Precentor, 2007, Dean and Chapter of Rochester, Worship and Music Policy.
JOHNSTONE, R. Rev. 1959, Rochester Cathedral Choir School, A Short History.
MacDONALD, Sarah, February 2020, Girls and Boys Come Out to Play. in Cathedral Voice, issue31. p.1
MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND, 2013, We must not let this place fall silent.
OLD ROFFENSISAN, December 2014, Rochester Historical Pageant and Harold Bennett
SAYER, Roger, 1994-2008, Could Your Son be a Chorister at Rochester Cathedral.

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS
1934, Choir School Cross Country Run
1935, Choir School Cross Country Run
1936, Choir School Sports Day
   Newspaper report
Long jump and half mile
Dean Stores Presentation

1951, Cathedral Choristers attend evensong and entertain at tea.

**DRAWINGS and PAINTINGS**

**CHOIR SCHOOL**, prior to 1887, Minor Canon Row. BBC Kent, Local History, 10 July 2009.

**CHOIR SCREEN**, 1876, prior to the Dean Scott memorial statues, Kent Archive Office.

**CHOIR TRANSEPT**, Victorian drawing with water colour, Private collection – Dr. Henry Teed.

**PRIOR’S GATE**, drawing by Edward De la Cour. The room over the gate used by the Choir School.


**THIRTEENTH CENTURY CHOIR-STALLS**, Drawing by Cecil Hewett showing an expanded diagram of the timber construction of the remaining 13c parts of the choir-stalls.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Boys’ Choir**

*Group photographs in date order*

1882, The earliest known photograph of the choristers.

Circa 1886, Choristers.

1906, Choristers with Bertram Luard-Selby.

Circa 1911, Choristers, Headmaster, Rev. Oscar Hardman, Percy Whitlock, top row, 3rd from left.

1926, Choir School Play, Shakespeare, *As You Like It*.

1927, Choir School.

1928, Choir School Play, Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*.

1929 or 30, Full Choir outside Chapter House.

1930, Choir School.

1931, Choir School.


1932, a, Choir School Scout Camp, St. Margarets Bay.

1933, Choir School Prize Giving.

1933, a, as above with names.

1933, b, Choir School Rugby team.

1933, c, as above with names.

1935, Choir School Prize Giving.

1935, a, as above with names.

1945, a, ten boys.

1945, b, sixteen boys with H A Bennett and Dean Crick.

1945, c, as above plus names.

1945-d, Broadcast to Rochester USA.

1950, Procession outside the cathedral.

1952, a, in school uniform.

1952, b, Carol Singing on the steps up to the choir screen.

1956, On the occasion of the retirement of Harold Bennett.

1956, Choristers sing evensong.

Between 1956 and 1977, Dr. Robert Ashfield centre right.

1960, Choristers and Lay Clerks.
1961, With the Choir of the Chapels Royal at the Royal Maundy Service in the cathedral.
1968, or 1969, Conkers match against Theological College students.
1969, The Choir, front row left, Dr. Ashfield, right, Joe Levett.
1974, Choir on tour, photograph taken at Teeside Airport.
1986, Choir in crypt
1987, Boys in Crypt
1988, Choir, outside West End Door
1989, Boys. outside by The Mother and Child statue.
1990, Choir, left end, Barry Ferguson.
1990, a, Choir in front of rebuilt organ.
1991, Choir in Lady Chapel.
1991, Choir outside Cathedral in the snow.
1992, Choristers singing at the Annual Dinner, at the Castle Club.
1992, Ithamar Chapel in crypt.
1993, Boys in front of choir screen.
1993, Boys & men.
1994, June, Boys & Men.
1996, on steps in front of choir screen.
2009, Boys in front of High Altar
2014, Boys.
2014, Boys with names.
2015, Cantoris boys in the Practice Room in Gundulf Tower.
2015, Boys.
2015, Boys with names
2015, The Trustees
2016, Edward Hyde (standing) the winner of the BBC Chorister of the Year; and Rupert Walker.
2016, Boys.
2016, Boys with names.
2017, Boys.
Walker (2013-2017) sitting, one of the four finalists.

Individual boy choristers by name in alphabetical order
ALLSOPP, David, Robert, 1992-96.
ARMES, Philip, 1849-51.
BRIDGE, John, Frederick, Sir. 1852-59.
COX BRIDGE, Joseph, 1862-67.
CROW, Edwin J. 1851-58.
DAVIES, Oliver, 2012-17.
DREWELL, Rueben, dates ?
DREWELL, Xavier, 2013-
HENDERSON, Ian, James, 1953-56.
HOLLOWAY, David Martin, 1955-57.
HOWLETT, David, 1948-51.
HYDE, Edward, 2012-17.
IMMANUEL, Zachary, 2012-17.
LEE, Trevor, 1934-36.
MAAS, Joseph, 1857-61.
MEREDITH, George, 2003-07.
MUTTON, Samuel, 2010-15.
POLLOCK, Michael Frederick Wenman, 1967-71.
SHORINWA, David, 2010-15.
SIME, Louise, dates ?
STRIKE, James Frederick, 1950-52.
THODY, William, 2014- ?
WALJI, Christopher, 2010-14.
WHITLOCK, Percy W. 1913-18.
WILLIAMS, Finley, 2011-16.
WOOD, J. Daniel, 1861-64

Girls' Choir

Group photographs in date order
2007, Girls with names.
2008, Full choir.
2008, Senior Girls' Choir.
2009, Girls with names.
2010, Girls with names.
2011, Girls.
2014, Girls.
2015, Girls with names.
2016, Girls with names.
2017, Girls with names.

Individual girl choristers by name in alphabetical order.
CAITHNESS, Elizabeth, 2015-
DAVIES, Lucy, 2014-
MacDONALD, Rebecca, 2015-
RICHARDS, Cosima, 2010-2015.

Lay Clerks
1952, Lay Clerks with H. A. Bennett.

Organists
Directors of Music, Assistant Directors of Music, Organists and Sub-Organists, by name in alphabetical order.
ARMES, Philip, Assistant Cathedral organist, 1851-1861.
HALE, Paul, Assistant Organist, 1982-89.
HOPKINS, John L, Organist, 1841-1856.
HOPKINS, John, Organist, 1856-1900.
LEVETT, (Joe), Assistant Organist, 1930-1977.
LLOYD, Jeremy, Assistant Director of Music and Sub-Organist, 2018-
LUARD-SELBY, Bertram, Organist, 1900-1916.
NORREY, James, Assistant Sub-Organist, 2016-
SCOTT FARRELL, Director of Music and Cathedral Organist, 2008-
WHITLOCK, Percy, Assistant Organist, 1921-1930.

Clergy
THOMPSON, Neil, Rev. Canon, Precentor.

Places
CHOIR SCHOOL, Upper room, prior to 1937, note proscenium arch on stage
NAVE, Choir stalls.
ORGAN CONSOLE, 1903, This console was removed in 1908 when the organ was rebuilt.
ORGAN CONSOLE, 1903, a, as above, signed by Laurd-Selby, Shallcross, Hylton Stewart, and H. A. Bennett.
ORGAN, 1990.
QUIRE in the early nineteenth century looking west towards the choir-stalls and the Samuel Green Organ.

REGALIA
BADGES: Ex-Head Chorister, Vice-Head Chorister, Senior Chorister, Head Chorister, RCOCA Chairman, Photographs from Nolan, Brian, Roffensian Dress and Regalia, p.16 and 18.
LAPEL BADGE for RCOCA members.

end.